



26th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 7 Headteacher Update

Yesterday was the second Sunday of Lent, the readings beckon us to climb the metaphorical mountain with Jesus, where His transfiguration unfolds before the disciples. This moment of divine revelation reminds us of the transformative power of prayer and the significance of embracing the challenges that lie ahead. In our Catholic school, we encourage our children to ascend their own personal mountains of growth and self-discovery during this Lenten season. Let us inspire them to seek moments of spiritual clarity, just as Peter, James, and John did on that sacred mountain.

Last Thursday our Year 9 Options Evening took place, thank you to all those parents/carers who attended. If you need any support in completing the options form please read the curriculum brochure, email any of your child's individual teachers or email Dr Guscott who leads on our options procedure. A reminder the deadline for options forms to be returned is Friday 8th March.

This Thursday, our Iceland Pre-Trip meeting is scheduled to take place in the Main Hall at school, starting at 6pm. Over the recent half term, we successfully organised two trips to Italy and Germany. I would like to remind parents/carers that our dedicated staff willingly sacrifice their personal time with family and friends to provide your child with culturally enriching opportunities. It is therefore disheartening to report that very few parents/carers took the time to express their gratitude to our staff after these trips. These trips and visits can only run because of the goodwill of staff and should be seen by all, as additional opportunities rather than an expectation. As we plan for the upcoming academic year, we will be reviewing our trip/visit offerings. Staff really value providing these opportunities and do so because they know what enriching experiences they are, however, they will only be willing to continue this if they feel supported by parents/carers, as the organisation and running of them requires much time and dedication. Thank you for your understanding in considering the commitment shown by our staff.

I am delighted to share with you that a group of our St James' staff will be running the Nantwich 10k to raise as much money as we can for CAFOD and to support the children in their fundraising efforts. It is a team of staff who enjoy running and it will really motivate them to know they are raising money for a great cause supported by the whole of our school family. The last sponsored run was in very snowy and icy conditions so we are certainly hoping for better weather, but we know that it will be worth it come sun or snow! As our chosen charity for this year, CAFOD works with local partners and communities across the world - responding to emergencies, promoting long-term development, and raising public awareness of the causes of poverty. They work with people of all faiths and none, for a safe, sustainable, and peaceful world. We hope you will be able to visit our JustGiving page and donate to this fantastic cause, the link is [here](#) and will also be available on X (formerly Twitter).

To assist parents/carers in navigating any enquiries they may have, I kindly request that you refer to the end of this letter for a convenient guide. By adhering to the outlined procedures, we aim to ensure consistency and clarity in addressing various concerns. Your cooperation in following this guide will not only streamline the resolution process but also contribute to effective communication between parents/carers and school. To ensure that we can provide you with the attention and focus you deserve during meetings, I kindly request that all visits to the school for meetings are booked in advance. Parents/Carers are requested not to just arrive at reception and expect to meet with staff. Our dedicated staff members are deeply committed to the well-



being and success of every child, and they often have busy schedules. By scheduling appointments in advance, we can better accommodate your needs and ensure that our staff are available and prepared to address your concerns. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Should you have any further questions or require additional assistance, please feel free to reach out, and we will be more than happy to help.

Have a great week and thank you for your continued support, if you need anything please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

Who should I contact?

If you have questions about any of the topics in the table below, or would like to speak to a member of staff, please email the most appropriate address as set out below. Please include your child's full name and Form group in the subject line. We aim to respond to all emails within 48 hours within the school working day 8.30am to 3.30pm.

I have a question about...	Who you need to talk to
My child's learning/class activities/lessons/homework	Your child's subject teacher
My child's wellbeing/pastoral support	emmaus@stjamesheadle.co.uk
A safeguarding concern	s.guscott@stjamesheadle.co.uk
Payments	finance@stjamesheadle.co.uk
School trips	The lead member of staff for the school trip
Uniform/lost and found	emmaus@stjamesheadle.co.uk
Attendance and absence requests	c.taylor@stjamesheadle.co.uk
Bullying and behaviour	emmaus@stjamesheadle.co.uk
School events/the school calendar	office@stjamesheadle.co.uk
Special educational needs (SEN)	v.bickerton@stjamesheadle.co.uk
Catering/meals	sbm@stjamesheadle.co.uk

