



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

20th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 2 Headteacher Update

Last week our Year 10 geographers undertook their fieldwork at the River Bollin and Salford Quays. This is a vital component of the GCSE Geography course, giving children the opportunity to apply their classroom learning in real-world contexts and develop key investigative and analytical skills required for their examinations. We thank both the staff and children for their enthusiasm, effort, and exemplary conduct throughout.

Our Year 8 Retreats also took place last week, offering a meaningful opportunity for spiritual reflection and growth as a Year group. These moments away from the usual routine are so important in nurturing the faith and character of our young people, and we are grateful to all who helped facilitate such a positive experience.

A reminder that on Thursday this week, 23rd April, we will be holding our Year 7 Parents' Evening via School Cloud. Mr Maidment has already written to you with full details on how to book appointments. These evenings are a vital opportunity to discuss progress and next steps, and we strongly encourage all families to attend. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Maidment directly.

As we enter an important period in the school calendar, our GCSE Modern Foreign Languages speaking examinations are taking place this week. We ask that you keep our Year 11 children in your thoughts and prayers as they approach this significant milestone. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and resilience, and we wish them every success.

Finally, in yesterday's Gospel from Luke, we heard the words: *"He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread."* In our school community, this reminds us that Christ is present in the way we support one another each day — in the encouragement offered in lessons, the kindness shown between pupils, and the dedication of staff guiding our young people. It is through these everyday actions that we continue to live out our faith together as a community.

Have a wonderful week ahead. As always, if you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

