



22nd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: National Lockdown Week 6 Update

I hope you have had a restful half term and managed to begin this Lenten season with hope. With Ash Wednesday, Lent begins, and we start our Lenten observances. Our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our daily lives. We need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey alone. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus, whenever we feel tired or ready to give up, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent, as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert as we heard in the Gospel yesterday. We continue to keep our seriously injured Year 11 student and their family in our prayers along with all members of our school family who have been or continue to be affected by the pandemic.

Over the half term week there have been a series of contradictory headlines around school re-opening, whether it will be a full or partial return to school on the 8th March, how testing may look, additional strengthening of mask wearing and what the examinations may look like for our Year 11 students. In reality I am expecting a swathe of announcements around the wider reopening of schools and the summer's awarding of examinations grades today and this week. I will be writing to you again when we have this confirmed from the Government and the Department for Education (DFE).

At St James' we provide Careers guidance throughout Years 7 to 11 as we recognise the importance of preparing students for their future education and career. There is an area of our school website dedicated to Careers <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/careers/> and our Careers Advisor, Miss Ashworth, can be contacted should you require any further information. We value parents' and students' views about our Careers provision, and I would encourage you and your child to complete this short survey to help us to review and improve our current practice: parent/carer please [click here](#), student please [click here](#)

Our chosen school charity this year is Cafod. Fundraising has been more challenging due to the global pandemic, but work has continued at Cafod and we would like to support them. Mrs Bennett, our Lay Chaplain, will be launching an awareness and fundraising campaign encouraging our students to take part in the "Walk for Water campaign"; walking to Afar in Ethiopia which is just under 1600 hours walking. Each year group will be challenged to walk there as a collective, approximately 10 hours of walking per student. Students will receive value points for walking certain distances, it may be a challenge you would like to take on as a family. If you wish to make a donation, please visit Parent Pay <https://www.parentpay.com/>, your support is much appreciated.

Have a brilliant first week back as we begin to build towards Easter. If you need us, you know where we are headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher