



17th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 2 Headteacher Update

We have had a very successful start to school last week welcoming the children back from their Christmas break. Our on-site lateral flow tests took place for those children who had consent and we had one child test positive. Like many schools up and down the country we have several children who are currently isolating due to positive tests as well as several staff in the same situation. I am pleased at this stage, unlike many schools, to be able to confirm that the level of staffing absence is relatively low compared to many schools, this in turn means that our on-site offer for teaching and learning is not at risk. However, this could change as we move through this half term, and I will of course keep you updated.

As part of our remote learning provision for those who have tested positive for Covid-19 we continue to provide Zoom lessons. All parents/carers have previously received the staff Zoom codes, should you require another copy please contact school reception at office@stjamesheadle.co.uk. Please be aware that staff are delivering hybrid lessons and therefore there may be a delay in admitting your child to the lesson on Zoom. If your child experiences any problems with accessing a Zoom lesson, please contact the individual member of staff directly. All staff email addresses can be found on the school website.

Our Year 9 Parents' Evening took place on Thursday last week with strong attendance at this virtual event. Our new School Cloud system worked well, and we look forward to using it again at our Year 11 Parents' Evening on the 3rd February and our Year 9 Options Evening on 10th February. 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.stjamesheadle.co.uk/parental-voice/>

This Wednesday marks the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a time when Christians from many different traditions across the globe join together to try to heal divisions and to pray for greater unity. Although it is recognised that there are significant differences among denominations in terms of beliefs, practices and structures, and that there is still much work to do to recognise Christ's vision 'that all may be one', it is also recognised that Christian congregations share common callings. As Catholics, as we think about Christian Unity, it may be helpful to reflect on Pope Francis' words: "We have to pray together as Catholics and also with other Christians, pray that the Lord gives us the gift of unity, unity among us. But how will we have unity among Christians if we are not capable of it among ourselves, as Catholics?" As we reflect on this, may we turn towards Jesus Christ and ask him to send the Holy Spirit to create unity amongst our families, friends and global community.

As a reminder, our local parish of St Ann's have said they will be running a new Confirmation programme starting in February. This will be open to anyone in Year 9 (and above) who has not yet been confirmed. Those who missed Confirmation for whatever reason are particularly welcome. If you would like to register for the new programme, please email the parish to let them know (stannsheadleholme@gmail.com). The sessions will be on Friday evenings, from 7 – 8:30pm.

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



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher