



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

29th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 5 Headteacher Update

As we move further into the term, it has been wonderful to see our children with such positivity, energy, and purpose. Classrooms are focused with learning, and it is always a joy to see children embracing opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Thank you for the support you give at home, which makes such a difference to the attitudes and successes we see in school every day.

For our Year 7 parents/carers; our Year 7 Welcome Mass will take place at 6pm on Thursday 9th October at St Ann's, Cheadle. This is a very special celebration, and we ask that all children in Year 7 and their parents/carers attend. Every Form group will take an active role in the Mass.

A reminder to Year 10 parents/carers that our Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening will take place at 5 pm on Thursday 2nd October. Full details have already been shared by Mrs Rarity, but it is essential that both you and your child attend in order to receive all the key information ahead of their work experience at the end of this academic year.

This week is an exciting one for careers at St James': we have an NHS workplace safari, a visit to Avocet, and an in-school session on applying for part-time jobs. As always, there is a great deal happening to support our children in preparing for their futures.

I have also attached information from Stockport Local Authority about upcoming online careers event at the bottom of this letter and a booking link which can be accessed [here](#).

Last week we were celebrating European Day of Languages in school. Many of our children baked cakes for our European Bake Off competition which our Year 10 and Year 11 children then sold on Friday to raise money for Macmillan. In total the children raised over £250, which is an extraordinary achievement. We have also had our first whole school Duolingo competition which ends at 3 pm. The winners of the Duolingo competition and also the Bake Off will be announced in assemblies in the coming weeks. Many thanks to all who took part.

Please note that a planned bus strike is expected to disrupt local services from Tuesday 30th September to Thursday 2nd October inclusive. Only two services will be running during this period: the 813 and the 7:56am outbound 758 / 853 inbound route. All other regular school and public bus routes will be suspended. We strongly encourage parents to make alternative travel arrangements in advance. To keep students safe, reduce congestion, and out of respect for our neighbours, please do not drive onto the school site or use surrounding residential streets for drop-off or pick-up. Instead, we ask you to use the "Park and Stride" locations at The Pointing Dog car park or Manchester Rugby Club. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. The strike action could be subject to change; therefore, I recommend that you check the school app or the TFGM dedicated [webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information.





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Today, you will also receive an important letter from Mrs Dooley regarding our School Building Fund. We fully appreciate the financial pressures on families, but every contribution, big or small, goes directly into improving the facilities your children use every day. Thank you for your continued generosity and support in helping us make our school the very best it can be.

In yesterday's Gospel, we heard the parable of the rich man and Lazarus: *"You received good things, and Lazarus bad things; now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish."* This challenges us to reflect on how we live and how we treat others. Earthly comfort and success are fleeting, but what endures is the love and compassion we show, especially to those most in need. As a school family, may we continue to live out our faith by seeing Christ in others and ensuring that no one is left unnoticed, unheard, or uncared for.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

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