



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

22nd September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 4 Headteacher Update

As we move into week four, it is hard to believe how quickly this half term is passing. It has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into the routines and rhythms of school life. The start of this academic year has been calm, positive and full of energy, and the children have been fantastic throughout.

Last week was particularly special at St James'. Our Open Evening on 18th September was extremely busy, and so many of our children played a part in making it a success. They were excellent ambassadors for the school, proudly showcasing their faculty areas and warmly welcoming our visitors. I am sincerely grateful to all parents and carers for having made arrangements to collect their child at 8pm.

We also saw the conclusion of our Year 7 retreats at Savio House last week. These retreats offer our newest children a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect on their faith, and think about what it means to be part of a Catholic high school community. It is always a memorable and meaningful experience that stays with the children throughout their time at St James'. Looking ahead, we are preparing for our Year 7 Welcome Mass, which will take place at 6pm on 9th October at Our Lady's, Edgeley. This is a very important celebration, and I ask that all children in Year 7 and their parents/carers attend, as every Form group will have an active role within the Mass.

On Tuesday 23rd September, we have our Chromebook launch where, for the fourth year running, every Year 7 child will receive a Chromebook to support their learning both in school and at home. We are running two collection sessions, 3.30pm and 6pm, where Mrs Moss will outline the initiative, the expectations of usage and answer any queries you may have. A support video will be shared via the St James' app in order to guide users through the different programmes and applications that are most useful in supporting children with their learning, homework and skills for the future.

In the Gospel of Luke yesterday, we were reminded, *"You cannot serve both God and money."* This powerful message encourages us to reflect on where we place our values and priorities. At St James', we are committed to helping our young people see that a life well lived is not measured by material possessions or personal gain, but by faith, service, and the strength of our community. Our role as a Catholic school is to guide children to use their talents in ways that honour God and benefit others, ensuring that they grow into individuals who lead with integrity, compassion, and purpose. This will be beautifully reflected in our upcoming Year 7 Welcome Mass on 9th October, where each Form group will play an active role in celebrating the gift of faith and the importance of placing God at the centre of our lives.

Have a fantastic week and if you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via email at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

