



31st January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 4 Headteacher Update

As we approach the end of January I hope you have had a lovely start to the New Year.

This week our Year 11 Parents' Evening takes place via School Cloud. If you have not already made an appointment I would encourage you to do this as a matter of urgency. You have already received your child's termly data last week and I would suggest that you read it before the Parents' Evening on Thursday to aid your discussions with class teachers. Please pay particular attention to your child's Current Working Grade, Attitude to Learning and their current attendance. Dr Guscott has already written to Parents' of Year 11 about the forthcoming mock examinations in March. As always, we ask for your continued support in encouraging your child to prepare thoroughly for these assessments and please do encourage them to attend the catch-up sessions.

Year 9 took part in a retreat facilitated by Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team and this was well received by our children who responded well and enjoyed the experience. You may have seen our Twitter account with pictures of their experience, it really was a worthwhile day and one which allowed them to develop our school value of Faith. If you have a child in Year 9 and you have not made appointments for the forthcoming Options Evening, on Thursday 10th February, I would encourage you to do so.

Our Year 8 Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 24th February from 4pm to 7pm. Dr Guscott will be writing to all parents/carers with children in Year 8 with full details later this week.

In yesterday's Gospel, Jesus demonstrates his love for his people and reminds us that life is not always easy for a prophet, missionary or Christian. He faces opposition, persecution, rejection and even threats to his life. Yet despite all these, he did not relent but instead, he continued to obey God's call. With Christ as our model, we must continue to love all God's people. We must be committed to the Good News. This week, let us aim to proclaim the Good News by what we say and what we do.

Finally, I would like to invite you to stand for election as a Parent Governor, or nominate another parent to do so. In our school we have provision for two Parent Governors and there is currently one vacancy. The Governing Board, with the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. Governing Boards have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

No special qualifications are needed, and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the work of the Governing Board. However, we would particularly welcome nominations from parents with skills and experience in Secondary education or in accountancy. Training is available for all Governors and this Governing board has an expectation that those new to governance attend free induction training.

This [link](#) summarises the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a Governor. In addition, parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 or more hours per academic year or who are



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections. Nominations must be from Parents or Carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close.

If you would like to stand for election please complete the nomination form at this [link](#) and return it to Miss Bowers no later than **Wednesday 9th February at 12:00pm**. You may also include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 250 words. Self-nominations will be accepted, but if you are nominating another parent please seek their prior consent. If there are more nominations than vacancies the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

Have a fantastic week and if you need anything or have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher