



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Spring Term Week 13 Headteacher Update

Our Year 8 students were scheduled to take part in their annual retreat this week at Total Fitness, led by the inspiring Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team (SYMT). However, due to staffing constraints within SYMT, the retreat has been rescheduled to **the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of April**. This special event provides a valuable opportunity for children to step away from their daily routines, reflect on their faith, and engage in meaningful discussions and activities that deepen their spiritual journey. Through prayer, team-building exercises, and moments of personal reflection, we hope they will grow in confidence and strengthen their sense of community. We are grateful to SYMT for their commitment to guiding our young people through this important experience, and we look forward to the retreat taking place later this month.

A reminder that on Thursday this week, 10<sup>th</sup> April, we have our Year 7 Parents' Evening taking place via School Cloud. Mr Maidment has already written to you, with full details of how to book appointments in advance of this evening. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Maidment directly.

A reminder that our 20 Days of Lent Attendance Challenge continues in order to promote and celebrate excellent school attendance. From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, any child who achieves 100% attendance will be entered into a prize draw. One family from each year group will win a £50 supermarket voucher to help with the cost of their Easter roast dinner. The prize draw will take place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, and vouchers will be awarded to the winning children on the same day. Let's make every school day count.

As you will have seen from Mrs Dooley's letter on Friday we continue to be frustrated and disappointed with the service our young people are receiving from Transport for Greater Manchester. The buses will run as normal on Friday morning, but some children will need to make alternative arrangements to get home on Friday afternoon when we finish at 12.15pm. Please ensure you have read Mrs Dooley's letter for full details.

As we reflect on the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, "*Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her*", we are reminded of the importance of kindness, understanding, and forgiveness in our school family. At St James', we strive to create an environment where every child is supported and encouraged to grow, rather than judged for their mistakes. Just as Jesus showed compassion in this moment, we too are called to treat one another with respect, patience, and empathy. As we continue our Lenten journey, let us take this message to heart, fostering a school culture where everyone feels valued and given the opportunity to learn and improve.

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](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher