



11th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 6 Headteacher Update

On Thursday last week we celebrated our Year 7 welcome Mass at Our Lady and the Apostles Church in Edgeley at 6pm. It was lovely to see so many parents and families at this event supporting their child's formal induction to the St James' family. Fr Martin spoke about the importance of seizing the opportunities that are afforded to us, of demonstrating resilience when times are tough and working hard to become the best that we can possibly be. This fits so well with our third value as we strive for Excellence to become the very best versions of ourselves.

We aim to consistently recognise and reward both the individual and collective achievements of our children. At the centre of this are the school's core values of Family, Faith and Excellence: values which we feel promote behaviours and actions that will create global Catholic citizens. This year we have launched our values pass; these are awarded to children who have gone above and beyond and earned value points. The passes entitle children to either move to the front of the lunch queue and receive a free lunch with a friend, or to move to the front of the lunch queue with a friend. As I supervise lunchtime in the canteen everyday it has been brilliant to witness children from a variety of Year groups using their values pass in recognition of their achievement of value points. As parents, if your child does receive one of these passes, please do commend them on their achievement.

On Thursday our school community celebrated National Poetry Day and had the opportunity to both read and write poetry with a number of exciting activities taking place throughout the day. In the library children wrote autumnal acrostic poems and were able to take part in poetry mindfulness. Staff joined in with the poetry celebrations by writing their own poems for the students to read and try to identify who wrote each poem. National Poetry Day also marked the final day of our whole school poetry competition. There were a large number of entries and our judging panel will be announcing our 5 winners during Form time next week. These winners will receive book vouchers and their poems will be shared on our Twitter feed. We will also be naming our school Poet Laureate next week. A big congratulations to everyone who took part.

Our readings yesterday give us an opportunity to step back from the bustle of our everyday lives to consider more fully the riches we have been given, and what it is we truly value. In the First Reading, the spirit of Wisdom has come to the writer through prayer. Beside her, everything else that might be valued on earth seems worthless, and pales into insignificance. The theme of wisdom, selfless values, and service to the Lord are drawn together in yesterday's Gospel. 'Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' This was the question the man posed to Jesus. Jesus makes two requirements of the wealthy man, first, he must give up his possessions and secondly the invitation Jesus extends 'follow me'. Following Jesus impacts all our lives, in all that we say and do. This week, let us pray for the gift of ever greater wisdom to help us recognise and seize every opportunity to show our love of God through the good we do each day.

Thank you as always for your continued support and if you need anything please do not hesitate to get in contact headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

apontifex

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher