



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

9th February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 6 Headteacher Update

I cannot believe we are entering our final week of our half term; this half term has been extremely short but also extremely busy!

Advanced notice for all parents and carers of Year 9 children that our Options Evening will take place on Thursday 26th February at 6pm in school. This is an important event where you will have the opportunity to discuss Key Stage Four subjects in detail with subject specialists. If you have any questions about the options process, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Guscott via email s.guscott@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

I would like to wish all staff and pupils taking part in this year's History trip to the Globe Theatre a truly memorable and enriching experience. The visit promises to be a wonderful opportunity to bring learning to life, allowing pupils to deepen their understanding of history and literature in one of the most iconic and inspiring theatrical settings in the world. The group will depart on Friday 13th February and return on Saturday 14th February, marking an exciting and fitting start to the half term break. I am sure the trip will be filled with valuable learning, cultural enrichment and lasting memories for all involved. My thanks go to the staff who have dedicated their time and effort to organising and supporting this visit, and I wish everyone travelling a safe and enjoyable journey.

Next week is national apprentice week; if your child is in Year 11 and is still unsure about their next steps after school, an apprenticeship can be an excellent pathway. An apprenticeship will allow them to continue learning while gaining real experience in the workplace, all while earning a salary. Apprenticeships offer the chance to: earn while they learn; gain hands-on experience in a real job; train with industry professionals; achieve recognised qualifications; start building their career from day one. If your child is interested in exploring apprenticeship opportunities, they can find out more through Trafford College and Stockport College websites and watch this [Day in the Life of an Apprentice video](#).

As we approach our half term break, we also look ahead to the beginning of Lent, which starts with Ash Wednesday on 18th February this year. Lent is a special time in the Church's year, inviting us to pause, reflect and grow in faith through prayer, fasting and acts of charity. At St James', this season encourages us to live out our mission and values by showing kindness, supporting those in need and taking time to reflect on how we can become the best versions of ourselves. When we return from the break, we will mark this important season together through prayer, liturgy and opportunities for charitable outreach, helping our pupils to understand the importance of sacrifice, service and hope as we journey towards Easter.

I hope you have a lovely half term break, when it arrives. Our staff will also be taking a well-deserved break, spending time with their families, and as such will be unavailable via email, thank you in advance for not contacting them. A reminder that school re-opens on Monday 23rd February, if you need anything in these final five days, please contact c.griffiths-davies@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully





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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



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With God all things are possible Matthew 19:26