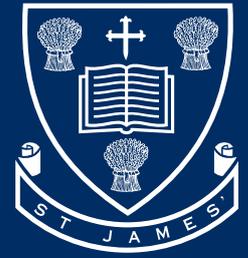


School Newsletter

April 2022



As we approach the end of the Spring Term and look back at the last eleven weeks, it is incredible to think about everything we have fitted into this time, as you will see in each Year group section. The first signs of spring have already sprung and the summer term is just around the corner and it has been great to see our children enjoying our newly installed outside seating on some sunny spring days.

We continue to be proud of the way our children have conducted themselves in living out our school values. The many activities that have taken place are testament to our value of Excellence that we see in our children every day. Our value of Faith has been lived out in the many Chaplaincy activities that have taken place culminating in an end of Term Mass with the whole school community joining as witnesses to our value of Family, as we prepare for the most joyous season of Easter.

The continued generosity of our school family is shown in the donations already made to Christian Aid, our chosen school charity for this year. During Lent we have also been fundraising for Caritas and the generosity of our children has been seen in both the bucket collections and the cake sale. Our Faith Prefects have done a great job of supporting this fundraising and have been real examples of the sense of community that exists here at St James'.

This term has also seen our Ofsted inspection and we await the publication of the report. The whole school family was superb during this time and we have maintained our high standards of behaviour and work as we have continued to journey through this term.

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 Friday 1st April at 3pm and our whole school Mass planned for the final day will allow the children to reflect on the true meaning of Easter, the highlight of the liturgical calendar. Over Easter we hope you will find time to spend with your family and share the Easter joy of Jesus' resurrection. All information about Easter services in our local parishes can be found on their websites. I would like to wish you a joyous, Holy and healthy Easter.

We look forward to welcoming our staff and children back to school on Tuesday 19th April at 8.30am.

Mr A Pontifex, Headteacher



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[@StJamesCheadle](https://twitter.com/StJamesCheadle)



YEAR 7

It has been another busy term here at St James' for Year 7 and we are so proud of the excellent attitude they continue to display around school.

There have been chances to take part in many exciting and interesting activities. We have been delighted to see so many Year 7 children embracing the challenges on offer. Monday 14th March saw children given the opportunity to take part in our annual Pi day. Events included naming the dingbats stuck up around the building and trying to recite Pi to as many digits as possible. That week also saw us celebrate British Science week, where children were privileged to listen to two Zoom assemblies from leading scientists, one on shark science and one on space. At lunchtime, many Year 7 children took part in an investigative experiment making plastic from potatoes!

Throughout this term childrens' artistic talents have been evident in the impressive posters they created for Safer internet day and the cross hatching techniques they have been exploring in Art. We are so excited that so many Year 7 children auditioned for Matilda and secured lead roles in this whole school production. In Food and Nutrition, children showcased their newly acquired knife skills and attendance at the extracurricular lunchtime clubs of STEM and Equality has made for a very busy term!

Our children have additionally participated in a large number of literacy activities. Each Form has been gifted a reading book

which they are reading together as a group during registration, they took part in World Book Day activities and have also had the author Robert Muchamore come in to talk about his writing and Robin Hood series during the Literature Festival Week. Year 7 girls have been participating in a truly impressive number of sporting events this term including hockey, indoor athletics, netball and badminton. In January, several Year 7 girls also had the great privilege of being coached in badminton by Olympic gold medallist Gail Emms MBE. A huge congratulations must go to the Year 7B team who managed to win all of their games in the Stockport Tournament!

Not to be outdone, the boys have also taken part in football, badminton and athletics. With, as we go to press, our Year 7 football team going into the semi finals of the Greater Manchester Catholic School's cup.

The PE department also took a large number of our Year 7 children to an athletics competition at Sports city which was a fantastic opportunity and experience for them all. Year 7 are clearly a very talented group of young people with so much to offer but we are sure that some may be missing opportunities. Should you wish for your son or daughter to take part in any extracurricular sport then please look out for the days and times on the PE Faculty Twitter page every week.

We are delighted to have been able to reward so many of our Year 7 this term. Children are being awarded Value points for Faith, Family or Excellence, be it an excellent piece of work, taking an active role in lessons or for being kind to another pupil. Those who manage to gain the most Value points in a week are awarded a values pass. This earns them the right to either go to the front of the lunchtime queue or gains them a free lunch. These are awarded every Friday in assembly and we are thrilled to have been able to present passes to so many deserving recipients! As half term rewards there have been two fun filled cinema afternoons. The children with the largest number of Value points and a pupil chosen by their Form Tutor for outstanding contribution to the Form or school, along with a friend of their choice, were invited to a pizza lunch and a film afternoon.

To celebrate Ash Wednesday, all children and staff received ashes to mark the start of the Lenten season. We were very proud of the five volunteers who read with such confidence during this service. During the Lenten period, children have had several chances to take part in fundraising charity events. Following an assembly, showing the work of CAFOD in helping those who do not have enough food, children were encouraged to participate in Family Fast day. This involved giving up a snack that they would have bought that day, and instead donating those few pence to CAFOD. They have bought cakes and donated spare change for Caritas and 7E have also been busy every lunch and registration selling tickets for an Easter egg raffle in order to raise money for Christian Aid.

It was fantastic for staff to share academic feedback and discuss the termly data at the Year 7 Parents' Evening on 24th March. This was a virtual event and was very well attended and we hope you found it useful and informative. Speaking of data, an impressive 96% of Year 7 children were in the 1,2 club this term and 12 children received an ATL 1 (excellent) for all of their subjects - an amazing achievement! Special mention must also go to May C and Joe L in 7S who received ATL 1 in all subjects for both classwork and homework, a truly astounding achievement.

We couldn't be prouder or more impressed by the commitment and the dedication that Year 7 children have put into both their work and extracurricular activities. We wish them the restful and Holy Easter break that they deserve and look forward to welcoming them back for their final term of Year 7.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to thank all Year 7 parents and carers, pastoral staff and our amazing team of Form Tutors for their continued hard work and support in ensuring our values of Faith, Family and Excellence are upheld.

Ms Woods & Dr Nye
Heads of Year 7





YEAR 8



Family

Year 8 have enjoyed a busy yet successful Easter term. The definite highlight was being able to finally take the Year group on a retreat after Covid-19 had meant that such team-building events were impossible in Year 7. The children made up for it by showing tremendous enthusiasm and they were a credit to the school. The day, hosted by Shrewsbury Diocese, focused mainly on the theme of 'values' which tied in really well to our value of Family. Activities, such as the 'Game of Life' and 'Emotions Auction' allowed the children to really consider what they valued, from their family and friends to characteristics such as love, peace and equality. One feature of the 'Game of Life' activity saw the children choosing what jobs they would like to do. The Year 8s have had plenty of opportunity to ponder future careers this term through the careers breakfasts that have included talks on Zoom about careers ranging from law to health care, and even visitors joining us in person, such as ex-St James' and current Stockport county players, James and Connor Jennings. During Science week, the children enjoyed listening about careers in Science with one now proclaiming that they'd like to be a marine biologist when they are older.

Faith

The retreat also reminded us of the value of Faith. During reflection, we expressed our gratitude for the things that make us special and for the things that we value. Year 8 continue to thrive here at St James' so I hope the children are realising their potential, their worth and their value.

Children have been generous when donating to the Shrewsbury Diocese's charity, Caritas, who do a lot of work supporting local families. As part of our Lenten effort, children have been asked to consider those less fortunate than themselves. Children have shown their kindness through these charity events that have also included appeals for the Ukraine crisis. Well done to those children who achieved 100% attendance during the period of Lent, with an Easter egg coming their way as a prize.

Excellence

Attendance at extra-curricular activities continues to be impressively high. Both the boys and girls' football teams have been playing well, as have the netballers. It is great to see so many children at a range of clubs, from Warhammer to History Film to Equality Club, and I am particularly proud that so many Year 8 children have got involved in the upcoming production of Matilda. Children were very active in the Literature Festival with many signing up to talks with authors and many participating in World Book Day.

Our children with the highest amount of Value points were rewarded with a cinema experience and I have been delighted that the vast amount of children in the Year group have a higher amount of value points than they do C points. In fact, many children have not received a C point all year, a terrific achievement. Can they make it three full terms without a C point? Those children are:

- 8J Lucy, Grace, Oliver, Valrich, Aliah, Luke, Poppy, Dawid, Matthew, Maria
- 8A Gabs, Sophie, Rocco, Eve, Lucy, Emily
- 8M Job, Jess, Chloe, Ethan, Josh
- 8E Meg, Karolina
- 8S Dillon, Leia, Megan
- 8C Antonia, Sean, Maja, Olivia, Ethan

You will have received your child's termly data recently. Again, I was so proud of the excellent scores the majority of the Year group received. The children work so hard and have an exemplary attitude to learning, so it is always a pleasure to recognise this through rewards and celebration. The following children scored a 1 in all of their subjects for either homework or classwork; another brilliant achievement. Those children are:

- 8J Lucy, Bill
- 8A Gabs, Sophie, Lucy
- 8E Natalie
- 8S Megan, Orla
- 8C Antonia, Ethan, Olivia

The children display excellence in lessons and outside of the classroom. I have been so pleased by their efforts in this busy term. I trust that they will continue these great habits into what will be an exciting term, culminating in the Spain trip. As always, I would like to thank the Year 8 Form Tutors for their exceptional work and I would like to thank you for your support. I hope you have a peaceful Easter.

Mr Cawley

Head of Year 8



YEAR 9

On Monday 24th January, a group of Year 9 children were invited to listen to a talk about Oxbridge. Before the talk the children were fairly quiet and reserved, not sure what to expect, but afterwards there was a real buzz of excitement about their futures and the opportunities they can seize, if they work hard and strive for their goals. Although it may seem early to be thinking about university, choices the children have made with regards to their options, are a crucial gateway to the next stages in their lives. Below are some thoughts about the trip from the children:

"I found the Oxbridge talk very interesting and informative. They helped to counter many reasons that I had for not going to Oxford, like it not fitting in with what I wanted to do when I grow up. The two speakers were very friendly and funny."

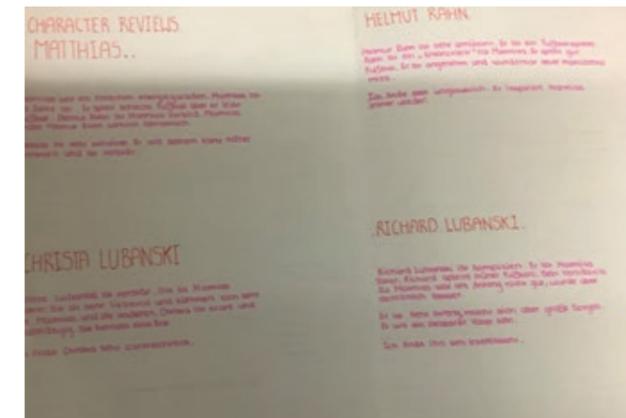
"I found the talk to be quite helpful to know what to expect when going to university and to learn about the different subjects you can study from such a wide variety of options. It also gave an insight into the cost of living within the area and showed how it's affordable. They even gave an insight into the qualifications needed that would help you get into Oxford."

"Personally I found this talk very informative as it explained everything someone interested in Oxford would need to know. Everyone that we spoke to was kind and patient with any questions we had. It has definitely made my views on Oxford more positive and encouraged me to apply there"

On Tuesday 25th January, Forms J, E and C went on retreat and similarly A, M and S on Thursday 27th. We had a great day working on resilience and perseverance. The children got involved with every activity and worked so well together. Even at break time the Forms came together outside and showed what the St James' family is about by organising their own team games. We have some great future leaders in the Year group. When the children were making their jars of clay it was incredible to see how some children's "can't do" attitude turned into real determination to succeed by the end. So much so, that when it was time for a break, several children carried on perfecting their jars. They were so proud of their achievements, as were the staff. It was lovely to be off site for the day, away from the classroom, where the children could do some team bonding and explore their faith with Shrewsbury Diocese.



Year 9 then went on to choose their options for their GCSEs next year. Children are looking forward to focusing on their GCSE subjects and continue to have such excellent attitudes to learning across the curriculum. In German lessons, Year 9 have recently watched a German film then written a review about it in German. Many of them were surprised that they enjoyed a film spoken in a different language and created some wonderful reviews in German about the film.



Recently Year 9 attended a "hate crime" workshop, where they were able to discuss discriminatory language and learnt the history of why certain words are inappropriate or offensive. Children were respectful and able to openly ask questions.

The Duke of Edinburgh group have been working hard preparing for their award at home and in school. I look forward to hearing how their camping trip goes next term.

As we continue through the period of Lent and approach Easter, children are donating any spare change to our charity Caritas, who work locally with families to support those who may be facing difficulties. They also work with young people at risk of becoming homeless, operate accessible community hubs and work with those seeking refuge and asylum. Caritas also intends to play a role in welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating Ukrainians and those affected by the war to our community. Our children are always so generous and we are grateful to them and to you for the much needed donations.

I wish you a blessed and joy filled Easter.

Ms Cheshire
Head of Year 9





YEAR 10

Returning to school after the Christmas holidays is always a tough challenge in itself, but as always, Year 10 faced the challenge head on. We began the year by taking 25 children to Cheadle Hulme High School to listen to a talk about applying to Oxbridge, something which I feel inspired our selected young people to be thinking about their futures.

Family

We were also thrilled to have the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham visit us on the 10th February to talk to some of our children about his career journey and how he was inspired to be where he is today. His talk was inspirational and we were delighted to be able to hear what he had to say.



Whilst on the subject of politics, it is important that we say a public congratulations to Rodrigo P who after campaigning really hard in school for the pupil vote, was elected Member of the Youth Parliament for Stockport. We are all so thrilled for him and so proud that he won and we know that he will do amazing things in his new role.

Excellence

Showcasing talent is something that we always love to see in school amongst our youngsters and to that end I would like to also say a public congratulations to James M for reaching the final of Britain's Best Young Artist which was broadcast on CBBC throughout February. James was able to show the audience his amazing artistic ability and to get to the final against some tough opposition was absolutely incredible – well done, James, we are all very proud of you.



50 Year 10 children triple science children took part in a trip to the New Scientist Live event at Manchester central. The children did a treasure hunt around the different science stalls, took part in a planetary globe experience and then watched various science talks from a vet, crazy chemist and a brain specialist. Shaun A was even picked out of 1000 children to go on stage and get his shadow removed. Well done to all involved.



The Drama children recently went to see a production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time at The Opera House in Manchester. It was a really enjoyable trip and the children made notes that they can use in their Drama studies over the coming weeks.

Faith

In the last couple of weeks of Lent, Year 10 have been digging deep into their pockets to donate their loose change to our Diocesan charity Caritas and I have been really pleased with the contribution that has been made by Year 10.

As always, thank you for all your support this term and I would like to wish all of Year 10 and their families a happy and peaceful Easter and I look forward to seeing everyone back for the summer term.

Mrs Linford
Head of Year 10



YEAR 11

In early January, some Year 10s and 11s were given the opportunity to attend a talk by an Oxbridge Admissions Officer at Cheadle Hulme High School; it encompassed how there should not be any stereotypes in terms of who enrolls at Oxford or Cambridge, advice on choosing courses and the process of admission. This gave the Year 10s and 11s a great insight as to how to approach university options. It is also important to remind our children that there are other options aside from university. Therefore, we have held an Apprenticeship Evening and our Careers Adviser offers weekly drop ins for anyone with questions or needing assistance, and Year 11 children who had shown a preference for apprenticeships received a presentation about apprenticeships within the construction sector.

In early February, we had the honour of the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, being our special guest for a talk about things to bear in mind when choosing careers (and politics, of course); it went so well that one of our Year 11, Max M, was able to gain an opportunity for some work experience with Andy Burnham himself.

In the last week of half term, children chosen due to their hard work, had the treat of Domino's pizza and a movie afternoon. This was a well deserved and much enjoyed experience.

Later on into the month, the Year 11s did their second set of GCSE mock examinations in the current year; this provided even more time for them to practise being in the exam hall, applying the right exam technique to their questions and gaining confidence all before the real exams in May and June. Also, in preparation for the

exams, a drama company came into school to perform Macbeth for our Year 11s. This was a great opportunity to ask questions and visualise the whole play, helping revision for English literature.

To begin Lent, we held Ash Wednesday services reminding us throughout this busy time in the year of the significance of Jesus' fasting for 40 days and nights. On the 15th of March we held a Mass for Ukraine and we prayed for those that have lost loved ones or are fleeing their homes.

On St Patrick's Day, Mr Gallagher hosted a talk revolving around this feast day. He was talking about how throughout history the Irish people defended their culture and heritage despite opposition. He even showed off his Irish flute playing skills and his past Irish dancing success.

On the 28th of March we held a cake sale at break time and lunch time to raise money for the charity Caritas who help children in poverty and meet the needs of others. The Year 11 Faith Prefects did a lot of work to support this.

Towards the end of the term, some 'real' GCSE's were sat, Art students sat their actual GCSE exam and have some more work to finish and Drama students have completed their practical aspect as well. Our exams will be upon us before we know.
Written by Lottie, Dylan, Kamilla and Ruben

Mr Gallagher
Head of Year 11



ATTENDANCE

Attendance as a whole at St James' is very good and is something which we can all be proud of. As such, we like to recognise and reward children at key points of the academic year. Current statistics show that our whole school attendance is consistently 3.5% higher than the national average which is a great achievement.

Our fortnightly attendance lottery for each Year Group has continued throughout this half term. This incentive is to reward short term attendance of 100% for a 2-week period. The lucky winner is pulled from a draw and wins a £5 Amazon voucher. As Easter approaches, I have reintroduced our popular Easter egg challenge during this Lenten period. Any pupil who has achieved 100% attendance from March 2nd to our last day of term, April 1st, will be rewarded with an Easter egg.

Statistics clearly prove that attendance has a direct effect on GCSE results. It is important that your child attends school as much as

possible so that their gaps in knowledge are impacted as little as possible.

Please remember to inform the school by 9am if your child is going to be absent. Please do not email your child's Form Tutor, but call the absence line on 0161 482 6900 (option 1) or email the Attendance Officer on:

c.hanley@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Excellent attendance at St James' is taken very seriously; our children must strive to attain 100% attendance.

Can I take this opportunity to send all of our children and their families Easter blessings.

Mrs Hanley
Attendance Officer

SPIRITUALITY & CHAPLAINCY

This half term has allowed us as a community to experience the beginning of the Lenten season, with children participating in assemblies on Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving, as well as each Year group participating in an Ash Wednesday service, where they were able to receive their ashes. Entering this Lenten season, children and staff alike are encouraged to reflect on our role as members of the Catholic family, by considering how we can be better in ourselves and to those around us. It can become easy to forget the true meaning of Lent and Easter, however by aspiring to be better Catholics and truly reflecting God's actions and God's love to those around us, we can turn our attention towards repentance and growing further into our faith. During Lent, we mirror the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, and aim to fast, pray and give to those around us, just as Jesus did. In assembly, children have been able to explore the idea that fasting does not necessarily mean they have to give something up, but instead it means that they can make a positive change to take on something new, inspired by the Holy Father's Lenten message:

"Fast from hurting words and say kind words...Fast from anger and be filled with patience...Fast from worries and have trust in God."

As well as Lent, children have had a number of other opportunities to enrich their faith life here at St James', for example Years 8 and 9 who had the opportunity for a retreat day with Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team, where they explored the theme of values, and were encouraged to really consider what it is that they value in their own lives.

Additionally, this half term has seen the start of school Masses being organised during lunch times, as well as independent prayer time for children, where they are able to make use of the Chapel to pray during their lunch times should they wish. Children will also have the opportunity during their RE classes to further explore the meaning of Lent, and to engage with the meaning of Easter in the Catholic church, to further prepare them for Holy Week.

Here at St James' we will be continuing to celebrate and enrich the faith life of our school, with regular lunch time clubs, worship, liturgy and also parish and Diocesan links, so that we can best support our children in the context of both our school community as well as the wider Catholic family.

Miss Hazlewood
Lay Chaplain

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With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26



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