



18th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 7 Headteacher Update

Over the past two weeks I have attended several briefings with the Local Authority (LA) alongside my fellow Secondary Headteacher colleagues. The LA have shared with us the huge increases in the number of Covid-19 cases in Stockport. Luckily at St James' the number of cases has remained low. Due to the increase across Stockport, the LA have asked that we cancel any 'mass events' which could put the normal business of school at risk; any event which could cause us to have major staffing issues and as such could impact on teaching and learning due to staff absence.

The Senior Leadership Team and I, in consultation with the Leadership and Strategy Governor Committee, have taken the extremely difficult decision to cancel any 'mass events' for the remainder of the term; this includes the All Saints' Whole School Mass and the 2021 Leavers' Prize Evening. The Parents' Evenings for 2021/22 will remain virtual, as was already planned. All other events, such as the Art Exhibition, The Year 10 and 11 Careers Convention, the Year 11 Apprenticeship Evening and the Christmas Showcase, will run as normal. These events are able to be spread out, increase distancing between people and there will be significant fewer attendees at these events compared to the two that have been cancelled. As sad as this is, I wanted to let you know as soon as possible.

Year 11 will be receiving their Termly Data One reports this week. I would encourage you to go through the outcomes for each subject with your child. In reality the time our Year 11 children have with us this year is running out and it is imperative that they are focused on maximising their learning over their final 7 months at St James'. If you have any queries about the data, please do not hesitate to contact their subject teacher, all email addresses are available on the website.

The readings and Gospel that we heard yesterday speak of the cost of discipleship. The first reading foretells of Jesus' sacrifice for us. The second reading reminds us that Jesus understands our weaknesses. And in the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples that it will be difficult to follow him. Jesus is clear that in order to be first in heaven, we must put ourselves last and serve others. Jesus is asking for his disciples to be servant leaders. As we move through this final week of half term let us become servant leaders in all that we do in order to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

I hope you have a fantastic week and an extra special half term when it comes. Thank you for your continued support throughout this half term. Our staff will be taking a well-deserved break over half term and as such will be unavailable via email for that week, thank you in advance for not contacting them. If you need anything this week, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher