



5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 1 Headteacher Update**

Firstly, I hope that you have had a wonderful summer holiday and had the opportunity to spend time with friends and family. Today we welcome the newest members of our St James' family to school. Our new Year 7s will get their first full day as a pupil at St James'. A reminder that school is open for all other Year groups tomorrow, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of the children back to school ready to recommence the normal routines and rhythms of school life. Within our lessons we continue to follow our broad, balanced and diverse curriculum in order to educate and develop our children to become global Catholic citizens.

We are looking forward to another incredible and productive school year. Our competent and dedicated staff have already had two days of INSET last week which was spent planning and preparing for your child. During the INSET days we were reminded of our calling, or vocation, to teach and care for all of the children at St James'. As I reflected upon the message of the INSETs "vocation" I was struck by what a caring, inclusive and driven staff body we have. We all have the common goal of developing your child to become the best version of themselves in their role as global Catholic citizens.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August our class of 2022 came into school for their results. It was a fantastic morning and an absolute privilege to see the happy faces of our young people as they collected their results. The gallery of pictures can be seen here: <http://www.stjamescheadle.co.uk/results-day-2022/> The dedication and hard work came to fruition and St James' achieved the highest ever levels of attainment in the history of the school. 66% of our young people achieved a grade 9-5 in English and Maths and 84% of children achieved a grade 9-4 in English and Maths. The results are true testament to their efforts and we sincerely congratulate them.

Each year brings positive change. There have been a few additions to our staffing team and continued development and updating of the school site. This has included updated iconography around the school site, new computers for children to use in the ICT rooms, redevelopment of the Year 7 and 8 toilets and repainting of the PE courts. Our site and ICT teams have worked incredibly hard for the children over the summer period.

A reminder that from September, we are further developing our use of Satchel One within school and it will be used to communicate the most up to date information about your child including value points, behaviour points, detentions and attendance information. **It is therefore imperative that all parents/carers download the Satchel One app.** MyEd will still run alongside Satchel One for any other important information that needs to be shared via text or email. If you require any technical support or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The invitation from Jesus in the Gospel yesterday was to 'follow me'. The decision to follow in his footsteps is not one to be taken lightly. Jesus makes this very clear right at the beginning of this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus tells us that we have to work it out for ourselves to see if we have what it takes to live with the demands of being his follower. We begin this journey of being a disciple of Jesus in faith, but not on our own. The first reading from the Book of Wisdom tells us that we are given the gift of wisdom and the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us on our journey. Let this be also true as we begin our new school year, let the Holy Spirit be our guide.



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

At the start the new academic year please keep all our children and staff, but especially our new Year 7s in your thoughts and prayers. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher