



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

14th July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 11 Headteacher Update

As we enter the final week of the academic year, I wish to thank you as parents and carers for giving your child and our school your full support throughout the year. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure your child receives the very best education and opportunities.

You may note our new letterhead which includes our new School Games PLATINUM Mark Award for the 2024/25 and the 2025/26 academic year. The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme which is facilitated by the Youth Sports Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. We are delighted to have been recognised for our success. We are extremely proud of our children and staff for their hard work and dedication.

You may also note from our new letterhead that St James' has been selected to take part in the Embedding Formative Assessment (EFA) programme, a national initiative based on the work of Professor Dylan Wiliam, aimed at ensuring that every child is supported to succeed in the classroom and beyond. The EFA programme supports schools to boost student engagement, leading to better outcomes. Independent evaluation from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that the programme has a demonstrable impact on the experiences of young people. I am excited for our school to be part of the EFA programme as it reflects our commitment to providing our children with the learning experiences that inspire, motivate and build confidence. We join a thriving network of over 400 schools who are already benefitting from specialist training, mentoring and participation in national networks.

As we approach the end of term, I kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that any outstanding school meal debts are cleared. At present, we have a significant number of accounts in arrears, and your support in settling these balances is greatly appreciated. From September, eligibility for Free School Meals will be extended to all families in receipt of Universal Credit, which may benefit some of our families; further information will follow in due course. We are also pleased to confirm that, thanks to a new supplier, we will be maintaining our current meal prices for the start of the new academic year, with a review planned for December.

A reminder that Friday 18th July is our final day and that school finishes at 12.15pm. The school buses have been ordered and Transport for Greater Manchester have confirmed that **all buses** will be arriving early ready to take the children home for 12.15pm. We return to school on Wednesday 3rd September for Year 7 only and all other Year groups return on Thursday 4th September. GCSE results day is 21st August and children can collect their results from 9.00 am – 10.00am.

Our summer newsletter has been emailed out to you. I would ask that you read all the information it contains, as it really does showcase what has gone on in each Year group and at a whole school level over the summer term. The newsletter also contains information about our charitable activities which have taken place throughout the year. A huge congratulations to the children and a thank you to all our parents and carers for your support.

We bid farewell to three staff members this year including: Miss Bickerton, Miss Adams and Miss Khedri. I am sure you will join me in expressing our gratitude for their hard work and dedication, and we wish them well in





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their future endeavours. We look forward to welcoming new staff to St James' in September, alongside our new Year 7 cohort.

I hope you have a lovely final week and a great summer spending time with your children, friends and family. Our staff will be doing the same and therefore will not be responding to emails until we return to school in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

