



5th May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 4 Headteacher Update

I hope you have had a lovely extended bank holiday weekend and managed to spend some quality time with your family and friends.

As you are aware, we had a full Section 5 Ofsted inspection last week. The inspectors spent time visiting lessons, speaking with children and staff, and reviewing the work that goes on each day to support our young people. Throughout the inspection, our children represented the school with great pride, demonstrating positive attitudes to learning and a strong sense of family, while staff showcased their commitment and dedication to ensuring the very best outcomes for every child. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to those parents who took the time to email their support and complete the parent survey. It is clear from the answers provided how much our parents/carers value and support all that is on offer at St James'. We are extremely proud of our whole school family. Unfortunately, I am unable to share the outcome of the inspection with you, as it is currently undergoing quality assurance. As soon as it is published, I will be sending a copy to all.

Today we gather as a whole school community for our whole school Mass, celebrating our founder's Feast Day, St James the Lesser. This is always a joyful and significant occasion in the life of our school, bringing us together in faith and reflection. We are very much looking forward to Fr Simon leading our celebration in the Sports Hall, and to the opportunity it provides for us all to pause, give thanks, and unite as a community.

As the GCSE examinations begin imminently, we also prepare for our Year 11 Leavers' Mass, which will take place at Christ Church at 6pm on Wednesday 6th May and be celebrated by Fr Louis. This is always a special and moving occasion, as we come together to celebrate the past five years with our young people and their families. It is a moment to reflect on their journey, give thanks for all they have achieved, and wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their lives.

Finally, in Sunday's Gospel we heard the powerful words, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." As a Catholic school, these words sit at the heart of all that we do. We strive to follow Christ's example in the way we live, learn and treat one another each day, seeking truth in our studies and in our relationships, and nurturing a fullness of life for every member of our community. In doing so, we aim to guide our young people not only towards academic success, but towards becoming compassionate, principled individuals who live out these values in the wider world.

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





ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



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With God all things are possible Matthew 19:26