



20th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 11 Headteacher Update

On Thursday last week we welcomed our class of 2023 back to school for the final time for Prize Evening. It was a lovely occasion where we congratulated all of our former students on their achievements and found out how they are getting on in their next stages of their lives. Last year 32 students or 21% of the Year group passed 5 or more GCSEs at grade 7 or above (the previous A or A*). 90 students or 58% of them passed 5 or more GCSEs at grade 5 or above. The Head Boy and Girl said in their speeches that the class of 2023 leave St James' with a legacy for all other Year groups, including their own, to follow.

As I shared in my letter on 30th October, our school was shortlisted for the Educate awards for the Innovative and Creative Literacy Award. On Friday evening The Senior Leadership Team and I attended the awards evening. It was a fantastic evening which really showcased the very best of education across the Northwest of England. Sadly, this time we did not win the Innovative and Creative Literacy Award but we are delighted to have received public recognition for the hard work and emphasis that we place on literacy within our school.

The Parable of the Talents in yesterday's Gospel is not about people's financial abilities or how good they are on the stock market. Instead, it points us to something else; the second coming of Jesus. The Gospel yesterday blends well with the message of the 2nd Reading when St. Paul reminds us that our task is not to figure out when Jesus will come again, but to live in such a way that we will be ready when he does come. Two of the servants in Jesus' parable use the talents God gave them wisely but one servant was concerned only to consider himself and preserve what he had. He was rejected for not using his talents. We too, and the children in our school, have been given gifts and talents by God. It is therefore our duty to think about how we can best use our gifts and talents to make a positive contribution. This week I will be looking out for those children who really use their talents to the fullest of their ability.

I hope you have a fantastic week and a reminder that school is closed on Friday 24th November for our INSET day. Our staff will be unavailable via email from the afternoon of Thursday 23rd November until Monday 28th November, thank you in advance for not contacting them during this period. If you need anything this week, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher