



21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 11 Headteacher Update**

On Thursday last week we welcomed our class of 2022 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. It was fantastic to remind them that they achieved the highest levels of attainment in our school's history. Last year 46 students or 29% of the year group passed 5 or more GCSEs at grade 7 or above (the previous A or A\*). 109 students or 70% 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 2022 leave St James' with a legacy for all other Year groups, including their own, to follow.

Unfortunately, we had an incident on one of our buses several days ago. I would like to reassure all parents/carers that this incident has been fully investigated and dealt with according to our behaviour policy. I would like to take this opportunity to ask that all parents/carers speak to their child of the importance of sensible behaviour whilst travelling to and from school. The behaviour policy applies at all times and if behaviour is unacceptable the school may need to ban children from travelling to ensure the safety and well-being of all other children.

Before we begin the season of Advent and our preparations for Christmas, we are asked to reflect upon Christ our King. The Gospel yesterday is from St Luke and tells us of Jesus' Crucifixion. Jesus is slowly dying on the cross; on either side of him are two thieves. One of them verbally abuses Jesus; the other admits and acknowledges his guilt and utters the profound prayer request, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." To which Jesus replies, "I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus did say that his Kingdom was not of this world. God's Kingdom, Jesus proclaims, is based on love mercy, service, justice and reconciliation. Jesus the King, came to serve, not to be served. As we end this current liturgical year, may we too have the courage, faith and humility of the repentant thief as we pray, *Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

I hope you have a fantastic week and a reminder that school is closed on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November for our INSET day. Our staff will be unavailable via email from the afternoon of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November until Monday 28<sup>th</sup> 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@stjamescheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamescheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher