



1st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: New Liturgical Year

As we enter December and begin Advent, I wanted to write to update you on several items. On Sunday we started the new Liturgical Year and celebrated the first week of Advent. We once again begin to build towards the celebration and feast of Christmas. Our Advent wreath, Nativity Crib and Christmas tree are now in our reception area reminding us of the first Christmas.

There has been much to reflect upon and celebrate since the start of this half term and I look forward to sharing with you and reminding you of all the events that have taken place in our Autumn Term Newsletter. This will be sent the week beginning 14th December. One highlight to bring to your attention is our food bank collection which continues. We have had a fantastic response from our students who have been donating many food items to their Form collection box. Please can I encourage parents to continue to support our first and second values of Family and Faith and help our charitable work.

Our Year 11 students are now well into their mock examinations. Following last year, we are acutely aware of the greater importance of the mock examinations this year. I wanted to tell you how impressed I have been with our students, who have dealt with all the usual challenges that revision and work for mock examinations brings, along with the extra challenges brought about by the Covid restrictions. Teachers will be sharing the results of the mock examinations after the Christmas break when all papers will have been moderated and standardised.

I would like to remind parents that to keep as many students in school as possible, it is essential that you do not send your child into school if they are unwell. **If they, or any members of their household**, have any of the Covid symptoms; a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste, please do not send them into school and book a test and inform school of the result.

It is extremely important that you are aware that Greater Manchester Travel Safe Partnership have written to school around some students not wearing face coverings on buses. They have said that they want to avoid issuing fixed penalty notices, which stand at a minimum of £200, to parents/guardians for their child not wearing a face covering. They have said that face covering compliance has such an important role to play in reducing transmission and supporting people to travel safely on public transport that they have to consider all options available. Please can I therefore ask that if your child uses a bus to get to school, that you reinforce the need for them to wear a face covering.

As we move through winter I would again advise you to ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat with them at all times as they will be outside for the majority of break and lunchtime (before and/or after they have eaten). A reminder that "hoodies" are banned.

You may have seen from the local and national press that several schools and academy trusts have looked to alter their term dates, in particular around the Christmas closure period. I would like to take this opportunity to assure parents that our term dates, which were agreed and published on the website in 2019, will not be changing. To confirm, St James' will close to students on Friday 18th December at 12.15pm and re-open on



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Monday 11th January at 8.30am. Can I also draw your attention to the dates for 2021/22 which are on the website at: <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/term-dates>.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher