



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 8 Headteacher Update**

I hope you have had a lovely half term break and spent some quality time with your families.

As we look ahead to the next 8 weeks and the build up to Christmas there is so much happening at St James'. We have our Parent Forum next week, please remember all are welcome. As part of our careers education offer, we are delighted to once again be hosting our Apprenticeship Evening for any Year 11 children who may be considering this as an option, more details to follow. Year 10 will have the opportunity to explore their faith with a retreat to Animate which is always a worthwhile and uplifting experience. Year 11 have their mock exams coming up which are an invaluable experience and provide meaningful feedback to focus them on what they need to work on during their remaining time at St James'. Please do encourage your child to follow their revision plan and to speak to their teacher if they have any questions or difficulties. We also have our Year 10 Parents' Evening that will take place virtually, more information to follow nearer the time.

We are looking to continue our fundraising for Christian Aid and would encourage you to speak to your child about their Form's fundraising idea. If you are able, we would be delighted if you are able to donate via ParentPay to this worthwhile cause. Our Faith Prefects will also be organising a collection for our local foodbanks and we thank you in advance for your generous donations. This charity work is an integral part of what we do as a Catholic school and we know it is valued by the charities we support.

Yesterday's Gospel comes from the beginning of Jesus' famous 'Sermon on the Mount'. We hear, in particular, the Beatitudes, which teach us how Jesus wants us to live as his followers. The Beatitudes is best understood as a framework for Christian living. It is traditional that we proclaim this Gospel on the Feast of All Saints, the day each year when the Church recalls the example, witness, and prayer of the holy men and women who have not officially been recognised by the Church as Saints. Saints are people who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes just as Jesus lived. We all need to hear their stories and be inspired by their witness as we too are challenged to model our lives on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes. As we move through November let us be guided by these Saints as our role models.

The home school partnership is key to the success of our children at St James', and I thank you for your continued support. If you need anything this week, please do not hesitate to get in touch [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher