



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

21st March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 10 Headteacher Update

Over the next two weeks, we are working to raise funds for Caritas, as part of our Lenten effort. Caritas is a charity within Shrewsbury Diocese who work locally with families to support those who may be facing difficulties. They also work with young people at risk of becoming homeless, provide accessible community hubs and work with those seeking refuge and asylum. Caritas believes in solidarity, social and economic justice and peace, and proactively incorporate these principles in its work. In our local community, Caritas also intends to play a role in welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating Ukrainians and those affected by the war to our community. We are therefore collecting loose change over the next 2 weeks at the end of assemblies and during lunchtimes. We will also be holding a cake sale on Tuesday 29th March at break and lunch time and are asking for any donations of cakes to sell. All cakes will be sold for 50p and only cash payments will be possible. Should any parents or carers wish to donate to Caritas via ParentPay, this option is available. A thank you to our Year 11 Faith Prefects who are helping to organise this and a huge thank you in advance for the support of parents and carers.

On Thursday this week our Year 7 Parents' Evening takes place via School Cloud. If you have not already made appointments with members of staff, I would encourage you to do this as a matter of urgency. Dr Guscott has already written to you if you have a child in Year 7 with full details on how to book appointments in advance of Thursday.

I am pleased to confirm that the works have concluded on our bike storage. Your child is now once again encouraged to ride their bike to and from school. Please can I remind you that bikes should be locked in the bike storage unit and that the school cannot accept any responsibility for theft or damage. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask you to speak to your child about the importance of road safety and ensure that they wear a helmet at all times when riding their bike.

In our Gospel yesterday, Christ presents himself as the gardener who patiently and humbly works in the situations of our lives to bring forth life and healing. In the parable we are told that the owner of an orchard wants a fig tree that is not bearing fruit to be cut down; yet the gardener intercedes on behalf of the tree and asks that he be allowed to cultivate the ground and fertilise it for a year to see if it will bear fruit and only then should it be decided whether to cut down the tree or not. It is interesting that the parable ends here – as listeners we never hear whether the fig tree owner said yes to this request, or what happened to the fig tree. This is intentional because by leaving it unfinished we are brought into the parable – it doesn't have a clear ending because we are given a choice and a voice to continue to write the next chapter of God's story. Life is wonderful but it is also precious and short, and we must make the best use of every day that we are granted. We are the fig tree in the parable. The Father owns the vineyard; the Son is the gardener giving us the ability to grow and the Spirit is the gifts that we have which will attract others. But it is up to us to choose whether to bear fruit.

Have a fantastic week and if you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in contact
headteacherpa@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher