



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

6th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 6 Headteacher Update

I cannot believe that we are already in October and that we only have three weeks left of this half term. A reminder that we finish at 3.10 pm on Friday, 24th October. On a personal note, my wife and I are expecting the birth of our second child in the next two weeks. When the time comes, I shall be out of school for 5 days, and the school will be led by Mrs Pardoe, supported by Dr Guscott. Please can I ask that you keep my family in your thoughts and prayers.

A final reminder for our Year 7 parents/carers that our Year 7 Welcome Mass will take place at **5 pm this week 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. Children must wear their full school uniform. Every Form group will take an active role in the Mass.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have already responded to the letter sent by Mrs Dooley last week regarding our School Building Fund. 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. If you can donate, this can be done via ParentPay on your child's account.

Last year, you may remember that our school was shortlisted for the Educate Awards: the Careers and Enterprise Award. We were runners-up in the award last year. This year, I am delighted to announce that we have been shortlisted for the Outstanding Commitment to Sport in a Secondary school. This really does underline the importance of sporting excellence at St James' and how much work and dedication has gone into this area of school from all of the staff and children involved. The awards take place on Friday, 14th November and we hope to go one better this year.

In yesterday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us, *"If you had faith the size of a mustard seed..."*. It is a powerful image: something so small can grow into something life-changing. At school, we see this every day, small acts of kindness, little steps in learning, and moments of courage that, when nurtured, grow into deep-rooted confidence, character, and success. Just as faith begins with trust, we encourage our children to believe in themselves and in the gifts God has given them, knowing that even the smallest beginning can lead to something extraordinary.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

