

School Newsletter

April 2019



It gives me great pleasure to write to you at the end of a very successful term at St James'. It has been an exciting and productive New Year. Our new chapter in the life of our great school began by developing our shared values. Teaching staff, support staff, canteen staff, cleaners, pupils, parents and Governors were all involved in determining our collective values, vision and mission. The three values are simple but powerful; Family, Faith and Excellence.

Family;

We are proud of our school family, and of the strong roots we have grown within our local community. From our pupils through to our visiting guests, every person who arrives at St James' is welcomed and supported as a valuable member of our family. *"So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."* Romans 12:5

Faith;

The Roman Catholic faith is at the heart of life at St James', with a focus on Christ-centred learning, and our daily work guided by Gospel values of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, faith, integrity, humility, service, peace, hope and prayer. *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."* Isaiah 40:31

Excellence;

Our school is driven by an unbreakable focus on academic excellence. In everything we do, we aim to create the perfect environment for our children to achieve and exceed their potential in every pursuit they undertake. *"Do you see a man skilful in his work? He will stand before kings."* Proverbs 22:29

Our school badge has been re-worked and sharpened to include our three values; Family the three sheaves of wheat which represent our roots in the community and our school family, Faith the cross of our patron saint St James' representing our Catholic faith, Excellence the book representing our education and study at the centre of our focus. With the reworking of our badge, naturally our uniform has followed, as previously detailed in my letter dated 8th March. From September 2019 there will be a new sharper school tie; navy with our school badge at the centre, the blazer will remain the same with the reworked badge. The physical education kit will remain the same but will be updated for September 2020.

Sitting behind our updated values, mission, school badge is our St James' philosophy; *Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible"* Matthew 19:26

A number of works are taking place over the Easter holiday to ensure our "main building" is updated and brought in to line with the new branding. This will involve painting, new signs, acrylic panels with pictures of our current students. Work will take place in the "new building" over the Summer holiday. Students within the spirituality prefect team are currently working on renaming our buildings to ensure our value of Faith flows throughout the school site.

The new school website is currently in development and should go live during the second week of the Easter break. This should make the site easier to navigate and will reflect the new sharper image of the school.

As communicated in my first letter to parents in January the previous weekly newsletter format has ceased. This has been replaced by the termly newsletter you are currently reading and within the new website there will be a latest news section which will contain the key information which was in the previous weekly newsletter.

As we prepare for our final Summer Term, the high standards for both attendance and punctuality must be maintained. It is a key message Heads of Year have been delivering to all students in assemblies, explaining the critical relationship between good attendance and excellent results, every day matters. Students should also take pride in their appearance. I value your support in making sure your children arrive to school in the correct uniform: wearing shoes and not trainers and that skirts are of the correct appropriate length.

A final reminder that school will close to students for the Easter break on 5th April at 3:00pm and we will re-open to students on Tuesday 23rd April. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and Holy Easter.

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



YEAR 7

GROWING TOGETHER

In September, the Year 7's were given a small bulb to plant. The theme of our Year came from the Parable of the Mustard Seed "Though it is the smallest of seeds, yet when it grows it is the largest of all plants" - Matthew 13: 21-32.

We are now in March and some of our bulbs have started to flower and are growing into great things, just as we want our pupils to do. We are growing into hardworking, talented, kind, caring, and amazing young people.



HIGH ACHIEVERS

Our recent termly data has given us lots of reasons to celebrate. 107 pupils achieved either 1 or 2 across all their subjects, which is fantastic.

An enormous well done to the following pupils who achieved outstanding results by getting 1's in all of their subjects: Anna A, Ella A, Georgia C, Thomas K, Spike N

One of the most fantastic things about our year group is the large number of multi-lingual pupils that are in the year. Some of them have something to say...
..#WeAreStJames

#Jestesmy St James
ANTONI

بم سٹی جیمز ہیں
ASSAD

#Nosotros Somos St James
RODRIGO

#My_jestesmy St James
ANNA

SUCCESS STORIES

Being part of St James is not just about celebrating achievements in school. We have a very wide pool of talent in Year 7 that must be recognised. Below is a small snapshot of activities that our Year 7's get up to when they are not in school:

- Tom W plays the piano
- Kate R has trained with Paralympians in swimming and she is a keen horse rider
- Alysia G is part of a local gymnastics club and has competed at national level
- Lincoln is a keen kick boxer
- George is a member of Wilmslow Wasps a local dodgeball team and he plays nationally.
- Oliver A is a motocross rider
- James M competed in the English championships for Taekwondo
- Ruby Watson competed in her Modern dance championship and came 1st.....

More success stories to follow..... WELL DONE TO ALL.

LENTEN EFFORT

On Ash Wednesday, I launched our Year 7 lenten effort. I set the Year 7's the challenge to collect as many 5p's as they could find during lent. If they had 5p in loose change then they were to donate it to their form's collection. We are still collecting until we finish for the Easter break, and so far we have raised a huge amount. Final total will be announced at the end of term. The charity that we are collecting for is Caritas, specifically "baby banks" which run alongside food banks in providing essential items for babies both at home and abroad.



Pictured: Harry and Reece counting just some of the hundreds of 5p's for our Lenten effort.



YEAR 7 PUPIL VOICE

I asked one representative from some of our primary schools to give their thoughts and opinions on life at St James' in Year 7 and to give a message to our new students that will be joining us in September.

Oliver	Cheadle Catholic
Jess	Our Lady's
Chloe	St Simon's
Grace	St Anthony's
Maddie	St Elizabeth's
Oliver	St Ambrose
Daniel	St Joseph's
Spike	St Peter's

What have you enjoyed most about being a St James' pupil?

- Oliver: I have enjoyed how nice and welcoming all of the staff are, so it was easy to settle in.
- Jess: I have enjoyed it because it is nice having people around you that are kind and polite and make you feel like family.
- Chloe: I have enjoyed making friends and going on trips. I love all the lessons here as they are fun.
- Grace: I enjoyed making new friends and all the fun lessons
- Maddie: I have enjoyed learning different languages and I like all the rules.
- Oliver: I have enjoyed learning new methods in Maths and also making new friends with kind and caring people
- Daniel: the kindness of the teachers and the older pupils. Older pupils are really helpful
- Spike: how welcoming the teachers are. They all encouraging you to strive for excellence but have a great attitude.

What advice would you give to Year 6 pupils who might be worrying about coming to St James in September?

- Oliver: I would tell them that it is a nice, welcoming school and that it is easy to settle in so don't worry.
- Jess: there is nothing to worry about because when you get here, the people around you make you feel like you have been here for a long time and make you feel like you fit in.
- Chloe: Don't worry because Year 11's are here to help you and everyone's been through the same thing.
- Grace: Don't worry because there are lots of older pupils who look after you.
- Maddy: Always remember, pastoral and teaching staff are there to help you.
- Oliver: Don't be afraid to speak up and also if you're scared about not making friends, you have to join in.
- Daniel: It can be difficult to start with but you are able to settle in really quickly.
- Spike: If you're worried just speak to a teacher because they are so nice and also try to keep in touch with your primary friends.

Mrs Linford & Mr Brown
Heads of Year 7



YEAR 8

This term, Year 8 had the opportunity to explore one of our core values, faith. Each form visited Animate Youth Ministries in St Helens where they experienced a variety of different workshops and activities that were focused around our themes for this year; which are resilience and reconciliation.

The day started with a reading from the book of Isaiah 43:2 'When you go through deep waters, I will be with you' meaning that God will be by your side during difficult times in your life and that he forgives you for your sins. Following this, the Animate team performed a role play of the 'Parable of the Prodigal Son' Luke 15:11. Most of our Year 8 pupils are familiar with this.

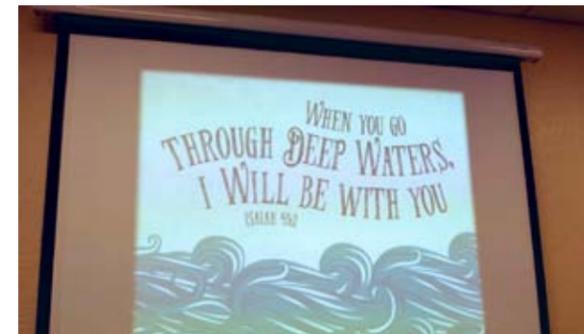
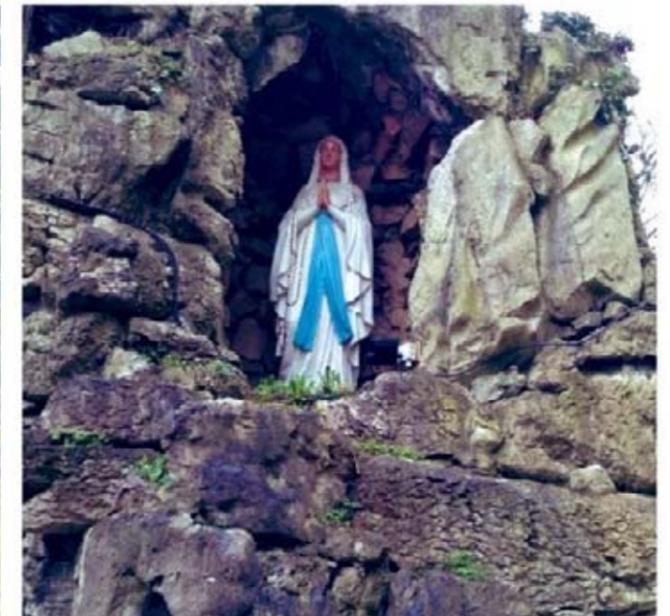
Our pupils then took part in three workshops, the first being how you deal with conflict and what type of personality you are. The second involved a variety of different scenarios to challenge their moral compass, and the third looked at restorative justice.

To close the day our pupils came together in a quiet reflection, where they were asked a series of questions from "What is their relationship like with their friends?" to "How they feel about school?" and finally "What their relationship was like with God?" then they had to choose pictures that best described how they were feeling.

Overall, a fantastic three days, all our pupils engaged in the activities and proceedings and were a credit to St James' #Faith #WeAreStJames

Mr Maidment
Head of Year 8

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





YEAR 9

ART

Dragons Den arrived in art as Year 9 pupils took part in a product design activity in which they had to produce an original and innovative design for either a fragrance or soft drink. They pitched their designs to the class, who then had to comment and assess them. Some of the best product designs showed great imagination as well as being environmentally friendly. Watch this space for entrepreneurs of the future.



FRENCH

All Year 9 pupils have embraced film culture this term, producing some amazing projects on the film Les Choristes' including a film review and character analysis.



SCIENCE

A Science Study Skills session was delivered to develop pupils understanding and knowledge of the 'How Science Works' part of the curriculum. Since this session pupils have been able to put their learning into practise by carrying out many investigative practicals in class. They can now save you a small fortune by recommending the best materials to use when insulating your house!

The end of KS3 Science exam will take place in the first week back after Easter and pupils will then begin studying for the Science GCSE.

FORM TIME

During registration 9S have been writing a reflection diary and taking part in mindfulness meditations to help them prepare for the day ahead. The sessions are designed to help pupils get to know themselves better and to think about their goals for this school year. Having a quiet moment at the start of a busy day has helped 9S to feel calm, positive and focused.

This has been so successful with pupils that it will become a regular registration activity for all Year 9 forms next term. Morning Prayer has been led by Year 9 forms this term who have planned and delivered some beautiful reflections to the rest of the school. Themes have included Holocaust Memorial day, International Women's Day and the Annunciation.

PSHE

An external speaker from 'Life' was invited into school to talk about the different relationships we have in our lives, with family, friends as well as romantic relationships. They also discussed the importance of safety online. Pupils found this an extremely informative, interesting session.

LENTEN EFFORT

In this important season of Lent, pupils have organised many fund raising activities including a cookie sale, coin collection, tin collection, chocolate tombola and much more.

The Feast and Famine was back this year as our whole year group activity. We gathered together in the hall to fast for one lunch time during Lent. Pupils paid £1 to receive a warm bread roll and the chance to feast on Dominoes pizza, if their names were drawn out of the hat. Pupils embraced the opportunity to experience self-denial as part of their Easter preparations as well as raising money to support our Lenten charities.

TERMLY DATA

We are delighted that the recent termly data shows an increase in the number of pupils in the 12 Club. A huge congratulations must go to Abby M who gained ATL 1 from 13 subjects, Charlotte K, Fiona B and Faith L who each received ATL 1 in 12 subjects.

Our target for next term is to see even more pupils join the 12 Club as 26 pupils missed out due to just one subject.

ATTENDANCE

We have introduced a new initiative to reward 100% attendance this term, taking the form of an Attendance Lottery.

Every two weeks in assembly the excitement builds as we draw out first a form class followed by a pupil. Once checked and double checked the voucher is handed over if the pupil has had 100% attendance for the previous 2 weeks. Our lucky winners so far have been Charlotte P and Conrad S.

This term 101 pupils in Year 9 have not missed a single sessions in school. 100% attendance is a fantastic

EXTRA CURRICULAR



In February Evan K, William W, Jessica R and Abby M joined the cast and orchestra who stunned the audience with the latest school production of Pop Stars.

Year 9 excel in sports with our many sportsmen and women, impressing us with their team spirit and commitment in badminton, netball, football, hockey, rowing, table tennis and lots more.

Well done to the boys badminton team: Patrick D, Martin A, Dylan B and Liam M who were the runners up in Greater Manchester Schools Badminton Championships and the girls team: Mia P, Rebecca S, Annie Rose O, Caitlyn G, Erin D who were the runners up in the Stockport Schools Badminton Championships.



The Year 9 football team made it to the quarter finals of the Catholic cup and the semi finals of the Stockport schools cup whilst top of the Stockport schools league and favourites to win are the girls netball team.



A huge congratulations to Katie S who won Stockport Schools Cross Country Champion.

Representing St James' in the Stockport Under 14s Football team are Khia Whitehead, Kanye Nisbett, Tom O'Brien, Cameron Bradbury-Allen. This is a great achievement and the boys are to be commended on the hard work and discipline required.

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 peaceful Easter.

Ms Woods & Dr Nye
Heads of Year 9

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 9 Parents Evening: Thursday 25th April

Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 9th May

Year 9 Retreat: June/July



YEAR 10

This term, Year 10 have been encouraged to try to develop skills and habits that will help them both in their examinations and beyond school. Two particular attributes that have been emphasised in assemblies are leadership skills and learning to become resilient. Some pupils have already shown their ability to lead others throughout this term. Our spirituality reps have helped in fundraising for our charity, Prem Dan, which focuses on aiding children in India, whilst others have been instrumental in helping sell Fairtrade products during Fairtrade Fortnight. Leadership has also been developed by Year 10s who have spent each Wednesday morning helping Year 7s with their reading.

The ability to lead will be one of the key characteristics that we will be looking for when deciding who our prefects could be for Year 11. We will also be hoping for candidates who are hardworking, reliable, organised and good humoured. In the next term I will be informing pupils about the prefect process and I hope to see many applications from a variety of students.

The jump from Key Stage 3 to GCSE can be a difficult one and often pupils are shocked by the demands of Year 10. I am keen to stress the importance of getting into the habit of revision as early as possible. In their recent English Literature examination, pupils understood the need for preparation and I was glad to note that many attended after-school revision sessions. Mastering these skills of revision early will put pupils at a clear advantage when the exams come thick and fast this time next year.

Naturally examinations and the demands of school life can be a burden to a pupil's mental health. I understand that this time can be very difficult for many young adults. Consequently, my room hosts a drop in session every Monday lunchtime where pupils can discuss their concerns, have some support with their homework or just simply relax. Assemblies have consistently offered tips that can enable resilience to blossom so that obstacles can be faced with strength and determination.

Many Year 10s have been making superb progress in their subjects but there has also been some fantastic contributions to extra-curricular activities too. Year 10 actors and band members played an integral part in our fantastic production, Popstars. Congratulations especially to our leading lady Eleanor Jones (pictured). After a horrid start to the season, our boys' football team have recently hit a great patch of form showing much leadership and resilience. Their 6-1 defeat of Kingsway saw them reach the semi-finals of the Stockport cup, which turned out to be a very dramatic affair. Trailing 3-1, we came back to 4-3 up courtesy of a Nyal Boulton "screamer". A harsh penalty decision in favour of our opponents Bramhall sent the game into extra time but the boys kept their heads and won 6-4. I wish the boys (pictured) all the best in the final.

These skills of leadership and resilience will help pupils in school but will also be of great help when they enter the world of work. Thank you for your fantastic support so far in assisting with work experience. Our introductory evening back in January was tremendously attended and pupils have been keen to get themselves sorted for July. Please remind your child to fill in the sheets that have been provided, even if they have found a placement of their own. I hope work experience will be one of many positive moments to look forward to in the summer term.





YEAR 11

This term, Year 11 have been busy preparing for their forthcoming exams. Additional practice exams have taken place in the core subjects, along with after school intervention sessions to further support our pupils.

The prefects have also been busy carrying out their duties. Spirituality prefects have been making prayer PowerPoints for form time and have been involved in the process of the naming of the school buildings. The community prefects have been helping with the collection of the CAFOD envelopes and charity work. The guidance team have been helping out at Hot Choc Friday and continuing to support our younger and more vulnerable pupils. Prefects have also been helping staff at lunch times in the busy areas around school.

Despite their busy schedule some of our talented Year 11 musicians were in the band in the school production of "Popstars" and performed brilliantly.

The boys' football team are playing really well and are through to the semi-finals of the Stockport Schools cup, the Stockport Schools league and the Greater Manchester Cup. Sam Mottershead and Rowin O'Gara are in the Stockport Schools Badminton Championships. The Year 11 girls are also top of the league in Netball. Well done!

All forms prepared for their Mass on 28th March. Lots of hard work was put into this lovely occasion, which was their last Mass at St James'.

Miss Cheshire
Head of Year 11



ATTENDANCE NEWS

Here at St James' attendance continues to be one of our primary focuses. Statistics prove that attendance has a direct effect on GCSE results. We use various techniques to highlight the importance of attendance to our pupils, and to celebrate their attendance achievements.

Each half term we hold initiatives to reward 100% attendance. Last half term pupils received a box of chocolates, a certificate and a praise postcard through the post, as well as earning an achievement point.

This half term, we are holding the Easter egg challenge. Pupils achieving 4 full weeks attendance will receive an Easter egg.

New for this half term is our Attendance Lottery Draw. Each fortnight, during Year group assemblies, a prize draw is held. If the pupil, whose name has been drawn, has achieved 2 weeks full attendance, they will receive a £5 voucher. There is the opportunity for a 'roll over' if 100% attendance was not achieved by this pupil.

After Easter, the form in each Year group with the best, and most improved, attendance will receive tubs of Celebration chocolates to share.

We have purchased some new trophies to be presented to the best attending form and most improved attending form in each Year group. The trophies will be presented each half term.

ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Mrs C Hanley
Attendance Officer

Comparison Year to date % attendance 2018 vs 2019

% Attendance	2018	2019
Whole school	94.14%	95.48%
Year 7	-	96.26%
Year 8	95.06%	96.05%
Year 9	94.62%	95.68%
Year 10	94.16%	94.70%
Year 11	93.40%	94.69%

St James' Catholic High School
St James' Way, Cheadle Hulme
Cheadle, Cheshire
SK8 6PZ

0161 482 6900
www.stjamescheadle.co.uk



With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26

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