



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Spring Term Week 8 Headteacher Update

As you may know, today is the day when Year 6 pupils discover whether they have been offered their preferred choice of high school, a very exciting but often daunting moment for both children and families. We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming our newest members of the St James' family this September. This year has been exceptionally competitive, with a total of 691 applications submitted for places at our school.

This week is National Careers Week, and we are delighted to be hosting a range of events in school. We will be welcoming guest speakers and representatives from local colleges, who will be working with our children to raise aspirations and provide valuable insight into future education and career pathways. We are always seeking to strengthen and refine our careers provision, and your feedback is extremely important in helping us to do so. We would therefore be very grateful if you could take a few moments to complete the survey linked [here](#).

You may have noticed that our communications feature an updated school letterhead. This reflects an important achievement for our school, the attainment of the Artsmark Silver Award. This nationally recognised award celebrates our strong commitment to high-quality arts and cultural education. Achieving Silver status recognises the breadth of opportunities we provide across art, music, drama and the wider creative curriculum, as well as the dedication and enthusiasm of both staff and children. We are proud of this achievement and see it as a significant milestone as we continue to nurture creativity, confidence and self-expression in all our pupils.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers to be considerate of our local residents when dropping off and collecting students. We have received several complaints regarding unsafe and inconsiderate parking, including vehicles stopping on double yellow lines and parking directly outside residents' homes. In some cases, photographs of vehicles have been taken and reported to the council and the police. I appreciate that the start and end of the school day can be busy, but I ask for your cooperation in parking safely, legally and with respect for our neighbours. This helps us maintain positive relationships within our local community and, most importantly, ensures the safety of all.

In this Sunday's Gospel from Matthew, we hear the words *"His face shone like the sun"*, describing the Transfiguration of Jesus. This striking image reminds us of the light of Christ revealed to the disciples—bringing reassurance, hope and clarity at a pivotal moment. As a school community, we are called to reflect that same light in our daily lives through kindness, integrity, perseverance and service to others. It challenges us to recognise the God-given potential in every child and to support one another to grow in faith and confidence, even when the journey is not always easy.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. I look forward to sharing further positive news with you in the coming weeks. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch at [c.griffiths-davies@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:c.griffiths-davies@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully



St James' Catholic High School, St James' Way, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 6PZ | 0161 482 6900 | [office@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:office@stjamesheadle.co.uk)  
[BlueSky@stjamesheadle.bsky.social](mailto:BlueSky@stjamesheadle.bsky.social) | [www.stjamesheadle.co.uk](http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk) | Headteacher: Mr A Pontifex BSc (Hons) MA NPQH NPQEL

With God all things are possible Matthew 19:26



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher



St James' Catholic High School, St James' Way, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 6PZ | 0161 482 6900 | office@stjamesheadle.co.uk  
BlueSky @stjamesheadle.bsky.social | www.stjamesheadle.co.uk | Headteacher: Mr A Pontifex BSc (Hons) MA NPQH NPQEL

With God all things are possible Matthew 19:26