



15th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 2 Headteacher Update

Our Year 9 Parents' Evening took place on Thursday last week with strong attendance at this virtual event. As always, thank you to all Year 9 parents who attended and submitted their feedback to the parental voice questionnaire that was sent out by Dr Guscott. In the coming weeks this information will be published on our website at the usual address <http://www.stjamescheadle.co.uk/parental-voice/>.

I would like to remind you of our school policy regarding electronic devices, particularly smartwatches. It has come to our attention that a number of children have received smartwatches as Christmas presents. While we understand the appeal of such devices, we would like to reiterate that smartwatches are considered a banned item within the school premises. In an effort to ensure a smooth transition and to give our children ample time to adjust, our staff will spend the upcoming week reminding children to keep their smartwatches away, switched off, and securely stored in their bags during school hours. However, starting from Monday, January 29th, any smartwatches found on children will be confiscated and placed in the school safe. They will be held there until a parent or carer can collect them. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a focused and distraction-free learning environment for all our children.

Christ Church, St Ann's & St Chad's have confirmed the dates for their Confirmation programme for 2024. They are as follows: Session 1 – Friday 2nd February 7pm to 8.30pm, Session 2 – Friday 23rd February 7pm to 8.30pm, Session 3 – Friday 8th March 7pm to 8.30pm, Session 4 – Friday 22nd March 7pm to 8.30pm, Session 5 – Friday 26th April 7pm to 8.30pm, Session 6 – Friday 17th May 7pm to 8.30pm, Session 7 – Friday 14th June 7pm to 8.30pm, Session 8 & Away Day – Sunday 23rd June 12pm to 4pm with Confirmation taking place on Friday 28th June at 7pm. Once again this year, it will be a joint LMA Confirmation programme, involving candidates from Christ Church, St Ann's & St Chad's. The sessions will take place in the parish hall at Christ Church and the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team will be involved. If you have a child in **Year 8 or above**, who would like to join the programme, please email the parish as soon as possible to receive a registration form. There will be an enrolment ceremony for the candidates at the 11am Mass on Sunday 28th January.

Yesterday, we reflected on the Gospel readings that remind us of the importance of recognising and responding to God's call in our lives. Jesus meets Andrew's brother Simon. He looks at him and says, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas, meaning Rock." The new name must have filled Peter's friends with astonishment. 'A rock' Peter certainly was not. We know Peter was a bit of a hot head. He was impulsive, rash, sometimes misguided and often passionate. To describe him as a 'rock' was surely inappropriate. Yet slowly and surely, Peter starts to live up to Jesus' expectations, and slowly but surely, Peter changes from a hot-headed fisherman, into a steadfast leader of the Church. As we see so often in the Bible, Jesus' expectations have the power to transform. In our school, our mission is to nurture not only academic growth but also spiritual development through high expectations. Let us encourage our children to live up to the expectations of Jesus and our school. Through prayer, reflection, and engagement, may our school family continue to be a beacon of faith, fostering an environment where each individual can discern their path and grow into the person God has called them to be.

Have a wonderful week as the mornings slowly begin to get lighter and the days get longer. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamescheadle.co.uk



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher