



6th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 5 Headteacher Update

Firstly, thank you for your support last Wednesday following the industrial action carried out by the NEU. As I have said in my previous letters, each day will be treated individually and more information will follow closer to the time. The next date of planned industrial action is 28th February 2023.

As part of our commitment to ensuring parents/carers have a choice of supplier for uniform, another retailer will be stocking St James' uniform. They are called Triple S, are located in Heaton Moor and have operated in Stockport for more than 20 years. If you are unable to get to their store, they have a website where uniform can be ordered for delivery or you can choose the click and collect option. This now brings the number of retailers that stock St James' uniform to four. Recently, an exercise was carried out by school to compare the price of our uniform from our suppliers to other local schools. I cannot share the findings with you, but it reflects extremely positively on St James'. You are able to carry out this exercise yourself using various supplier websites if you wish.

Our Year 11 Parents' Evening took place on Thursday last week with strong attendance at this virtual event. As always, thank you to all Year 11 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 which can be found [here](#).

At St James', we recognise that the next stage of our children's journey is an important part of what we do. We place great emphasis on Careers Information, Education and Guidance within school. This week we will be raising awareness of National Apprenticeship Week. This is the 16th annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships and is an opportunity to find out more about apprenticeships and what they can offer. You can find more information at Stockport Jobs Match which can be found [here](#). It contains an overview of apprenticeships, links to careers events happening throughout the week, local colleges and training providers who offer apprenticeships, and 60+ live apprentice vacancies. On Thursday 9th February at 7pm there is also a Careers Event on Google Classroom featuring 3 Stockport employers and 2 apprentices talking about their current programmes and upcoming vacancies for 2023/24. More information including the sign up link can be found [here](#).

Work Experience for Year 10 pupils will take place from Thursday 13th July 2023 – Wednesday 19th July 2023 inclusive. We encourage all pupils to look for their own placements, forms have been given to pupils and parents have received a letter confirming deadlines. More information can be found [here](#) and children are welcome to speak to their Form Tutors or Mrs Rarity if they require any further support.

Wednesday 8th February is Safer Internet Day, Form Tutors will be talking to pupils about the importance of the ways in which they use the Internet and how they spend their time online. Parents and carers can support this further by discussing with their child at home and ensuring that mobile phones and other electronic devices, including access to social media, are used responsibly.

Following on from the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the quality needed to be one of his disciples. Nowadays, we all take salt and light for granted, but these commodities were much more precious at the time of Jesus. There was no electricity so light at the





ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

touch of a button was unheard of. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavouring food, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Salt used properly can brighten and enliven food. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as the St James' family.

Have a great week, the mornings and evenings are beginning to get lighter! If you need anything or have any questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26