



4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 5 Headteacher Update**

I cannot believe that we are already in October and that we only have three weeks left of this half term. We had another fantastic set of events in school last week for Year 7 with retreats to Savio and their Meet the Tutor evening on Thursday. For many of our parents this was their first opportunity to come into school at St James' as they had missed out last year due to the pandemic. It was brilliant to see so many parents having useful discussions on how their child has settled into the St James' family after four weeks. We are really looking forward to continuing their welcome with our mass for our new Year 7 on Thursday at Our Lady and the Apostles Church in Edgeley at 6pm.

If your child is in Year 11, you may have seen a range of announcements and accompanying documents from Ofqual about examinations in 2022. In summary we will need to wait to see the "devil in the detail" from the Examination boards in the coming months. Dr Guscott, our examinations lead, will be in contact when we have more specific details. There have been a series of documents released which you can read in full detail below:

- The [consultation outcome document](#) which sets out what changes will be put in place for the GCSEs in 2022
- A [document](#) written by new Chief Regulator Dr Jo Saxton, explaining Ofqual's approach to grading next year
- A [consultation](#) on contingency arrangements for GCSEs
- [Guidance](#) on the contingency arrangements for vocational and technical qualifications

The feast of St Francis of Assisi is celebrated today worldwide. The Pope chose his papal name as he was inspired by St Francis as the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation. Pope Francis has often spoken about our duty to care for our common home, the world around us. As we go about our daily lives we should endeavour to do all we can to look after the world we have been gifted. This is something we encourage our children to do within our school environment for example with the continuation of our Eco Club which has done fantastic work to promote the importance of sustainability.

Have a great week and if you need us, you know where we are [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher