



13th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 10 Headteacher Update

It is hard to believe that we are already starting the third week of our second half term. I want to begin by thanking all parents and carers for their continued support. A special thank you to those parents who attended our Year 7 Parent Tutor Evening. A final reminder to please complete the Year 7 Parent Tutor Evening questionnaire which has been sent by Dr Guscott. I am pleased to pass on that 91% of families were represented. The parent-school partnership is extremely important for us all at St James'.

On Friday last week, we observed a very moving reflection in our prayer garden which culminated in a two-minute silence. This was live streamed throughout the school, whilst two of our children played the last post. Yesterday we celebrated Remembrance Sunday, as we remember those who have given their lives through war, in service of our country, we need to keep in mind that the world could have been a very different place for us without their sacrifice, which cannot and should not, be forgotten. As the Lord commanded the apostles to 'Do this in memory of me', we pray that we may live in the harmony for which Christ prayed; and to our fallen, we say 'We will remember them'.

On Thursday this week, we welcome our class of 2023 back to school for the final time for Prize Evening. This is a formal end to their time at St James' where there will be prize winners for individual subjects, and overarching awards, and all children will be able to collect their examination certificates. I know you will join me in congratulating our leavers on their achievements and continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they journey through the next stages of their educational or working lives.

I would like to signpost you to our new careers newsletter which was sent by Mrs Rarity on Friday last week. It is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities that may interest our children and parents/carers. It contains lots of really useful information for all Year groups so I would ask that you take the time to read it and follow any of the useful links that may be of interest to you or your child. You can look forward to receiving these each Friday.

We are once again collecting for our local Chelwood Foodbank and are asking for donations of anything you are able to give. Chelwood Foodbank is an emergency service, providing pre-packed food parcels, to support those in financial crisis and food poverty. Even donating one single item could help a family who is struggling. You can find out more about their work here www.chelwoodfoodbankplus.org. Mrs Pickles shared in her assembly two weeks ago that by supporting such causes, we are living out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching "When Lord did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40. We appreciate that in these challenging financial times, not everyone will be able to contribute but we are very appreciative of any donations you can make. These are the items currently on the wish list for the Foodbank but any donations of non-perishable items are fine:

- Tinned fruit
- Tinned tuna
- Tea towels
- Disinfectant spray
- Crisps
- Jam
- Cereal
- Dried pasta
- Kitchen roll
- Toilet roll
- Shampoo
- Conditioner



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- Pasta sauce jars
- Sugar
- Shaving foam
- Rice
- Deodorant
- Tinned chickpeas
- Tinned meatballs
- Tinned hot dogs
- Washing powder
- Tin foil
- Biscuits
- Squash
- Toothbrushes
- Washing up liquid
- UHT milk
- Nappies
- Teabags
- Lentils

Any donations can be brought in by your child and handed to their Form Tutor. Should any families find themselves in difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year who can signpost you to support.

I hope you have a brilliant week. As always, if you need anything this week, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher