



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

23rd February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 7 Headteacher Update

I hope you had a wonderful half-term break and were able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends. As we move swiftly through the second term, we have a number of important events coming up in Half Term Four. As always, Miss Bowers will be sending out a key events letter to help you plan accordingly.

Our recent History trip to the Globe Theatre was a fantastic success! A huge thank you to all the staff who generously gave up their own time to ensure our students could take part in this invaluable opportunity. The feedback from children has been extremely positive, and staff have spoken highly of how well our students represented both their families and the school.

For parents of Year 9 students, a reminder that our Options Evening takes place this Thursday, 26th February, at 6pm in school. Dr. Guscott has already sent out key information regarding the event. This evening provides an opportunity to explore Key Stage 4 subjects in depth with subject specialists. If you have any questions about the options process, please feel free to contact Dr. Guscott via email at: s.guscott@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

As we approach the end of the financial year, I would like to remind parents and carers to please check their child's school lunch account on ParentPay and ensure it remains in credit. Currently, around one third of accounts are overdrawn, and as school meals must be paid for in advance, ongoing debt places pressure on funds intended to support teaching, learning resources and wider pupil provision. We are grateful to those families who keep accounts in credit, and we kindly ask others to settle any outstanding balances and continue to monitor accounts regularly. If you are experiencing financial difficulty or believe your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please contact the finance office in confidence so that support can be discussed.

As we begin the first week of Lent, we are invited as a school family to reflect, renew and grow in our faith. Lent is a special time in the Church's year that encourages us to pause and consider how we can live more closely in the example of Jesus through prayer, fasting and acts of charity. Throughout this week, children will explore the meaning of sacrifice, kindness and service to others, reminding us all that small actions can make a significant difference. As a school family rooted in Gospel values, we encourage our young people to use this season as an opportunity to show compassion, seek forgiveness and strengthen their relationship with God and with one another.

Wishing you all a great first week back. As always, if you need any support, please don't hesitate to get in touch at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

