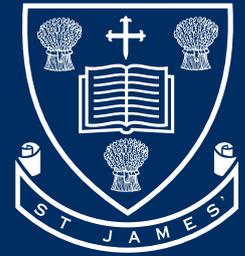


# School Newsletter

July 2019



We are almost at the end of another highly successful year, in which St James' Catholic High School continues to achieve rates of progress significantly above the national average. I am proud of the excellent educational experience we provide for all our students.

It has been another exhilarating and fruitful term. What makes St James' unique is that our success is not just based on our results. The students' commitment to charity work through their own hard work and endeavour, demonstrates our values as a school. Students have also been able to participate in a range of visits and experiences including Skiing, Gaelic Football and Kwik Cricket; all these experiences allow us to develop more confident young people who have aspirations and ambition.

Our value of family has been demonstrated consistently during the Summer term, as we have welcomed our extended family of students from Cheadle Catholic Juniors, Cheadle Catholic Infants, Our Lady's, St Simon's, St Peter's and St Ambrose. This has involved different enrichment opportunities from "mini Olympics" for children in Year 2, to substance identification, via flame testing, for Year 5 children.

A number of works are taking place over the Summer holiday to ensure our whole site is updated and brought into line with the new branding. This will involve painting, new signs and new acrylic panels with pictures of our current students. Students within the spirituality prefect team have renamed our buildings; The St Catherine of Sienna building, The St Oscar Romero building, The St Francis Xavier building, The St Teresa of Avila building and The San Sebastian Sports Hall. This is to ensure our value of faith flows throughout the whole school site.

The most exciting part of our updating is the redevelopment of our school chapel and library. Currently the chapel is hidden away, and the library is used as a classroom. The new chapel will sit at the heart of the school; behind the wall which reads "With God all things are possible". This will once again place our value of faith at the centre of everything we do.

Our new library will be a space to enhance reading, which will also see a number of kindles purchased to complement our vast selection of books; the aim is to encourage more students to use the library before, during and after school for the purpose of reading.

As a reminder, latest news is continually added to our new website and twitter feed on a daily basis. Parents with current students at the school receive an alert to their device, via the MyEd App, notifying them of any new news story which has been shared on the St James' website.

I welcomed our new Year 7 students and parents, who will join us in September, to a taster day and to sample life at St James' on 4th of July. We continue to be an oversubscribed school, demonstrating that we are once again the local Catholic school of choice.

As Headteacher, I believe in high expectations for every student and will never settle for anything less. This is driven by our value of excellence. Please continue to support the school by re-enforcing respect for our school ethos with your child over the summer break, particularly the importance of high standards of attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour. Please be aware that from September, it is my expectation that all students will have transitioned to the full new school uniform that requires either the purchasing of a new blazer, or exchanging your voucher for a badge, to stitch over the existing one. From September students will not be allowed to wear any form of "hoodie" they are banned. Any pupil wearing a hoodie will have it removed and returned at the end of the day. Students continue to be able to wear coats when they are outside of the buildings, for example at lunchtimes.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my most sincere thank you to all students, parents and staff who have supported the school this year. We will be welcoming all students back to school at 8.30am on Tuesday 3rd September.

May I wish you all a peaceful and restful summer and ask that you keep our Year 11 students in your prayers as they receive their results on Thursday 22nd August.

**Mr A Pontifex**, Headteacher



# YEAR 7

## SUMMER TERM

It has been a busy and successful term for Year 7. Following the restful and prayerful Easter break, we returned refreshed and ready to embark on our final term as Year 7 pupils.

The term began with our first official exam week. In the weeks leading up to the exams, the pupils had been preparing their revision schedules and revising hard and it paid off with some fantastic results. Well done to all and, hopefully, it's given the students an idea of how important it is that revision is done carefully and properly.

Our core values of Faith, Family and Excellence have been lived out in our final term.

## FAMILY

St James' Feast day meant that there were opportunities for the Year 7s to represent their forms in a series of competitions. Each form in the school worked together as a family to win points for their form and Year 7 were keen to participate. The activities ranged from a scavenger hunt, to dodgeball to a university quiz. Something for everyone. C were the overall winners across the school, so well done to 7C and those in that form who contributed to that win. Thank you to all Year 7's who got involved.

Being part of St James' means there are lots of opportunities to represent school at various sporting events. This term, the boys have participated in the Stockport Athletics League and have won all 3 Cricket fixtures against The Barlow School, Stockport Academy and Hazel Grove. The girls have made great progress in their netball competitions and I know that the PE staff are looking forward to watching the team progress.

## FAITH

A small number of Year 7 pupils have been part of Faith in Action in school and have participated in various different events and initiatives since Easter. The group supported CAFOD Family Fast Day, and through this, spent time reflecting on Maximilian Kolbe and discussing the idea of sacrifice. They produced a poster and this is now displayed in all the RE classrooms and the Year 7 form rooms. The group volunteered to support a Festival Celebrating Diversity at St Peter's in Hazel Grove. The evening was a celebration of difference hosted by St Peter's and a local Kurdish Refugee Community. The Caritas Ambassadors were there to help serve drinks and participate in a community event which is focused on the welcome that St Peter's has offered to a small group of refugees.

The group have also hosted a cake sale raising £48.51 to purchase plants for the prayer garden – they stayed behind after school to tidy up the garden and then planted plants that attract insects and bees. They also planted herbs which will hopefully be used by Food Technology.



As mentioned in last term's newsletter, we were raising money for Caritas, our diocesan charity by collecting 5ps. I am delighted to let you know that we raised £122.45, with special mention to 7A who managed to collect over £35.

## EXCELLENCE

### Lower School Presentation Evening

I was delighted with the number of different pupils that received awards at Lower School Presentation Evening on 27th June. It is important that we recognise achievements and effort in as many pupils as we can and the evening was a testament to this.



Picture of all the prize winners.



7J – Callum, 7A – Oliver, 7M – Kimberley, 7E – Heather, 7S – Luca, 7C – Georgia



Year Prize – Crystal, Gary Cox Award – Kate and Spirit of St James' – Rodrigo

I am also so proud of the fact that The Spirit of St James' was awarded to a Year 7 pupil this year – Rodrigo. He epitomises everything that we want to see in a St James' pupil. Well done Rodrigo.

Well done to all the pupils that have been nominated for #hotchocfriday this term. Crystal, Lincoln, Amelie, Grace, Lena, Katie, Rafael, Lily, Philip, Theo, Finlay, Max, Finn and Sam.

As always, it is important to recognise the range of successes across the Year group. We are all unique and we all have our own talents that we bring to the family of St James'.

*"I joined the school football team and school cricket team. I have played for Stockport County Colts and won most improved player"*

*"I didn't lose an RTL point this year. I have received lots of achievement points. I have also got my silver star and haven't got any behaviour points"*

*"I have been in the 12 club for the whole year. I have been undefeated in my boxing for the whole year. I have really enjoyed my first year at St James' and am really excited for the rest of my time here"*

*"I was in the netball and hockey competitions and played against other schools"*

*"I got my silver star and I joined the school band"*

*"I got two bronze stars and for my football team I got manager's player of the year"*

Finally, on behalf of Year 7, I would like to say a massive thank you and good luck to Mr Brown, who has been joint Head of Year this year. Mr Brown is leaving to take a Head of Faculty position at a school in Oldham and I know that we will miss him in our Year group. Good luck in your new role Mr Brown! We hope that all Year 7 and their families have a lovely, restful and enjoyable summer holiday. Thank you for all your support this year and we look forward to seeing everyone back in September.



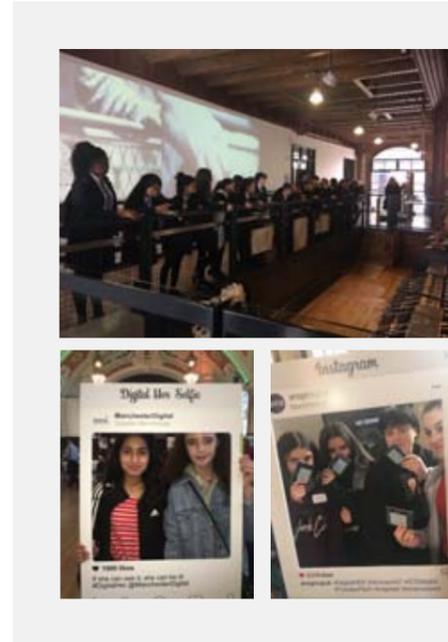
# YEAR 8



## CHARITY – RETRAK

This term Year 8 have been raising money for our assigned charity, Retrak. Retrak is based in Cheadle Hulme and is part of the Hope for Justice family. They work to transform highly vulnerable children's lives, empower communities and give each of them a voice. Retrak enables street children in South America and Africa to move from a life of vulnerability, exclusion and poverty to a life within a positive family or community. They work with the children and their family members to ensure everyone is as healthy, emotionally well, safe, educated, and as economically independent as possible.

Year 8 have taken part in a whole Year charity dodgeball event, whilst each form has organised and run their own fundraising event including a basketball challenge, cake sale, table tennis event and football tournament. The current amount raised is £333 and counting! #Family



## DIGITAL HER EVENT

St James' attended the Digital Her event on 2nd April 2019 at Stockport Town Hall. The event was organised by Manchester Digital with the aim of promoting the digital industry and to generate interest in digital technology for KS3 girls. AutoTrader, GCHQ, BJSS and The Manchester Science Partnership were all represented on the day, our team of ten girls were given the opportunity to work on tasks designed and led by representatives from these companies. The tasks included designing an emoji, code breaking to find a treasure map and a Smartphone app design.

At the end of the day awards were given out for school participation and innovation and our team was rewarded by picking up one of the main prizes, an 'Experience Day in a digital business', for their hard work, ingenuity and endeavour. In doing so, they out performed many of the local Stockport schools. #Excellence



## MUSIC TRIP

Our gifted and talented Year 8 pupils enjoyed a day full of musical activities including body percussion, samba drums, African drums and creative composing. This was delivered at the Brooks building on the Manchester Metropolitan University campus that houses state of the art equipment and facilities. The pupils that represented our school performed excellently and it was fantastic to see their confidence grow throughout the day. #Excellence



## MANCHESTER TRIP

Year 8 behaved impeccably on a tour of Manchester city centre to learn about our industrial past. They visited the Science and Industry Museum to see the Rocket locomotive, back home in Manchester after over a century away. They also walked to the beautiful gothic John Rylands library where they learnt about the Peterloo Massacre that happened exactly 200 years ago. They compared architecture over time; from the majestic Hidden Gem Church and Town Hall to the sparkling new Beetham Tower. #Excellence



# YEAR 9

It has been another busy and successful term for Year 9, and as Key Stage 3 comes to an end, we are very proud to see pupils maturing into confident, responsible, young adults. Options for GCSE were chosen with a great deal of care and thought, which will ensure a smooth and exciting start to Key Stage 4 in September.

The final termly data for Year 9 reflects the success of this term, with an increased number of pupils in the 12 Club and a decrease in the number of ATL 3s and 4s being received. A special mention must go to Abby and Charlotte who received an impressive 13 ATLIs and to the following pupils, who all received ATL1 in 10 or more subjects:

LilyRae, Fiona, Amy, Oliwia, Aliza, Molly, Freya, Evan, Faith, Niamh, Freya, Annie Rose, Niamh, Francesca, Millie, Karla and Nikita.

Over 50 Year 9 pupils were invited to Lower School Presentation Evening, which celebrated the dedication shown throughout the year and proved to be a magical evening for pupils, parents and staff.

The students' commitment to charity work has also continued this term, with Year 9 raising an impressive £520 for St Anne's Hospice. Pupils have also participated in a range of visits and experiences, including the Year 9 Retreat day, worshipping with Bishop Mark in the annual school Mass, Operating Theatre Live, Enterprise Day, The Imperial War Museum, Lowry Art Gallery and much more. All of these have helped to develop pupils' confidence and to raise their aspirations for the future.

On a personal note, the pupils' participation on the retreat days could not have impressed us more. The knowledge of both the Old and New Testament, the way pupils could relate the difficult decisions of Moses, Abraham, Mary and Joseph to their own lives, and the passion shown for wanting to contribute to a better world was heart-warming.

In sports Year 9 have continued to excel:

The Year 9 girls' netball team finished the season as league winners.

Katie took home the gold medal for Stockport in the Greater Manchester Championships 1500m. Katie also really enjoyed her experience participating in the London mini marathon.

The Year 9 boys' football team beat Stockport School 3-2 in the Stockport Schools Cup Final to become champions.

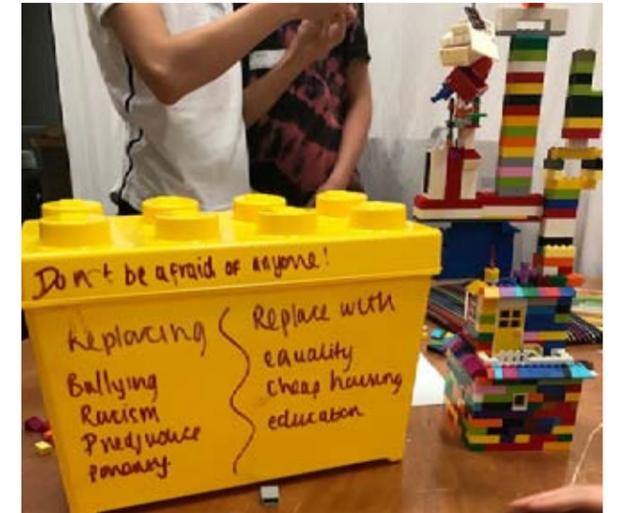
The Key Stage 3 badminton team won the Manchester Catholic Schools badminton tournament.

Sports day was a fantastic way to end the year and for so many pupils to demonstrate their hard work and skill in PE. Fellow students, not competing, enjoyed being given the opportunity to show their support by spectating and celebrating with the competitors.

The Year 9 summer challenge, introduced to 9S in their form breakfast by Mrs Rarity includes a digital detox, reading a classic novel and visiting a museum. Hopefully this will help to occupy and entertain pupils during the long summer break.

On behalf of the Year 9 team we would like to thank parents for their support, pupils for their hard work and to wish you a happy and relaxing summer.

**Ms Woods & Dr Nye**  
Heads of Year 9





# YEAR 10

Although some students can't believe how quickly it's come around, the Year 10s are now the eldest in the school so exciting times await. It has been very enjoyable witnessing the formation of a prefect team that will guide younger students and ensure that St James' continues to be a happy place to learn.

After a rigorous application process, congratulations go to Jacob and Megan, our Head Boy and Head Girl for 2019-20. Well done also to their more than able deputies, Tom and Holly.

The prefect team, distinguished by their new, striped tie, are a fantastic mix of students who encapsulate the brilliant attitude to learning that St James' pupils have. They have been an integral part of the smooth running of the Year 5 taster days and the Year 6 intake day. They have also focussed on six themes, ranging from the academic (curriculum for life, progress, literacy) to the pastoral (spirituality, wellbeing, anti-bullying), that are designed to further benefit pupils of the school.

It was roles reversed, as students visited Aquinas College for a taster day of their own. This was an enjoyable peek at further education that provided students with the opportunity to sample the broad range of A-level subjects the college has to offer. Students will also get a glimpse of working life during their work experience. Many pupils have already shown initiative in arranging a placement for themselves. I hope that all pupils have an informative and productive week.

It has pleasing to note that the amount of pupils in the T2 club has increased gradually over the year. I know that many pupils are showing a more mature and adult attitude to learning. Students have had mock examinations and are hopefully discovering what revision techniques suit their style of learning. Pupils completed their second English Literature examination this term and I have my fingers crossed that they will be successful on results day in the summer.

There have been some excellent extra-curricular opportunities for Year 10. During the Easter holidays, our students were lucky enough to go skiing in the Dolomites. The behaviour of the group (pictured) was outstanding. Our geographers later visited the Lake District in order to help them with their studies (pictured). Four scientists competed in the Sustainable Science Challenge

at Stockport Grammar School. Matthew, Katie, Isabella and Paolo (pictured) took part in a variety of different activities including designing the strongest electromagnet. Some pupils are currently raising money in order to visit Kenya in 2020; I wish them all the best with that.

Finally, our athletes have represented the school with distinction this term. Our Badminton team collected silverware in the Manchester Catholic Schools competition, defeating St Thomas More in the final, whilst our Netball team added to our burgeoning trophy cabinet with a league title. This feat was made even more impressive by the fact that the girls had remained unbeaten throughout the year; an unbelievable record achieved through the leadership of their captain Isabella. The Football team had a sensational end to the season and were so close to winning their first ever trophy, losing 4-3 to Priestnall in the final of the Stockport Schools Cup. From 3-0 down, excellent goals by James, Sam and the recently crowned Stockport Boy's under 15 Player of the Year Jim gave the partisan crowd hope, only for us to be denied by a last minute winner- maybe next year!

I hope that the Year 10s have a relaxing and pleasant summer holiday. I am really impressed by the many pupils who have shown a superb attitude to learning this year, and am especially proud of Frances, Sarah and Louise who managed to receive all 1s in the latest data. I look forward to next year and hope that in twelve months' time we can celebrate success and achievement courtesy of a year's hard work, resilience and determination.

**Mr Cawley**  
Head of Year 10





# YEAR 11



Just before the exam season commenced, the Year 11 boys had a couple of football finals to compete in. It was a little nail biting, as the first final against Marple Hall headed to penalties where, unfortunately, the boys lost. However the following week they then secured a solid victory against Cheadle Hulme High winning 2-0. It was great to be able to go and support them. Well done boys!

The first GCSEs were underway on the return from our Easter break with Modern Foreign Language speaking exams taking place and the Programme of Study then replaced the normal timetable, to allow for extra revision immediately prior to each GCSE exam. Revision classes were carefully planned for the students by all subject teachers to allow for the best possible preparation before each examination. These were much appreciated by students

Year 11 were exemplary in their attitude and behaviour before, during and after each of their examinations and I'm sure all of their hard work will pay off in August. I look forward to celebrating with them on Results day, before they go off to pastures new.

The long awaited hoodies arrived and students were able to collect these after the last whole school exam. It was nice to see them put them on as they left the building having, for the most part, finished what I imagine felt like a long exam season.

The exam period finally finished on the 17th June with German, allowing all our students to take a well - earned break over the summer.

On Friday 21st June the sun finally came out and shone on our young people at Prom. It was great to see Year 11 again, all looking so lovely and grown up in their outfits. After the meal and professional photographs, the students hit the dance floor and the photobooth was inundated from start to finish.

With just under a week to recover from Prom, Year 11 returned to school for their leaver's breakfast, where they tucked into a delicious morning feast and got to reminisce with their friends about Prom, "Pre Prom" and "After Prom" and see the photos taken on the night. The form tutors, members of SLT and I enjoyed chatting to the pupils about how they had been spending their time since the completion of the GCSEs, and what life has in store for them next.

It has been my pleasure to get to know the Year group and watch them grow into mature and sensible young adults over the past 5 years. I wish them every success and happiness for the future, as I move on to take another Year group under my wing.

**Ms Cheshire**  
Head of Year 11

Photographs of the prom are available to see on the school website.

## ATTENDANCE NEWS

Congratulations to our pupils for their attendance performance.

Here at St James' attendance continues to be one of our primary foci. We finish this academic year with a very pleasing overall attendance figure of 95.52%. This has improved by a full percent from this time last year. We continue to strive to achieve our target of 96%.

Statistics prove that attendance has a direct effect on GCSE results. We use various techniques to highlight the importance of attendance to our pupils, to celebrate and recognise their attendance achievements and improvements.

Each half term we hold initiatives to reward 100% attendance. Last half term pupils received a certificate and a praise postcard through the post. At the end of the summer term, pupils achieving 100% for the whole term will receive a box of chocolates and a certificate.

Our attendance lottery draw, which is drawn fortnightly during Year group assemblies, has been a great focus to celebrate short term attendance attainment. If the name drawn has achieved 2 weeks full attendance, the pupil receives a £5 voucher. There is opportunity for a 'roll over' if 100% attendance was not achieved by this pupil.

Last half term, the form in each Year group with the best, and most improved, attendance received tubs of Celebration chocolates to share.

Trophies are also presented to the best attending form and most improved attending form in each Year group. The trophies are presented each half term.

Year 7 pupils have held a 'Horse Race' incentive this year. To celebrate Year 7's attendance of 96.23% for the whole year, any child achieving 96% and above will be invited to attend a Rewards Breakfast on the 18th July. Pupils will come together to celebrate their achievement and have a breakfast together. We are excited to announce that we will be holding a prize draw for an Ipad. Pupils who have done remarkably well in achieving 100% attendance for the whole school year will be entered into this draw. All the 100% attendance pupils will also receive a £10 Amazon voucher and a metal lapel badge to wear.

## ATTEND TODAY ..... ACHIEVE TOMORROW

**Mrs C Hanley**  
Attendance Officer

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With God  
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26

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