



9th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 4 Headteacher Update

We are delighted that we will once again be ending our school year with a celebration of our curriculum with our annual Curriculum Excellence Week (CEW). This will be an opportunity for our Years 7 to 9 to be immersed in a variety of different activities within a multitude of subject areas. There will also be a Careers Day with the opportunity for children to explore different careers and experience a range of activities. Our children in Year 10 will be taking part in their work experience. Years 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to visit Chester Zoo and Years 7 to 9 will be going to Alton Towers. More information about these two trips will be shared with parents and children in the coming days and weeks.

With the GCSE and BTEC examinations not far away I wanted to highlight some key dates for our Year 11 children.

- Tuesday 10th May BTEC examinations begin
- Monday 16th May GCSE examinations begin
- Thursday 23rd June final GCSE examination day
- Wednesday 29th June examination contingency day
- Wednesday 29th June Leavers' Mass at 6pm
- Thursday 30th June Year 11 Leavers' Prom

As we approach the beginning of the examination season please can I ask all parents/carers to keep all of our Year 11 children in their thoughts and prayers.

In the Gospel yesterday we heard of Jesus as the good shepherd. But what does the image of Jesus the shepherd mean for us today? While sheep all look the same to us, a shepherd knows each of them individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises the shepherd's voice and respond. Just as the shepherd knows the sheep, the sheep know and trust the shepherd. Everyone who is entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. We too become good shepherds by loving those entrusted to us. The Lord calls and loves each of us as individuals, personally and intimately. The Prophet Isaiah presents a beautiful image of this when he writes, "I have called you by your name, you are mine, do not be afraid. You are precious to me and I love you." Jesus does not force us to listen to his voice when he calls us - he invites us to follow him freely. The choice whether or not to respond is ours. Jesus offers us not only the fullness of life; he offers us the fullness of his life.

I hope you have a fantastic fourth week of this Summer Term and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher