



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: National Lockdown Week 4 Update

This week has shown a high level of engagement from students in their online learning and it has been great to hear from staff about some of the excellent work that has been produced by our St James' students. Please continue to keep our Year 11 student, who remains in a critical condition, in your thoughts and prayers.

We have seen throughout the week a wave of announcements from the Government and the Department for Education (DfE) which will impact upon us all at St James'. Firstly, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Mr Johnson announced that schools in England will not be able to reopen to all pupils after the February half-term but could potentially reopen to all on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is the earliest and "depends on lots of things going right". We will wait for any future announcements, but the planning has already begun for St James' to reopen to all on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. In the meantime, our remote learning offer remains unchanged and will continue with Form Time and five lessons per day. We continue to appreciate your support in ensuring your child's attendance at each of these sessions.

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, The Department for Education (DfE) confirmed that schools will close as usual to all children over February half-term. To this end, St James' will close as planned on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and reopen to those vulnerable children and the children of critical workers on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Our remote learning offer will also cease on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and recommence on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We currently have one vacancy for a foundation Governor, more information on the role of a foundation Governor can be found by visiting <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/education/governors/foundation-governors>. We would be particularly interested to hear from you if you have a legal or financial background. If you feel you could support the school and are interested in becoming a foundation Governor, please do contact our diocese at [governance@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:governance@dioceseofshrewsbury.org).

On Thursday this week we have our virtual Year 9 Options Evening. Please ensure that you have read the curriculum brochure and all information provided by Dr Guscott. If you would like to make an appointment with Subject Leaders to discuss your child's suitability for a particular subject at Key Stage 4 the spreadsheet can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qOxElwTjarivJg2AJE1ogCSHcay91-ifSat81pyY8T4/edit?usp=sharing>

Yesterday in the Gospel we see the impact of the words of Jesus in real concrete action. A man possessed with an unclean spirit called out to Jesus for help. As we see in this example and throughout St Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. Jesus ordered the spirit to be quiet and drove the unclean spirit out of the man. As Christians we are all called to follow the example of Jesus - to listen closely to his teachings is every Catholic's responsibility today. It is easy to hear the Scriptures proclaimed each time we attend Mass, but it can be more difficult to listen with a receptive ear and a willing heart, and harder, still, to put those lessons into practice.



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Thank you so much for your continued support, as we work together as a parent/school partnership. Have a lovely week and if you need anything please do not hesitate to contact me at [headteacherpa@stjameschadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjameschadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher