



16th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 10 Headteacher Update

As we move steadily towards the summer examination season, our Year 11 children have already begun some of their GCSE assessments. Last week our Food Preparation and Nutrition students completed their practical examination, this week our Physical Education students are undertaking their practical assessments, and our Art students are also completing important elements of their final coursework. These practical components are a significant part of their overall GCSE grades and represent months of preparation, practice, and dedication. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and commitment Year 11 have shown as they begin this important period in their education.

Over the weekend, I had the privilege of attending the ASCL conference, where Headteachers, CEOs, and education leaders from across the country gathered to hear updates from key figures including the Secretary of State for Education, Ofsted, Ofqual and other influential organisations. Much of the discussion centred on the recently published government white paper which sets out the direction for future education reform. These national conversations will continue over the coming months as consultation takes place, but it was reassuring to reflect on how much of what is being proposed already aligns with the work we are doing here at St James'. As I reflected on our own school community while attending the conference, I felt an immense sense of pride. St James' is more than just a place of learning; it is a community where young people are supported to grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually. This is only possible because of the strong partnership between school and home, and I would like to thank you, as always, for your continued support.

As we continue our journey through Lent, this Sunday's Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent reminds us of the powerful moment when Jesus heals the man born blind. After following Jesus' instruction, "He went and washed and received his sight." This simple but profound line speaks about trust, faith, and transformation. The man responds in faith and, through that act, his life is changed. During Lent we are reminded that faith often calls us to act first, to trust, to reflect, and to grow. In our school family we encourage our young people to open their eyes to the gifts God has given them, to see the goodness in others, and to recognise the opportunities they have to learn and flourish. Just as the man in the Gospel received new sight, Lent invites all of us to see the world more clearly: with compassion, gratitude, and hope.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to another positive week ahead. If you require any support, please do not hesitate to contact c.griffiths-davies@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

