



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

28th April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 1 Headteacher Update

Welcome back, I hope you had a restful and refreshing Easter break and found time to relax with family and friends. As we begin the summer term, we do so in the light of the death of Pope Francis. Pope Francis was at heart a compassionate and humble pastor who showed a deep empathy for all humanity, especially those who are too often forgotten. He was a teacher who listened and found the words to connect, and Catholic Social Teaching grew under his Pontificate. His stature as a world leader will be remembered on so many issues especially his concern for peace and stewardship of the world's resources for the benefit of everyone. We give thanks for the life and ministry of Pope Francis. He modelled integrity and inclusivity; his legacy should enable us to stand up for our convictions. May he rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.

Yesterday, the second Sunday of Easter, we heard from the Gospel of John: *"Eight days later, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'"* (John 20:26). This moment, when the risen Christ returns to offer peace to his disciples, despite their fear and doubt, reminds us of the enduring power of faith, presence, and reassurance. Just as Jesus met his followers where they were, we are called to meet our pupils with compassion, patience, and encouragement as they return to their learning journeys.

This final term of the year is often our busiest, but also one of the most rewarding. 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. 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 that families need to be aware of as school will be closed on Monday 5th May, the early May Bank Holiday.

As we enter the Summer Term and all that it brings, Mrs Pardoe will be writing to families this week to outline our intention to run our annual 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 Mrs Linford, they 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.

A reminder that our Year 8 children are partaking in their annual retreat today and tomorrow at Total Fitness, led by the inspiring Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team (SYMT). Through prayer, team-building exercises, and moments of personal reflection, we hope they will grow in confidence and strengthen their sense of community.

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@stjamescheadle.co.uk. A reminder that Monday 5th May is the early May Bank Holiday and therefore school is closed. We reopen on Tuesday 6th May.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher