



27th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 4 Headteacher Update

Last week was a great week at St James', we had our Open Evening on 23rd September with so many children helping out in one way or another. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for their school and extremely proud to show off their school and Faculty areas. A sincere thanks from me to all parents for arranging to collect their child at 8pm.

Our **draft** term dates for 2022-2023 have now been released on our website. These mirror the dates set for the other schools within the Stockport Local Authority however, as a Voluntary Aided school they require ratification from our Governing Board which will take place in early November. They are very unlikely to change but they do remain as draft until our Autumn Full Governing Board meeting.

As we live out our second value of Faith, our retreats start this week for our Year 7 children. This is an opportunity to take time out of school with their Form group to reflect on their faith and as to why they attend a Catholic High School and what makes it so special. This is always a fantastic opportunity and one that is remembered by all children for the duration of their time at St James'.

On Thursday last week I attended a briefing from the Local Authority on what the vaccination programme for 12- to 15-year-olds would look like for St James'. They are looking to vaccinate all children aged 12-15 at St James' in early November and the spokesperson for PHE was extremely clear that the vaccine will only be given to those children who have parental consent. School will be sending out more information in the coming weeks so I would ask that you look out for that and reply as to whether you give or do not give consent for your child to be vaccinated.

Please can I ask parents to be considerate to our local neighbours when they are dropping off or collecting their children. I have been informed that several of our neighbours have contacted the Council and the Police regarding the speed of vehicles and vehicles which are parked illegally.

In yesterday's Gospel we heard that the Disciples talk of someone unknown to them who is healing people in Christ's name. We hear Jesus say "anyone who is not against us is for us". Jesus' words here are powerfully universal; if people don't oppose us, they aren't our enemies, in fact, Jesus says even more than that: They are "for us;" they are working to benefit the cause of Jesus and his followers. So thus, we should remember, we are not enemies to each other but rather should seek to support and encourage each other as we work to honour the Lord in all we do, a good mantra by which to live our lives.

I hope you have another great week and if you need anything, you know where we are
headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher