



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 7 Transition & Choice of Language

We are delighted that your child will be joining St James' in September 2020. We are really looking forward to meeting all our new year 7s and welcoming them to the St James' family as soon as possible.

Many of our planned activities have been put on hold given national school closures, however, we are still looking to support your child in as many ways as we can. Our website and Twitter feed (@StJamesCheadle) contain many key essential updates, they are also a great way to familiarise your child with the school.

Under normal circumstances we would have expected to have visited most primary schools by now and gathered information regarding all our new students. We will be working closely with our partner primary schools to find out as much information as possible about your child.

We have created a dedicated transition page on our website which will include a range of transition tasks set by different subject areas. This is a good way to motivate your child and allow them to become familiar with St James'. There will be information posted on the website showing you how to upload completed work to share with teachers. The webpage can be found at <http://www.stjamescheadle.co.uk/year-7-2020/>

You will receive a transition brochure and student workbook, both of which are full of useful, practical information about the school. They include information about lesson timings, travelling to school, pastoral care, uniform and many other elements of daily life at St James'.

Thank you to those parents and carers who have returned the forms sent out previously (medical forms, data collection sheet, photo and biometric consent forms). If you have not yet returned these please do so before the deadline of **Friday 15th May**.

Please ensure that you read the information below about language choices, and email your choice to languages@stjamescheadle.co.uk by **Friday 29th May**.

If you require any further information about your child's transition to St James' or would just like to ask a question do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the following members of staff:

Mr Scott (Assistant Headteacher Behaviour, Attitudes and Safety) d.scott@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Mr Cawley (Head of Year 7) j.cawley@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Mrs Chadwick (KS3 Pastoral Manager) c.chadwick@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Languages at St James'

For the first time St James' is offering new starters the opportunity to choose the language they would like to study. All pupils at St James' study a foreign language throughout Key Stage 3 and it is expected that up to 90% of our students will go on to study one or more languages at Key Stage 4. Our curriculum not only develops linguistic competence but also develops an understanding of the countries and cultures where the foreign language is spoken. At St James' pupils have a choice to begin learning **either German, Spanish or French** when they start in Year 7. Many pupils enjoy studying German because they find the close links to English



ST JAMES'

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easier to grasp and they also appreciate the logical grammar. Future employers also consider German to be one of the most valuable languages to know. Similarly, Spanish and French vocabulary share many roots with English words which help the pupils to pick up new vocabulary quickly. With France being our closest neighbour and the increasing number of Spanish speakers in the world, both are languages valued on the job market.

Language learning at St James' is rooted in enjoyment and pupils will gain confidence to speak the language quickly. The pupils will have the opportunity to put what they have learnt into practice when they visit the country, where they also learn first-hand more about the culture of the language.

We ask that you **select which language your child would like to study at St James'**. We also ask that you give a second and third choice. Whilst we will try to accommodate your choices, due to timetabling, it may not be possible for all pupils to get their first choice.

To inform us of your child's chosen language, please email languages@stjamescheadle.co.uk by **Friday 29th May** with your child's full name and 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice.

i.e.

James Smith
Spanish 1
French 2
German 3

If you do not have access to email, please write a letter containing the same details to the address below FAO Dr S Guscott.

We are looking forward to meeting you all in person as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher