



6th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 13 Headteacher Update

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to you as parents and carers following the reintroduction of face coverings in school and on transport to and from school. It was testament to your support of the school when I witnessed the vast majority of children arriving on Tuesday in their face coverings whilst maintaining a business-as-usual approach to school. Our high standards have continued throughout the pandemic and will continue as and when additional measures are required. From everything we read, there has clearly been a huge increase in mental health concerns around our young people. To this end we have created a new position of Mental Health and Safeguarding Co-ordinator within our Emmaus suite. I am delighted to let you know that on Friday we successfully appointing Miss Tidey to the new role. Miss Tidey will be working closely with our Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Emmaus Manager to ensure your child is supported throughout their time at St James'.

This week our mock examinations continue for our Year 11 children. As I said last week all of our Year 11s have been made aware that in the highly unlikely event that examinations do not go ahead in the summer of 2022 then these mock examinations will form part of their Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG). Please continue to keep our Year 11 children in your thoughts and prayers.

A reminder that our Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 13th January from 4pm to 7pm. Dr Guscott will be writing to all parents/carers with children in Year 9 this week to outline the plans for this virtual event. In view of our Year 9 children choosing their options this year we will be sending our curriculum brochure electronically ready for Parents' Evening in case you wanted to start any preliminary discussions with classroom teachers. Our full Options Evening takes place on Thursday 10th February and full information on pathways, timings and logistics will be sent by Dr Guscott nearer the time.

As part of our commitment to our value of Faith we are supporting The Wellspring and Chelwood Foodbank during Advent and for those who are able to, we would ask for any contributions listed below. The Wellspring are a Charity in Stockport who provide referrals into housing; they have supported over 1500 rough sleepers off the streets and into accommodation. They actively engage with people who are at risk of becoming homeless therefore preventing homelessness from happening. Chelwood Foodbank work tirelessly to support local people who are dealing with hunger every day. They have been serving Stockport since 2013 and provide urgent practical support to local people. The requests are as follows:

Clothing:

- Mens' winter coats
- New underwear & socks (men's & women's)

Food

- **No soup**
- **No beans**
- Microwave meals
- Fresh fruit & vegetables
- Crisps (multipacks/individual packs)

- Snack bars/biscuit bars
- Multipacks of water/juice
- Coffee/tea/long life milk
- Pies (e.g., Frey Bentos)
- Tinned ravioli
- Tinned meatballs
- Tinned ham
- Jars of curry sauce
- Cheese
- Semi skimmed milk



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Children can bring in any donations to their Form Tutor and we will deliver them to the Wellspring and Chelwood Foodbank on the last day of term. Many thanks in advance for anything you are able to contribute.

Have a fantastic week and if you need us, you know where we are headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher