



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

2nd February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 5 Headteacher Update

As we move into Week 5 of the half-term, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and to recognise the sustained commitment shown by both our children and staff. By this point in the term, routines are well established and expectations are clear, yet it is often now that the pace of school life can begin to feel more demanding. I have been particularly encouraged by the resilience, focus and maturity shown by so many of our children, and by the consistency, care and professionalism demonstrated by our staff each day. These efforts, often seen quietly rather than loudly, are what make such a positive difference to our school family.

Last week was our Year 11 Parents' Evening which saw a robust turnout. Your active participation in this event is greatly appreciated, and we are thankful for the feedback provided through the parental voice questionnaire distributed by Mr Maidment. Your insights play a crucial role in shaping our school family and enhancing the educational experience for our children. In the upcoming weeks, we will compile and publish the gathered information on our website at the usual address, which can be found [here](#). Thank you for your ongoing support.

Also last week, Four Year 10 pupils won the inaugural Digital Defenders Challenge organised by State Talking and Callsign. They presented their idea for a cyber security app to a panel of judges and were announced as the competition winners for their innovative and well-planned solution. In Greater Manchester, the Digital and Technology employment sector has many job opportunities including in-demand occupations such as software engineers and mobile app developers (GM Labour Market Insights Spring 2025). We are proud to be supporting our children with their careers journey by facilitating these opportunities.

At St James', our values are lived out not only in special moments, but in the ordinary rhythm of school life, in the way pupils treat one another, in the pride taken in learning, and in the sense of responsibility shown towards our shared community. As we approach the final weeks of this half-term, we encourage all children to continue striving for high standards in behaviour, effort and engagement, ensuring that every lesson remains purposeful and productive. We are also mindful of the importance of wellbeing at this stage of the term. Please be assured that pastoral support remains available for any child who may be finding things challenging, and we are always grateful for the strong partnership we share with families in supporting our young people.

In this week's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus reminds us, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." This is not a call to weakness, but an invitation to humility, to recognise our need for God and for one another. In a busy school community, it can be tempting to rely solely on our own strength or achievements, yet this Gospel reassures us that true blessing is found in openness, compassion and trust. When we approach each day with humility, kindness and an awareness of others' needs, we create a school family where everyone can flourish and where God's kingdom is quietly but powerfully at work among us.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing trust and support. I hope you have a positive and successful week ahead. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school c.griffiths-davies@stjamescheadle.co.uk





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Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



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With God all things are possible Matthew 19:26