



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

8th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 2 Headteacher Update

I have been deeply impressed with how well our children have settled back into the routines of school life after the summer break. They have returned with enthusiasm, energy and a real commitment to their learning. Already, they are beginning to live out our school values of *Family, Faith and Excellence* in their daily work and relationships. I would like to thank you as parents and carers for the support you continue to give, particularly with the introduction of our new Excellence Cards, as communicated by Mr Maidment. I also ask that you keep our school community in your prayers as we journey together through the year ahead.

Our new Year 7 students have made a wonderful start to their time at St James' and are showing great promise as a year group. They are currently preparing to take part in our first whole school Mass of the year on Friday 12th September, where they will join the wider community in giving thanks for the beginning of their journey with us.

Looking ahead, I would like to give advance notice that our Open Evening will take place on Thursday 18th September. On this day, school will close at 1.25pm. Diamond buses (813, 853) have confirmed they can collect students at this earlier time but we are awaiting confirmation from Metroline about the remaining bus services. We will communicate any updates via St James' app as soon as we receive confirmation. For those children who are supporting the event as guides or within Faculty areas, please ensure that the consent link (to be sent this week) is completed, and that collection from school is arranged for no later than 8.00pm.

We are also delighted to share that St James' has once again been awarded the Eco-Schools Award with Distinction. This achievement reflects the hard work and commitment of both staff and students across the school, and we are proud that our dedication to sustainability and environmental education has been recognised in this way.

In addition, Stockport Local Authority will soon be holding their Post-16 Careers Week 2025, which takes place from Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October. This important annual initiative provides vital guidance for students in Years 10–13 as they explore their future pathways, including education, training, and employment opportunities beyond secondary school. Further information can be found [here](#).

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus said, *"Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."* His words invite us to reflect on what truly matters and challenge us to place faith at the centre of our lives. True discipleship is not found in what we hold on to, but in what we are willing to let go of for the sake of others. As a school family, we are called to live generously, serve one another, and show that our faith is active in the way we love and support those around us.

I hope you have a fantastic week, if you need anything please do not hesitate to reach out headteacherpa@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher