



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

7th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 8 Headteacher Update

Last Tuesday 1st March was Secondary School Offer Day where children in Primary found out whether or not they had secured a place at their chosen High School. This year was the most competitive year I have known at our school with 515 applications for 165 places. This is a significant increase on the increase we saw last year again demonstrating how our exceptional school is viewed by the local community. We are delighted to be welcoming our September 2022 Year 7 cohort to the St James' family and we are already working closely with Primaries to ensure that their transition is smooth and seamless.

We are delighted to share with you that one of our Year 10 children, Rodrigo, has been successfully elected to the Youth Parliament, a fantastic achievement. He has worked so hard promoting his campaign including delivering an assembly to all Year groups and he thoroughly deserves this success. We are sure you will join us in congratulating him on his achievement and we look forward to seeing the plans he has for his two years in office.

This week mock examinations continue for our Year 11 children. Please continue to keep our Year 11 children in your thoughts and prayers. A reminder that on Tuesday Year 11 have a "day off" from their mock examinations as we have a visiting theatre company coming into school to put on a performance of Macbeth to aid their English studies.

Unfortunately, works are continuing this week on upgrading bike storage. To that end I would ask that your child does not ride their bike to school this week as unfortunately there is nowhere for them to securely store their bike. The company have confirmed that the works should be completed by the end of this week and if it is any sooner, we will text parents/carers to let them know.

We began Lent last week with our Ash Wednesday services and it was a lovely opportunity for each Year group to join together and reflect on the meaning of Lent, as well as to receive their Ashes. We have also continued to pray for Ukraine and will be holding a Mass in school on Wednesday, led by Fr Peter, during lunchtime for children and staff. In yesterday's Gospel, we heard the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Jesus is tried, tested and tempted. However, Jesus refused to give up. Jesus' response to the temptations of the devil offer us an example for responding in faith when our doubts and insecurities tempt us to distrust God. Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving invite us to trust God. They remind us that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side every step of way. They prepare us to trust in God in all things, especially in moments of doubt and uncertainty.

Have a great week and thank you for your continued support. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in contact headteacherpa@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher