



4th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 13 Headteacher Update

This week our mock examinations continue for our Year 11 children. The children have been made aware that in the highly unlikely event that examinations do not go ahead in the summer of 2024 then these mock examinations could be a factor the exam boards use to determine their final grade. Please continue to keep our Year 11 children in your thoughts and prayers

For advanced notice, our Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place **virtually** on Thursday 11th January from 4pm to 7pm. Dr Guscott will shortly be writing to all parents/carers with children in Year 9 to outline the plans for this virtual event. Our full Options Evening takes place on Thursday 22nd February **in school** and full information on pathways, timings and logistics will be sent by Dr Guscott nearer the time.

May I take this opportunity to remind all families that we are still collecting for the Foodbank, you can find further information in my previous letter which can be found [here](#). We appreciate that in these challenging financial times, not everyone will be able to contribute but we are very appreciative of any donations you can make.

The Year 2025 will be a Jubilee Year in the church's calendar, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. Preparations for the 2025 Year of Jubilee will begin in Advent 2023, which will mark the start of a year of prayer. The Jubilee Year is a special year of grace, in which the Church offers the faithful the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence. Traditionally, it begins just before Christmas and ends on the Epiphany of the following year. The Pope inaugurates the Holy Year with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. After that, the Holy Doors of the other papal basilicas – St John Lateran, St Paul Outside the Walls, and St Mary Major – are opened and remain so until the end of the Jubilee Year. We will be sharing materials for families to use on our website and will provide more information about this in due course. You may wish to take a look at the Vatican [website](#) dedicated to the Jubilee. This Advent, at the start of the Year of Prayer, may we place Christ at the centre of our daily lives. Let us encourage our school family to prepare a place for Christ in their hearts. May we be communities of prayer that enable our children and young people to have a relationship with the Lord through prayer.

I hope you have a great week, if you need anything please contact headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher