



31st October 2022

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 seven or so weeks and the build up to Christmas there is so much happening at St James'. Year 11 have their mock exams coming up which are an invaluable experience and provide meaningful feedback to focus them on what they need to work on during their 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. Year 10 have the opportunity to explore their faith with a retreat in November. This is always a worthwhile and uplifting experience. We also have our Year 10 Parents' Evening that will take place virtually, more information will follow nearer the time. Parents/carers with children in Year 9 will receive their written reports this half term. This is an example of our school acting on feedback from previous parents/carers who wanted this information before the Options Evening which takes place in the New Year. Year 8 will be having external speakers come and talk to them about the importance of keeping themselves safe and the concerns in and around the local area relating to knife crime. Our Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening takes place in school on 10th November, giving parents/carers the opportunity to discuss how their child has settled into the St James' family at High school.

I am delighted to share that we have already raised over £600 for our school charity of Mary's Meals through a combination of ParentPay donations and fundraising events in school. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed. Through our fundraising efforts in just one half term, we will be able to support the charity to feed and educate 37 children. You can find more information here <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>. Should you wish to donate, we have set up a dedicated option on ParentPay. Donations of any amount would be gratefully received by ourselves and Mary's Meals but we also appreciate that in these challenging financial circumstances this is not always possible.

The Gospel yesterday told us the story of the tax collector, Zacchaeus, who was actually a chief tax collector. Tax collectors cheated and stole from whoever they could and the taxes were paid to the Romans. Zacchaeus knew that he was despised and hated by others. But as Jesus was walking by, he looked up and called Zacchaeus by his name. Jesus called and loved him just as he was and it was for this reason that Zacchaeus changed his way of life. Changing our ways is not easy. It takes courage, honesty and great humility but we are not on our own and Jesus is always with us to encourage and support us. Tomorrow is All Saints' Day and we take a moment to pause and remember all those who have died. Due to the unavailability of priests, we are unable to celebrate Mass in school but there will be a lunchtime service in the Chapel to which all are invited.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher