



5th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 1 Headteacher Update

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas surrounded by friends and family, and I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year.

As we begin this half term, we look forward to lighter mornings, longer days, and the opportunities they bring. This is an essential period for all our children, regardless of Year group, to ensure their learning remains effective, productive, and focused on enhancing progress. In our lessons, we will continue delivering a broad, balanced, and diverse curriculum that develops our students into global Catholic citizens.

Our last Ofsted inspection took place in February 2022 we are therefore expecting our next inspection to take place this academic year. As you may be aware Ofsted's new framework brings major changes: a new 5-point grading scale, more detailed "report cards" with colour-coding, and separate 'met/not met' judgments for safeguarding, with a greater focus on inclusion, wellbeing, attendance, behaviour and achievement. If you would like more information Ofsted have published this video specifically for parents which can be found [here](#).

As we look ahead to the spring term, there are several key events on the horizon:

- Year 9 and 11 Parents' Evenings
- Year 9 Options Evening
- Termly Data Collection 2 for all Year groups

Further details for events will be sent out this week, so please look out for the relevant information.

The new year also offers an opportunity for a fresh start. Form Tutors and Heads of Year will be reinforcing our high expectations around behaviour, uniform, attendance, and punctuality to ensure our school standards remain consistently high. It will be fantastic to see our staff continuing to reward students who meet these expectations. Our rewards system includes value points, breakfast celebrations, 'skip the queue' passes, and other incentives that recognise students who exemplify our school values. Well done to all our children for their continued efforts.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany tomorrow, we are reminded of the moment when the light of Christ was revealed to the world, guiding the Wise Men on their journey. This week, as I lead assemblies to each year group, I will be reflecting with children on what it means to recognise that light in our own lives and how we are called to follow it through our actions each day. At St James', the Epiphany speaks powerfully to our mission as a Catholic family: to seek truth, to show courage and kindness, and to allow our faith and values to shine in the way we learn, work and care for one another.

As we begin this new term together, may we continue to be guided by that light in all that we do. Should you need any support, please do not hesitate to get in touch at headteacherpa@stjamescheadle.co.uk.





ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



Winner of Outstanding
Commitment to Sport
in Secondary School 2025

St James' Catholic High School, St James' Way, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 6PZ | 0161 482 6900 | office@stjamescheadle.co.uk

BlueSky @stjamescheadle.bsky.social | www.stjamescheadle.co.uk | Headteacher: Mr A Pontifex BSc (Hons) MA NPQH NPQEL

With God all things are possible Matthew 19:26