



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Summer Term Week 14 Headteacher Update

As we enter the final week of the academic year, I just want to thank you as parents and carers for giving your child and our school your full support throughout what has been an extremely challenging year. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure your child has continued their academic, social and spiritual development even with the continued disruption. At times, this has been challenging with national lockdowns, tiered local restrictions, changing guidance for educational providers, self-isolation periods and remote education. Staff have always acted in the best interests of your child. Hopefully next year will be one which is "more normal" and with less disruption.

On Friday, our Year 7 and 8 children visited Chester Zoo. From speaking to the children when they returned to school on Friday afternoon, they certainly thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and really valued the opportunity to make memories with their peers taking in all that the Zoo has to offer. Our trip to Alton Towers takes place tomorrow with the vast majority of the school opting to take part. Hopefully this will be a lovely way to conclude our final full day of the academic year.

We say goodbye to several staff this summer including Mrs Mullen who is retiring after 21 years at St James' holding various posts including Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Charnock one of our TAs and Medical Needs Co-ordinator who leaves us after 6 years, Mr Wheeler our Assistant Site Manager who is retiring and leaves us after 5 years, Miss Roddick our Headteacher's PA who leaves us after 2 years, Mr Boyd our teacher of Music since April 2020, Miss Aneiros our teacher of Spanish since July 2020, Miss Broadhurst and Miss Moore our teachers of English since July 2020 and Miss McCurrie our Teacher of RE since September 2020. I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best for the future. We are also looking forward to welcoming back Mrs Gill and Mrs Trainor in English as well as Mrs Doyle in RE as they return from maternity leave.

A reminder that Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July is our final day and that school finishes at 12.15pm. The school buses have been ordered and will be onsite at this time ready to take children home for the summer holiday. We return to school September on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September for Year 7 only and all other Year groups return on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Please ensure that you have responded to the letter sent out by Mrs Doherty regarding the testing which will take place before we return to school. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July the Department for Education published updated guidance on face coverings. In line with the latest health advice and government position they have said that children are expected to continue to wear face coverings on public transport to or from school. This includes on dedicated school transport. Please can I ask you to speak to your child to ensure they have a suitable covering with them in September.

Our summer newsletter will be emailed out tomorrow. I would ask that you read all the information it contains, as it really does showcase what has gone on in each Year group and at a whole school level over the summer term.

In yesterday's Gospel we heard about the return of the Twelve, who were sent by Jesus to preach repentance, heal the sick, and drive out demons. When the Twelve returned, Jesus invited them to come away from the crowds and rest; but the crowds would not give them any peace. To get away, Jesus and his disciples boarded a boat in the hope of finding a deserted place, but the crowds noticed this and arrived ahead of them. The



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crowds were so persistent that Jesus and his disciples could not find any place to be alone. Perhaps as we reach the end of the academic year on Wednesday, we might take the opportunity to give ourselves permission to find the same rest and relaxation that Jesus sought for his disciples. I hope you have a lovely final week and a great summer spending time with your children, friends and family. Our staff will be doing the same and therefore will not be responding to emails until we return to school in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher