



30th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 8 Headteacher Update

I hope you have had a lovely half-term break and spent some quality time as families.

As we look ahead to the next eight or so weeks and the build up to Christmas, there is so much happening at St James'. Firstly, we look forward to celebrating our first whole school Mass of the year on All Saints' Day, a Holy day of obligation, on Wednesday this week. A huge thank you in advance to Father Rafferty for giving up his time and celebrating for us. On Thursday 16th November we invite our Class of 2023 back to school for the final time in order to recognise their achievements and present them with their GCSE certificates. I would also like to remind you that school will be closed on Friday 24th November for our INSET day.

Year 11 have their mock exams beginning at the end of November. These are an invaluable experience and provide meaningful feedback to focus them on what they need to work on during their limited remaining time at St James'. Please do encourage your child to follow their revision plan and to speak to their teacher if they have any questions or difficulties. At the end of November, Year 10 have the opportunity to explore their faith with their annual Retreat. This is always a worthwhile and uplifting experience. We also have our Year 10 Parents' Evening that will take place virtually on Thursday 23rd November, more information will follow nearer the time.

All five Year groups will receive their first termly data during this half term. Please ensure that you discuss this with your child and if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher directly via email. Parents/carers with children in Year 9 will also receive their written reports this half term in order to inform discussions before the Options Evening which takes place in the New Year. Our Year 7 Parent/Tutor evening takes place in school on 9th November, giving parents/carers the opportunity to discuss how their child has settled into the St James' family.

Back in 2021, you may remember that our school was shortlisted for the Educate awards in two categories; Outstanding Commitment to Sport in Secondary School and Leadership Team of the Year. We were successful in winning the Leadership Team of the Year award. This year I am delighted to announce that we have been shortlisted for the Innovative and Creative Literacy Award. This really does underline the importance of literacy at St James' and how much work and dedication has gone into this area of school. The awards take place on Friday 17th November and just as in 2021 I hope to report back to you with even more positive news!

The readings we heard yesterday are a call to love. The first reading tells how we are to treat other people, especially the poor, oppressed, and marginalised. The second reading reminds us that the way we live should show that we are followers of Jesus. In yesterday's Gospel from St Matthew, we are presented with the greatest and first of all the Commandments. We are reminded that whatever we do for, and to each other, we do for, and to Jesus himself, and conversely, whatever we fail to do for each other, we fail to do for Jesus. As followers of Jesus, we are not only called to love God, but we are also called and challenged to have concern for those with whom we live and work and to love our friends and relations.

I hope you have a fantastic week. If you need anything this week, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk.



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

