



25th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 11 Headteacher Update

We are once again entering another final week of a half term. This Spring term seems to have been one of the fastest I can remember. A reminder that our school closes on Thursday at 12.15pm and the buses have been arranged for this time. Our Spring newsletter will be published this week and emailed to you. It will also be available on our website. This really does showcase how much goes on for each Year group at St James'.

As we enter into the solemn and significant week of Holy Week, we turn our attention to the Gospel according to Mark, which we heard yesterday on Palm Sunday. Mark's account vividly depicts Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, welcomed by crowds waving palm branches and laying cloaks on the road before Him. Yet, as we journey through this week, we are reminded that this jubilant reception quickly gives way to the sombre events of Christ's passion and crucifixion. This juxtaposition serves as a poignant reminder of the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and the transformative power of His love. As a Catholic school family, let us reflect on the lessons of humility, service, and sacrifice exemplified by Jesus' journey to the cross. May this Holy Week be a time of profound spiritual reflection and renewal, as we prepare our hearts to walk with Christ through His passion, death, and ultimately, His glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Our Year 7 Parents' Evening took place on Thursday last week with strong attendance at this virtual event. Thank you to all of the parents/carers who attended and submitted their feedback to the parental voice questionnaire. This information will be published on our website in the coming weeks [here](#).

When we return to our first week of the Summer term after the Easter break, we are three weeks away from the full suite of GCSEs and BTEC examinations. We have lots happening in the first week back with our GCSE PE Examinations taking place, our Year 8 Retreat and our Year 8 Parents' Evening. I already know that the Summer term will be an incredibly busy and productive term.

This Easter break, I'm thrilled to remind parents/carers that our school is offering a remarkable adventure. On Friday, March 29th, a group of our children will venture to Iceland for an immersive, exciting experience. These experiences are crafted to expand the horizons of our children and enrich their learning outside the traditional classroom setting. I kindly request that you keep all our children and staff in your thoughts and prayers for a safe and memorable journey.

On Wednesday last week I was spoken to by the Local Authority around the prevalence of "Vapes" being used by young people. There is a letter being sent by the Local Authority to all parents/carers after Easter. Obviously, this is extremely concerning especially when coupled with the research that was published last week by Scientists at University College London which found that vape users and smokers suffered similar changes to their DNA. These changes are linked to the future development of lung cancer in smokers. I would implore you to speak to your child about the dangers of vaping and the potential life changing consequences.

Have a lovely holy Easter break when it comes. Our staff will also be taking a well-deserved break over the Easter period, spending time with their families, and as such will be unavailable via email, thank you in advance for not contacting them. If you need anything in these final few days, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26