



22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 11 Headteacher Update**

As we begin our fourth week, I am delighted to be able to share some positive news with you. On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November the PE Faculty, Senior Leadership Team and I attended the prestigious Educate Awards which were held at the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool. The school was shortlisted for two awards: firstly, outstanding commitment to sport and physical activity in a secondary school and secondly Leadership Team of the Year. The evening was a celebration of everything good that goes on across educational institutions across the Northwest of England.

I am delighted to be able to confirm that we were winners of Leadership Team of the Year. This really does highlight the journey we have come on as a school over the last three years. It also demonstrates the effective leadership in our school which ultimately benefits the most important people; the children. Many thanks to all parents who have already shared their congratulations following this exciting news. Unfortunately, we did not manage to win outstanding commitment to sport and physical activity in a secondary school but a huge congratulations to our PE Faculty for being shortlisted. This really does demonstrate how effective our PE Faculty are and highlights what a difference they make to our young people. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them.

As you will be aware we are offering a variety of spiritual opportunities for each Year group. In September our Year 7s took part in their retreat to Savio and this week it is the turn of our Year 10s who are on retreat to Animate in St Helens. This will afford them the opportunity to take part in prayer and reflection and really highlight the importance of our second value of Faith. Please do keep all our children but especially our Year 10s in your prayers.

Yesterday we celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King as the culmination of the Church's liturgical year before we begin a new liturgical year with Advent. We were asked to reflect upon Christ our King. When Jesus was asked by Pilate if he was a king, Jesus said that he was a king. The king we are asked to follow is a simple shepherd, always caring and compassionate towards his flock; he looks for the lost, bandages the wounded and makes the weak strong. This is the shepherd and king we are asked not only to follow, but whose life and example we are asked to live by. Let us carry that thought into this new week and just as he looks after and cares for each of us, so we in turn are asked to care for each other.

Finally, I would like to remind all parents that school is closed to all children on Friday this week (26<sup>th</sup> November) as this is one of our INSET days. I hope you have a fantastic week. Please do get in touch if we can be of assistance [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher