



26th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 3 Headteacher Update

I cannot believe that we are already into the third week of the Summer term. You may have read in the press that the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched "The Big Ask" which is the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, in order to put children at the heart of the country's recovery from the Covid-19 outbreak. Our children will be completing this survey as part of their Form Time which will go some way to shaping the national strategy.

I would like to remind parents that unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic has not finished. From speaking to a number of secondary Headteacher colleagues this week it is clear that children in other High Schools have been asked to self-isolate due to being close contacts to a positive case at their school. We have been very fortunate since returning from Easter in that no children have needed to self-isolate. I will stress it is only a matter of time before we are in this position, but I would like to reassure you that live Zoom lessons will take place for any child self-isolating due to Covid-19. As a way of preventing this from happening it is vital that our children continue to carry out their lateral flow tests twice weekly in order to identify any asymptomatic cases.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s to the St James' family in September and as part of their transition, we have been offering Zoom taster lessons in some of our subjects. There has been a fantastic uptake and the students have impressed us with their engagement. In July, we look forward to welcoming them into school for the first time, as part of their transition day.

Yesterday was Good Shepherd Sunday and in the Gospel, Jesus uses the image of the shepherd to describe himself and his relationship with us. We recognise that God calls every person to love and care for each other. With this in mind I would like to remind all parents that our chosen charity for this year is Cafod. Whilst it has been difficult during lockdown, we have continued to raise money for our chosen charity where it has been possible. I would invite you to visit our Twitter feed @StJamesCheadle to see all of the work that the children have put in to raising money and please do continue to donate to Cafod via ParentPay if you are able to.

Finally, Year 7 Parents' Evening takes place this Thursday. All information has been sent by Dr Guscott. Can I also encourage Parents to complete the parental voice survey that will be shared with you.

I hope you have a fantastic week, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact headteacherpa@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher