



26th June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 10 Headteacher Update

The Year 11 examinations are now finally complete! The children were an absolute credit to themselves and their families as they took the examinations in their stride. A final reminder that the Leavers' Mass for Year 11 takes place at 6pm this Wednesday, 28th, at Christ Church, Heald Green followed by our Prom on Thursday 29th June at 6pm which takes place at Edgeley Park. If you are attending the Leavers' Mass, please park on the Church grounds or if you are parking on nearby roads, please be considerate of neighbours.

As our Year 11 leave us, it is fitting to remind you of our school alumni network. The aim of this is to create a community of former students who will receive newsletters from school as well as affording them the opportunity to opt in to providing school talks, mentoring or work experience. It is also an opportunity for any ex-St James' student to let us know what they are doing and how they are getting on. If you are a St James' alumnus or you know anyone who is please do complete the link [here](#) or forward it to anyone who may be interested.

We have received notification that the number of teachers at St James' who are members of the NEU has increased. The NEU have confirmed that they are holding two further strike days on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July. Therefore, I can confirm that school **will be open on both days for Year 7 and Year 8 only**. I, alongside other relevant members of staff, have conducted a risk assessment in relation to the strike action. This risk assessment has been used to determine the contingency measures that need to be implemented during the strike. A reminder that the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions and the general underfunding of schools. If any further strike days are announced, these will be treated separately and new risk assessments completed in each case.

Advanced notice that on 12th July, we will be holding, weather permitting, our annual St James' Sports Day and we are looking forward to celebrating our school Values of Family, Faith and Excellence, as we have the opportunity for all children to get involved. On 13th July, we begin Curriculum Excellence Week for Years 7 to 9 with a wide range of exciting activities, trips and visits. Meanwhile our Year 10 children will begin their 5-day Work Experience, a wonderful way for them to gain an insight into the world of work. The timetable for the 12th July onwards is set out at the bottom of this letter and I hope it will be a most enjoyable time for all our children.

Anxiety is extremely prevalent in our world today; we are all facing a world with many problems and difficulties. For anyone seeking an antidote to restlessness and fear, the readings yesterday have something to say about peace and God's presence in our lives. Jeremiah, the prophet speaks of his persecutors insulting him, trying to incite fear and failure. How many people, children especially, suffer from this sort of behaviour from others online or through social media? Noteworthy in the Jeremiah reading is that despite his enemies' bullying and fear mongering, Jeremiah is assured: "The Lord is with me." God is a peaceful, energetic response to his and so to our anxiety. Though anxious thoughts can seem all-consuming, we are not alone in moments of darkness, peace is near.

Have a great week and if you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch
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Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

Date	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
12 th July	Sports Day			
13 th July	Science activities	Germany Trip English activities	Germany Trip Maths activities	Work Experience
14 th July	Paris Trip Chester Zoo Alternative activities in school	Germany Trip Paris Trip Chester Zoo Alternative activities in school	Germany Trip Paris Trip Duke of Edinburgh Humanities activities	
17 th July	Paris Trip Careers Day	Germany Trip Paris Trip Careers Day	Germany Trip Paris Trip Careers Day	
18 th July	Paris Trip PE activities	Germany Trip Paris Trip Creative Technology activities	Germany Trip Paris Trip RE activities	
19 th July	Blackpool Trip Alternative activities in school	Blackpool Trip Alternative activities in school	Blackpool Trip Alternative activities in school	
20 th July	Spiritual reflection, assembly and Form time activities. School closes at 12.15pm			