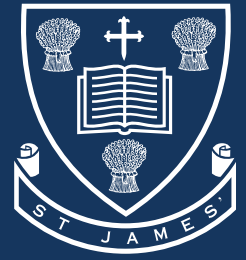


School Newsletter

July 2021



The academic year 2020-21 has been the strangest I have experienced in the whole of my teaching career. It has flown by, but in so many ways has seemed to last an eternity. It has been a year of upheaval, uncertainty, making plans, changing plans, adaptability and above all resilience. The whole St James' family has shown it can respond in a positive way even when facing the greatest of challenges. We know that so many of our school family have been adversely affected by Covid 19 and we keep them all in our prayers.

Since our full return to school, we have been so impressed with the way in which the children have conducted themselves, even when faced with so many uncertainties. We said goodbye to our Year 11 children with a lovely Leavers' Assembly and we joined together in faith to celebrate a Leavers' Mass at Christ Church. They did not expect to end their St James' journey in this way but as I said at their Mass, God has been with us on our journey and although we have all faced so many challenges, we have all learnt so much.

Our new Year 10 Prefects have made an impressive start to their tenure and are grouped into Family, Faith and Excellence

to reflect our school values. They have been issued with their badges and are wearing these proudly as part of their uniform. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school when we welcomed the new Year 7 children for the first time on Transition Day.

It has been wonderful to have the opportunity to end the year with Curriculum Excellence Week, a true celebration of all that is great about our school. We have been able to provide our children with so many different learning experiences including a taster of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, careers experiences, varied and interesting subject experiences and trips to Chester Zoo and Alton Towers. We are sure these will be opportunities that our children will remember long after they have left St James'.

We have had CAFOD as our chosen school charity this year and I am delighted to say that we have raised £1773.50. We thank our school family for their continued generosity, you may still contribute via ParentPay if you wish. As witnesses to their faith, children and parents/carers have also been contributing to our Wellspring and Chelwood food bank collections and as always, we are so proud of the generosity

and on behalf of those who will benefit, we extend a thank you to you all. We will be discussing with our Faith Prefects a charity for the next academic year and we look forward to having more opportunities to raise money.

To keep up to date with all school events, if you do not already do so, I would encourage you to follow us on Twitter @ StJamesCheadle and to visit our website www.stjamescheadle.co.uk as it is full of useful information including the latest news updates. Our school term will end on Wednesday 21st July at 12.15pm and we have an end of year reflection planned for the final day which will be led virtually by our Faith prefects. We will return to school on Monday 6th September for Year 7 only and on Tuesday 7th September for Years 8 to 11.

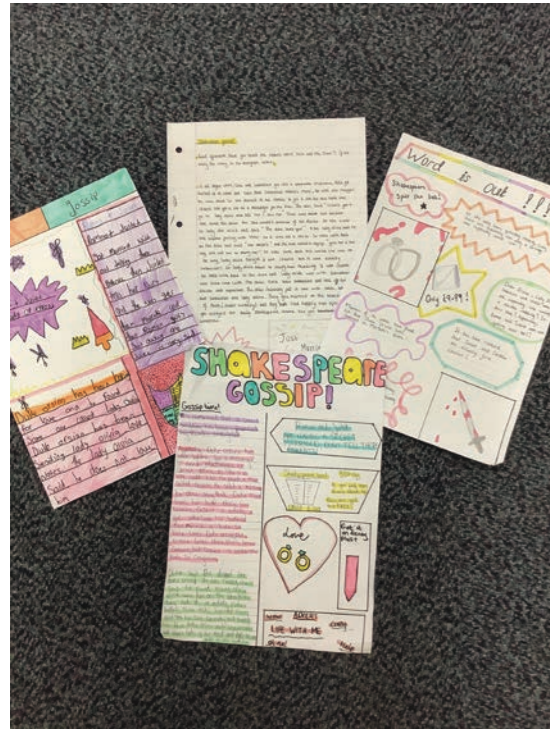
We do hope you have a most enjoyable summer and we look forward to welcoming our staff and children back to school in September.

Mr A Pontifex, Headteacher

 Follow us on Twitter:
[@StJamesCheadle](https://twitter.com/StJamesCheadle)



YEAR 7



FAMILY

As we reach the end of a year like no other, I have been so impressed by the resilience, good humour and positivity of the Year 7s. They have showcased these skills in a number of initiatives this term, including writing welcome letters to the new Year 7s and completing posters for the Stockport Stamp Out Stigma campaign. There were many brilliant entries to this competition, with students promoting good mental health through the form of posters; a special congratulations goes to Orla, Alice and Leia for their winning pieces, (pictured).

The Year 7s are a very considerate and conscientious group. They are especially interested in the environment and understand the importance of sustainability for our future. This is most apparent in the Eco Council, which a group of Year 7s have been attending all year. Their idea of a sunflower competition sparked great enthusiasm around the school, (pictured). I have been really proud of the contribution of the Year group towards extracurricular activities, such as the outstanding attendance at PE clubs and the Arts. It was great to see the Year 7 band contributing to the Festival of School and College Arts on the 28th May, (pictured).

FAITH

Whilst I have been impressed by the maturity of the Year 7s, especially during times of such uncertainty and disruption, there of course is room for improvement as we head into Year 8. We are a family here at St James' and this community and care is relevant both inside and outside of school. Social media has many benefits but can also be a platform for hate; I'd like to remind students to use social media wisely. Throughout the term we have followed a theme of kindness. Through the summer I hope that students remain safe, are rested and continue to treat others how they wish to be treated. I would like to thank all parents for their support throughout the year and of course to the brilliant Form Tutors who have mentored the Year 7s with such skill and care. The Year 7s are also very grateful for the hard work of Mrs Chadwick and everyone in Emmaus for helping ease the transition from primary to high school.

EXCELLENCE

Many students are working beyond the level expected of them, which is a brilliant achievement considering the disruption we have had to our learning. I have been inundated with rave reviews from teachers praising the academic prowess of many members of the year. I know that the top set in Maths have been working at incredibly high levels, especially Sean who has been completing work that even the top GCSE students would struggle with. Olivia completed a wonderful, original Geography game (pictured), whilst English classes have produced some amazing Shakespeare gossip columns, (pictured). 7C have also created some fantastic theme parks in French, (pictured), whilst History classes have finished the year writing authentic civil war letters.

Year 7 have set some very high standards this year, which has been reflected in their termly data. It is great to see that 135 students were in the 1,2 club this term meaning that their attitude to learning in all lessons was at the very least very good. A special mention goes to the twelve students who scored all 1s for attitude to learning. Keeping these high standards up in all lessons is a tremendous achievement and proves that these students possess the habits and skills necessary to take on Year 8. I am so proud of Job, Lucy, Alex, Jess, Charlotte, Sean, Natalie, Ethan, Orla and Poppy. Incredibly Josh and Emily, both of 7A, have achieved this feat in every termly data check. That is an outstanding record and I am so pleased with their efforts.

I look forward to welcoming a refreshed group of students in Year 8 and thank them for their outstanding effort and attitude this school year. Enjoy the summer.

Mr Cawley
Head of Year 7

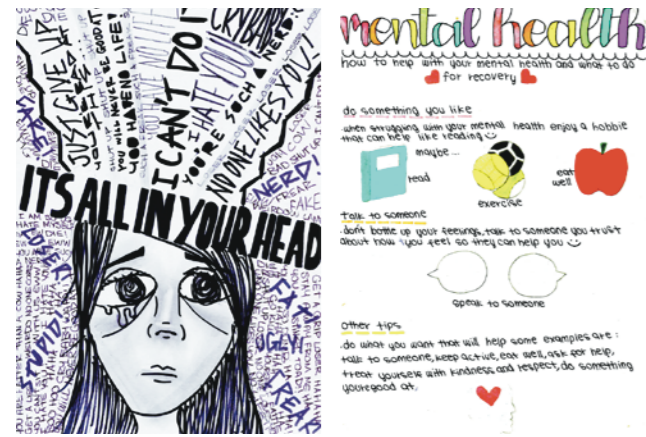


YEAR 8

As we approach the end of the academic year and reflect on what has been a tumultuous, and very challenging time for everyone, I find strength in the spirit and resilience of our young people. Every day I am greeted with smiling faces despite periods of time in and out of school. Year 8, yet to experience an entire academic year in school, have adapted well, for the most part but we know that some of our young people have found it exceptionally difficult. Our Pastoral team, their Form Tutors and I are here to support them as best we can.

Although we have not managed to hold the events we would usually like to, the pupils have still managed to excel in aspects of school life

In the "Stop the Stigma" Beacon counselling competition pupils were asked to get creative, to support the stigma against mental health. There were some outstanding entries and congratulations to Martin and Megan who were runners up and Hana, who won our in-house part of the competition.



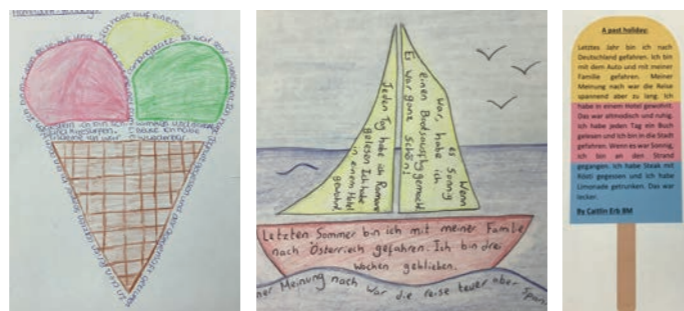
The "grow a sunflower" Form competition in school led by the Eco Council has created great interest and competitive spirit, with 8J leading in Year 8 the last time the measurements were taken.



After choosing which career interests them the most, pupils have been attending Careers Breakfasts on Wednesdays during registration, where they have listened to a wide variety of speakers talk to them about their careers. There was also a live question and answer session with the army.



There has been some excellent work completed in our final half term of school. In German, pupils have been studying the topic of holidays. There were some very creative ideas.



Similarly in RE, pupils helped to create a wonderful display.

Year 8 STEM Club have worked hard completing a range of tasks in order to achieve the CREST Discovery Award. Hopefully certificates will arrive soon. The girls have been enthusiastic and dedicated. Well done Hana, Megan and Amy.



Although we have not been able to reward pupils as much as we would have liked for their hard work, determination and resilience, staff have been sending postcards home and awarding value points. Congratulations to the following pupils for achieving over 100 value points this year, with either zero or relatively few behaviour points:

Revel, Aaron B, Daniel C, Imogen L, Declan, Andrew, Dylan, Amy E, Hana, Martin, Imogen S, Megan W, Caitlin, Debra, Brooke, Quinn, Jess C, Esther, Michela, Emily B, Neve, Efe, Oonagh, Imogen M, Kynon, Georgia and Barbara.

Particular congratulations must go to Gracie-Lea for achieving over 200!

I hope and pray for a return to normal school life in September. With God's help, we can remain strong through the tough times.

Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41: 10

Have a lovely summer.

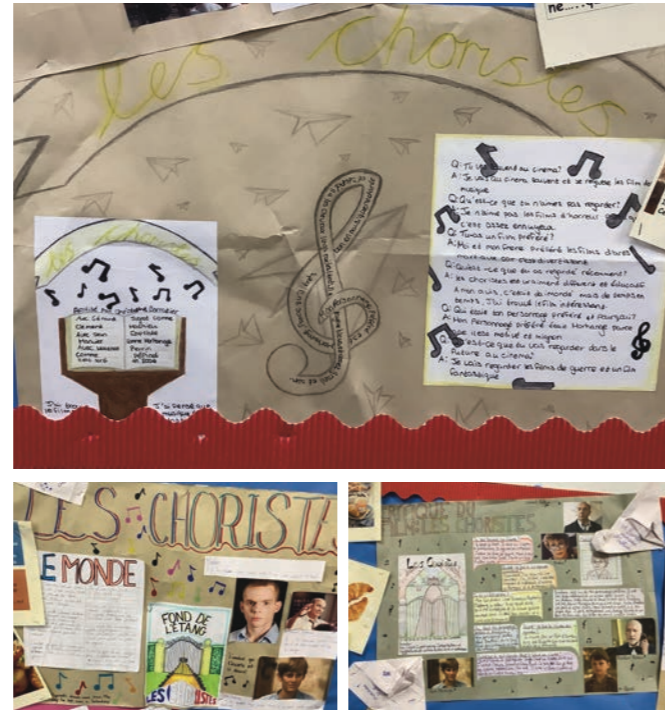
Ms Cheshire
Head of Year 8



YEAR 9

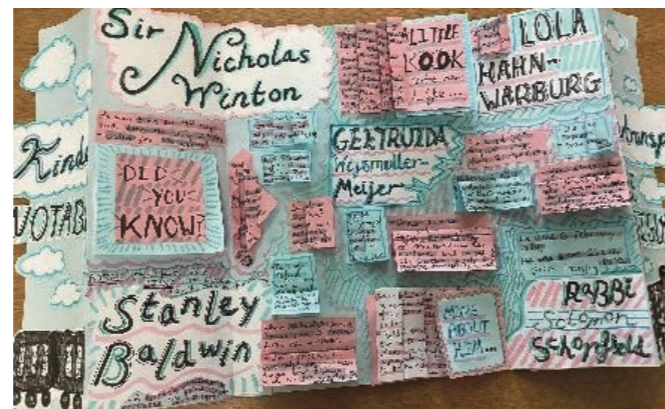
"With God, all things are possible" Matthew 19:26
 Never has this been more apt. We have made it through a year that has provided us with many obstacles and I am so proud of the way the children have journeyed through Year 9.

They have continued to work hard in lessons and I am delighted to include some examples of excellent work across the curriculum. In Maths, Mrs Wilby's 9Y1 class had to design a container that held exactly 330ml (a can of coke). There were lots of volume aspects to study. They were graded on accuracy, presentation and being leak proof.



In MFL, Year 9 students have taken part in some film projects during their lessons. They worked hard to produce some excellent pieces of work.

In English, Miss Condron's class did some excellent research on notable figures in the Kindertransport movement.



In Textiles, the Year 9s have been working hard to produce cushions that are printed with their own designs. Some examples of their fabulous work are below.



Mrs Rarity and Miss Ashworth organised a virtual careers session for 10 pupils and they were lucky enough to join a Zoom call with The Victoria and Albert Museum about knowledge and curiosity.



As we say goodbye to Mrs Mullen I know that she has loved teaching her Geography classes in Year 9:

"I have taught 9C for the last 3 years and 9M for the last 2 years. I have loved teaching both classes Geography. I have watched them grow into mature, sensible learners. Many have chosen Geography to study at GCSE. I wish them well as I move to retirement!"

We wish her all the very best in her retirement and I know the Year 9s will miss her.

Away from the classroom, we have also had sporting success in the Year group. Thomas won the 300m Junior Boys event at the Greater Manchester Schools Athletics Championships and at the same event, Ava got a personal best in the 800m event in the Junior Girls section.

Recently, 4 of our pupils took part in MiniDASH, organised by The Diocese of Shrewsbury and it was an opportunity for students from Catholic secondary schools across the Diocese to come together and explore what it means to be Catholic. Rodrigo, Yasmin, Ella and Anna all represented St James' and were able to take lots from the day.

Mrs Bickerton recently encouraged the pupils to take part in Beacon Counselling's Stop the Stigma campaign, where pupils were to create a piece that highlighted mental health in the young. Rose, Ava and Amber were all successful in their efforts and were the Year 9 winners with their fantastic artwork.

Despite the challenges that the year has brought us, the pupils should be so proud of their achievements across the school. I know that they are fully prepared for the move into Year 10 and the start of their GCSE courses.

I wish all the Year 9s and their families a restful and enjoyable summer when it comes. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Mrs Linford
 Head of Year 9



YEAR 10



Exams

Our Year 10 students have experienced their first exam period. They had the opportunity to sit these exams under formal exam conditions either side of the May half term. This has been a useful process in preparing our students for their GCSE exams in the summer of 2022. Allowing them to reflect on what they did well during this time and how they could improve to better prepare themselves for their upcoming GCSEs. During what can be a stressful time our pupils' attitude and behaviour was excellent, their attendance and punctuality to all exams was exemplary. This is something that I am incredibly proud of and is evidence of how seriously our students take their education.

During this time our students have continued to produce excellent work in a number of their subjects. Nicole, Matty and Jamie have performed exceptionally in their Geography exams. Clodagh, Sophia, Bernadette and Mia have done so well to complete a range of products which satisfy current design problems in Textiles. Sienna has made a dress that has been designed to include a face mask for covid protection. Tom, Georgia, Elicia and Leo have all revised really well and achieved really good results in Business, whilst Dawid and Matty have performed well in the Maths exams.

The Oxford Scholarship Competition

For the first time, St James' has the opportunity to offer one of our Year 10 students the chance to become our 'Oxford Scholarship Student'. This unique opportunity allows for the selected student to enrol, for free, on a number of Oxford University taster courses and internships throughout Year 11. There are courses on offer in a number of different subjects including:

- Business & enterprise
- Computer science & coding
- Creative writing
- Debate and public speaking
- Engineering, international relations

- Politics & leadership
- Law
- Medicine
- Psychology & neuroscience

Congratulations to Annie who has been selected to become our school representative on the scholarship programme after writing a detailed application. She will offer regular updates on courses she has attended and what she has learned and will share with the rest of students via the careers newsletter.

Prefects

During this term we started the Prefect application process. Over 60 students applied to become a Prefect, outlining their personal qualities and suitability for the role. We interviewed 15 pupils for the role of Senior Prefect with Mr Pontifex stating how incredibly high the standards were during this process. The Senior Prefects appointments are Dylan (Our Lady's) as Head Boy and Lottie (Cheadle Catholic Juniors) as Head Girl. The deputies are Ruben (St Benedict's) and Kamilla (Cheadle Catholic Juniors). The Head Boy and Girl of the school are responsible for managing the whole of the Prefect Body, ensuring that all duties are carried out correctly and that the Prefects are the ultimate role models for all other pupils in the school. Duties of the Head Boy and Girl consist of representing the school as St James' ambassadors, making speeches at school events and being an integral part of the induction process for the new Year 7s in September.

The Prefects have been split into three key teams based on our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence. Our Family Prefects will be focusing on raising the profile of mental health and well-being, mentoring younger students and being Form ambassadors. Our Faith Prefects will be leading on whole school charity events, leading prayer and liturgy and whole school Masses. Our Excellence Prefects will be tutoring our KS3 pupils, acting as reading buddies for younger students and will represent each Faculty as an ambassador.

All Prefects are key to all major events that the school is involved in, such as organising Open Evenings and Parents' Evenings, taking parents and pupils on tours of the school and generally welcoming visitors to St James'. As ambassadors for the school, the Senior Prefects ensure that the views of all pupils are represented and listened to by coordinating student voice for a wide range of school issues such as teaching and learning and extracurricular activities. *"Throughout my time at St James' I have behaved myself and I have worked to the best of my ability. This has helped me gain the trust of teachers and fellow students along the way, playing a part in my decision to take on the role of Head Boy"* said Dylan. *"The responsibility and care shown by the teachers towards the students inspired me to become Deputy Head Boy"* said Ruben. *"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at St James' and being Head Girl enables me to positively impact other students and their time here"* said Lottie.

Our Prefects had their first experience of the role during the Year 6 Transition day. They were supporting our new intake, making them feel welcome and showing them where to go when they arrived. Throughout the day they were assisting our staff making sure they arrived at each lesson and supervised them during their break time and lunchtime to get to know them better and so that the Year 6s could see a friendly face. They ensured a smooth transition throughout the whole day and were a credit to St James'.

The Year 10s represented the school proudly at the Year 2 Mini Olympics, Monday 5th July. In their role as Sports Leaders they had the task of helping, guiding and supporting 90 very excited Year 2 pupils from Cheadle Catholic Infant School. The event was a great success and the leaders were amazing. Many members of staff from Cheadle Catholic Infants commented on what a fantastic job the leaders did.

Mr Maidment
Head of Year 10

Family Prefects	Faith Prefects	Excellence Prefects
Dylan	Ruben	Lottie
Kamilla	Ava	Basmala
Amy	Cheryl	Connor
Georgia	Clodagh	Eve
Grace	Elsa	Grace
James	Emma	Jamie
Louisa	Ester	Jaydn
Maria	Evan	Leo
Max	Gabriel	Lewis
Nicole	George	Liam
Rhys	Louis	Luke
Ruby	Matthew	Molly
Sienna	Arianne	Nathan
Tom	Grace	Niamh
Verity	Jessica	Seamus
Max	Nicole	Annie
	Tara	Matthew
		Molly



YEAR 11



FAMILY

Although it was very sad to say goodbye to the Class of 2021 this term we feel fortunate that we at least had the opportunity to celebrate their time at St James' after the many months of disruption to their school life. Our final day together was very special, and the Leavers' Assembly was the perfect time to look back at the many experiences we have shared. From our first few weeks in Year 7, Linnet Clough, the France Trip in Year 8, Retreats, Feast and Famine fundraising events for Lenten Effort, Lower School Presentation Evening, Rewards Breakfasts and Sports Days to our final few weeks together. We also reflected on the hopes and dreams that the pupils wrote in 2015. It was really interesting to see who had wanted to help animals, be a famous rapper, succeed in their GCSEs or simply make some new friends for life! We are sure that if not all, at least some of these dreams will have come true. The Year 11 team were all able to share their own memories and good wishes for the future with their Forms during the assembly. We are genuinely so proud of the young people that have left us ready to go into the world and use all the skills, talents and values they have developed during their time at St James'.

Before their final day, the pupils took time to reflect on what has made us a family. This is what they said, *"Knowing someone is genuinely interested in you, knowing that someone cares about you as a person, feeling safe, being forgiven, having someone to celebrate your successes, being respected, being true friends."*

EXCELLENCE

In the Leavers' Assembly we were able to celebrate many of Year 11 pupils' successes, ranging from our top ten attenders to our KS4 ATL 1 Club members. These incredible achievements are a result of the hard work and dedication shown throughout the last year. Abby, our Head Girl, was presented with the Spirit of St James' award for her tireless work supporting the wider life of the school and upholding all our core values. A special Compassion Award was presented to Maisy in 11E to recognise the endless kindness and care that she has shown in fundraising and charity work.

Year 11 students worked with determination this term sitting their second set of mock examinations. We look forward to celebrating their exam success on results day, 12th August and in November at Prize Evening.

The GCSE Art work has now been exhibited around school and will be a reminder to us all in September of the talented students of the Class of 2021.

FAITH

The Year 11 Leavers' Mass took place at Christ Church, Heald Green, and was a wonderful celebration of the Class of 2021's time at St James'. It was a perfect way to look to the future and to consider how to use our unique qualities and talents in the world.

During our assembly and Mass we prayed for Khia and his family and will continue to keep them in our thoughts. At the end of Mass pupils received a Miraculous Medal as a keepsake, to bring gifts from Mary to strengthen their faith.

For one last time we would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all your support but also this term for your kind words of thanks and generous gifts. Thanks to our dedicated Year 11 Pastoral team whose hard work and care has contributed to the pupils' happiness, wellbeing and progress. We are blessed to have shared the past 5 years with these amazing young people. They will live long in our memory and always in the heart of St James'.

The Class of 2021 left some final words of advice for pupils of St James':

Don't focus on changing yourself to fit in, be you and work to the best of your abilities and you'll always succeed.

Work hard in every subject and be yourself.

Appreciate your teachers who are trying to help you. Be who you want to be and not who others want you to be. The next 5 years will fly by, and you don't want to regret the things you didn't say or do.

Enjoy your time at school. It will go fast; really, really fast. 5 years may seem a long time, but it will be gone like that! Take every opportunity you can.

Ms Woods & Dr Nye
Heads of Year 11

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance this term is quite significantly higher than than the national average. This is testament to our student's positive work ethic. Despite another challenging term, St James' students continue to impress us by the way they cope in these strange times.

We would like to extend our thanks to our St James' families for keeping us informed of new Covid cases, enabling us to quickly identify close contact students to prevent further infections. Hybrid lessons are now an integral part of school teaching, our pupils who are self-isolating have continued their education by participating in online learning.

We are very much looking forward to returning to a more normal school environment in September, when we will be introducing some exciting attendance incentives. Positive promotion of attendance from parents and teachers alike, ensures that our students are always conscious about missing school.

Statistics prove that attendance has a direct effect on academic achievement and progress. Our expectation at St James' is for our students to strive to attain 100% attendance.

Please remember to inform the school by 9.00am if your child is going to be absent. Please do not contact Teachers or Form Tutors regarding appointments. All leave of absence requests and medical appointments should be directed to the Attendance officer on:

c.hanley@stjamescheadle.co.uk
Absence line: 0161 482 6900 (option 1)

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school whenever possible.

Mrs C Hanley
Attendance Officer

SPIRITUALITY

It's been a difficult year where we have not been able to gather together in prayer and worship as much as we would normally like to. However, we have continued to pray together where we can, and made use of the technology available to us to pray and worship together throughout the year. It was lovely as the year ended that we were able to join together in person again to pray as Form groups in Morning Prayer. We have had a number of virtual liturgies, marking key moments in the year, including the Feasts of the Ascension, Ss Peter & Paul and our end of year liturgy. We look forward to being able to gather as a whole school community and celebrate Mass once again in the not too distant future.

The new Faith Prefects have worked hard with me to prepare the end of year liturgy, focusing on joy. They wanted to look back at the year and celebrate what we have achieved as a school family and achieved individually, despite the, at times, tricky circumstances. They also provided the prayers for the liturgy to mark the Feast of Ss Peter & Paul. Watch this space for all they will do next year!

On Friday 2nd July, 4 Year 9 students, Rodrigo, Anna, Ella & Yasmin, gathered virtually with students from secondary schools across the Diocese of Shrewsbury at MiniDASH. They explored the virtue of hope, looking for 'flickers of light' in the darkness and being reminded that in Jesus we have our ultimate hope. They were

fantastic ambassadors of the school and contributed to and engaged with the day's activities beautifully. Here's what they have to say:

We participated in a MiniDASH day event that also involved other Catholic schools. We engaged in various activities such as painting rocks to spread hopeful messages, bringing the Good News to peoples' lives. We focused on the good times of this year, finding the flickers of light in a difficult year. We also chose our favourite quote that inspired us from scripture.

We can look back at this year and note how difficult it has been. Or we can look back for the flickers of light, the good moments in amongst, that remind us of the hope we have in Christ. As a school family we have achieved so much this year, walking in the light of Christ and living Pope Francis' words: "God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of the divine light is in all of us". We have seen that light in our students this year, and look forward to being able to do more with them next year.

Mrs Bennett
Lay Chaplain

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With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26



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