



10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Summer Term Week 12 Headteacher Update**

This week Curriculum Excellence Week (CEW) begins. It begins with our annual St James' Sports Day, weather permitting, on Wednesday. On Thursday, we will 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Following our Prom which took place on 29<sup>th</sup> June the gallery of photos will shortly be uploaded, by our professional photographer, to our school website. It can be accessed via the large banner on the home page or via the news stories. You will be able to download the photos in high resolution to allow you to share this proud moment with your friends and family.

Last week we welcomed the newest members of our St James' family with our Transition evening and day. As always this was a wonderful day and great to see the children all excited in their primary school uniforms before they attend in September in their St James' uniform. Speaking to the children they gave me some fantastic insights into their views on the school "it's so much bigger", "the tables are higher" and the "lessons are so exciting". We cannot wait to welcome them in September.

You may note our new letterhead which includes our new School Games GOLD Mark Award for the 2022/23 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. Our sport achievements this year include; Greater Manchester School's Boy Badminton Champions at KS3 and 4, Greater Manchester Catholic School's Football Champions at Year 8, Stockport School's Football Cup Winners at Year 10, Stockport School's Football League Cup Champions at Year 8 and Stockport School's Athletics Quad Champions at Year 7. With a total of 348 children competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our children and staff for their hard work and dedication.

In yesterday's Gospel, Jesus invites us to find rest and comfort in him. He acknowledges the burdens we carry, the struggles we face, and he offers to lighten our load. Jesus assures us that the demands of God are not beyond our strength. He invites us to turn to him, to place our trust in him, and to seek his help whenever we encounter moments when we feel overwhelmed by challenges and trials that come our way. We may face personal struggles, social burdens or the weight of responsibilities and in such moments, it is easy to rely solely on our own strength, to become consumed by worry and doubt. As we reflect on today's readings, let us trust in Jesus, who offers us rest for our weary souls and who shoulders the weight of our burdens even in the most difficult of times. May we seek his guidance, his strength, and his love in all aspects of our lives, knowing that with him by our side, we can face any trial or tribulation.



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Have a great week and if you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch  
[headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
 Headteacher

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

