



15th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 1 Headteacher Update

Firstly, I hope you had a happy and Holy Easter and had the opportunity to reflect on the greatest event of our liturgical year. Yesterday we gathered together on the third Sunday of Easter, where we were reminded of the profound message conveyed in the Gospel according to Luke. In this passage, we are told of the fulfilment of prophecy – that Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. This foundational truth of our faith is a source of hope and inspiration for us all. In our secondary school family, this message resonates deeply as we strive to instil values of resilience, perseverance, and faith in our children. Just as Christ's resurrection marks a triumphant victory over darkness and despair, let us embrace the opportunity to rise above challenges and setbacks, knowing that through Christ, we are called to a life of abundance and purpose. May this Easter season be a time of reflection and renewal for our school family, as we continue to journey together in faith and fellowship.

As we start our new term, we already know so much will happen over the next three months. Our Year 11 children are now in the final run up to the examinations season with the first beginning on 9th May. Please keep all our children, but especially Year 11, in your thoughts and prayers. As we look ahead to this half term there is a Bank Holiday families need to be aware of as school will be closed on Monday 6th May, the Early May Bank Holiday.

I am now in a position to confirm that from September 2024 the school hours will change to 8.40am - 3.10pm. This is to meet the Department for Education requirements on minimum expectations on the length of the school day. The bus companies have been informed.

A reminder that on Thursday this week, 18th April, we have our Year 8 Parents' Evening taking place via School Cloud. Dr Guscott has already written to you if you have a child in Year 8 with full details on how to book appointments in advance of this evening. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Guscott directly.

As we enter the Summer Term and all that it brings, Mrs Pickles will be writing to families this week to outline our intention to run our annual trip for Year 7 and 8 to Chester Zoo as well as our reward trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach for Year 7, 8 and 9 during Curriculum Excellence Week. Year 10 will be embarking on Work Experience at this time but as previously communicated by Mr Reid, will have their rewards trip to Alton Towers earlier in July. Please ensure that you read all information contained in this letter including next steps and payment deadlines.

Have a fantastic first week back and if you need anything or have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher