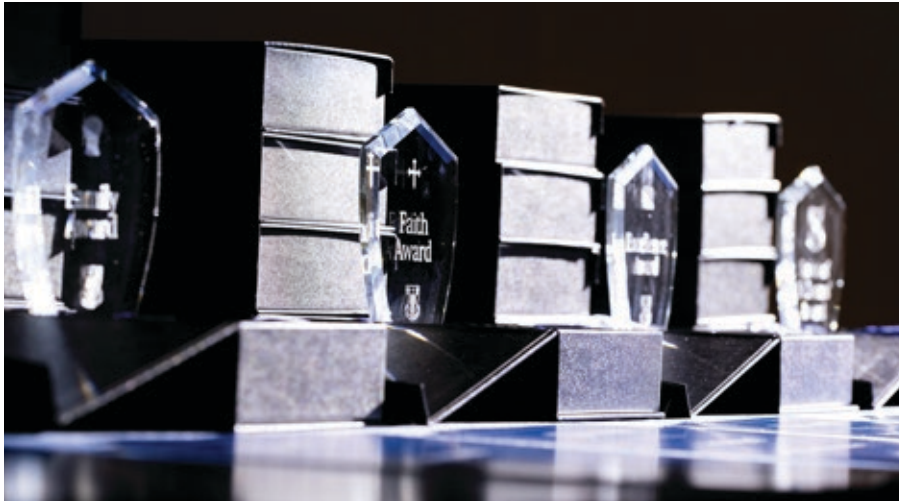
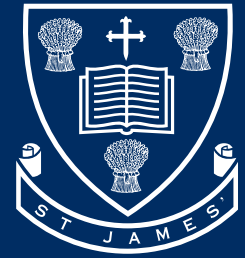


School Newsletter

Summer 2022



The academic year 2022-23 has been a real success. It has not been without its challenges but everyday interactions with children, staff and parents has reminded me what a fantastic school St James' really is. This is not just recognised by the staff who work here or the children who attend but also by visitors to our school, by parents and even by members of the public when St James' children are out of school on trips and visits. I am proud to see so many of our children living out our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence.

Throughout the course of the year, I have seen how our children are developing into global Catholic citizens and as I write this piece and we approach Curriculum Excellence Week, I know what wonderful opportunities still lie ahead before the end of the academic year. We are proud to offer our children so many enrichment opportunities which culminate this year with trips to Spain, London, Chester Zoo, Blackpool and Stanley Green. We will also be upskilling our children in preparation for their future careers with our Year 10 children on Work Experience and a dedicated Careers Day for Years 7 to 9.

When Year 11 left us a few weeks ago, it was the first time in a number of years that we were able to celebrate and it was most enjoyable to share with them in a Leavers' Assembly, to join together in

faith on the feast of SS Peter and Paul to celebrate a Leavers' Mass at Christ Church and finally to see them all in their finery at the Prom. They have shown real resilience throughout their time at St James' and I am so proud of them and look forward to celebrating their successes on results day.

We have had so many successes in different areas of school life this year with phenomenal sporting successes, excellent commitment to the Arts including preparation for the Summer Showcase and Matilda, a plethora of extra curricular activities including Duke of Edinburgh, STEM club, Equality Club, IT Club, Dungeons and Dragons Club to name but a few. This is thanks to the dedication of our staff and the commitment of our children.

Our new Year 10 Prefects have made an impressive start to their tenure and are grouped into Family, Faith and Excellence to reflect our school values. They have been issued with their badges and are wearing these proudly as part of their uniform. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school when we welcomed the new Year 7 children for the first time on Transition Day and they have already had a real impact around school. The ideas they have shared are inspirational and they are so willing to be involved. I am delighted to be able to provide them with these leadership roles and I do hope they will inspire many of our

younger years to apply to be Prefects when they reach Year 10.

We have had Christian Aid as our chosen school charity this year and I am delighted to say that we have raised £2,630, an outstanding amount. As witnesses to their faith, children and parents/carers have also contributed to our Wellspring and Chelwood food bank collections and the Good Shepherd appeal. In total £3,269 was raised for charities, this is incredible especially given the challenging economic climate. As always, we are so proud of the generosity and on behalf of those who will benefit, I extend a thank you to you all. I will be discussing with our Faith Prefects a charity for the next academic year and I look forward to sharing with you.

We have a number of staff leaving us this year including Mrs Malins, Mrs Peters, Mr Lindo, Mrs Gill, Miss Todd, Miss Outhwaite and Mr Kerkham. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their hard work and dedication and I would like to wish them well in their next venture. We look forward to welcoming our new staff to St James' in September along with our new Year 7.

To keep up to date with all school events, if you do not already do so, I would encourage you to follow us on Twitter @ StJamesCheadle and to visit our website www.stjamescheadle.co.uk as it is full of useful information including the latest news updates. Our school term will end on Thursday 21st July at 12.15pm and we have an end of year reflection and assembly planned for the final day. We will return to school on Monday 5th September for Year 7 only and on Tuesday 6th September for Years 8 to 11.

I do hope you have a most enjoyable summer and I look forward to welcoming our staff and children back to school in September.

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



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YEAR 7

How quickly this year has passed. We cannot believe that we are at the end of the year already. Year 7 have achieved so much, and we are really proud of the fantastic Year group they have become.

The highlight of this term was definitely celebrating with Year 7 families at Excellence Evening. Those pupils who received awards were truly deserving of them. However, there are so many additional pupils who could have also been rewarded for their excellent effort, attitude and contributions to school life. It was good to have the opportunity to do this in our film and pizza afternoons.



St James' Day was celebrated 3rd-6th May when the whole school took part in many activities including Pin the Tail on the Donkey, a Scavenger Hunt, a Form Time Quiz and Mastermind. The overall winners of the St James Shield were 7S.



The values of Faith and Family have been on display this term as we have all been busy fundraising for Christian Aid. 7S's high jump proved a great success, Connie in 7E was delighted to win 7C's 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' raffle, lots of goals were saved in 7J's penalty shootout and 7M covered many miles in their sponsored walk. Yet again we have been amazed by the generosity of our pupils and families.



The final termly data reflects all of the hard work and dedication of Year 7 with 123 pupils in the 12 club and 17 pupils receiving an ATL grade 1 in every subject which is an incredible achievement. A special mention must go to Kitty in 7M, Leia in 7J, Isla in 7J and Harrison in 7M who received ATL 1 for all homework as well as classwork. This data really reflects our value of Excellence.

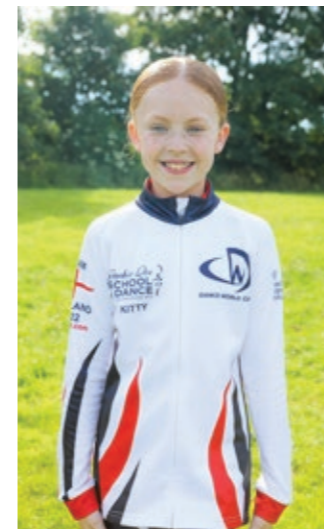
Sporting excellence continued this term both at Sports Day and in the many extra-curricular events. Not only are Year 7 very talented in sports but they also seize every opportunity offered to them. Just some of the successes this year include;

- Boys Stockport Indoor Athletics champions
- Boys Stockport 5-a-side Champions
- Boys Stockport Basketball runners-up
- Boys Stockport Football League Cup runners-up
- Girls Stockport Netball tournament winners
- Girls Stockport Netball B Team tournament winners
- Girls Stockport Dodgeball tournament champions

As a combined team, St James Year 7 earned third place at the Stockport Schools Athletics Championships, being beaten by only the two Private Schools in the Borough, therefore, despite being one of the smallest, we were the most successful state school at the competition.

Harlem in 7J has been retained for another two seasons at Manchester United FC and was selected to go to the Czech Republic and to Madeira. Kitty in 7M represented England in the Dance World Cup in Spain and Oliver 7C has signed a two year contract at Stockport County.

We have enjoyed celebrating these many sporting successes in assemblies where medals and trophies have been presented.



The summer term is well known for all of the exciting CEW week trips and activities. A great time was had by those who went to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. In school pupils took part in a Careers day in the style of Dragon's Den, a Harry Potter themed day in English and an array of activities in Maths including Maths art and bridge building.

As we end this year we say goodbye to two of our amazing Form Tutors. 7S and 7C are both very sorry to see them leave and we all wish them good luck. Miss Outhwaite and Miss Todd will be a huge loss to St James' but a fabulous addition to their new schools.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all Year 7 Form Tutors and Pastoral staff for their hard work and support this year. They have been integral to creating the value of Family within Year 7.

Finally thank you to pupils for their hard work and effort and families for your support. It has genuinely been a pleasure to have been able to be part of this Year group's St James' journey and we know they will continue to be a fantastic Year group under the guidance of Mr Gallagher.

Ms Woods & Dr Nye
Heads of Year 7



YEAR 8

It has been a hugely busy and successful year for Year 8 and I have been so delighted with the progress that they have made. I know that they have worked hard in all their subjects and are looking forward to celebrating the end of year in CEW. I hope those on the Spanish trip have an enjoyable first residential away from home. I have been particularly impressed by Year 8's enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities. They have represented the school brilliantly in both sports and the arts. I am so proud that many of our students are in the Matilda production. Some clubs have been really popular with Year 8 and the pupils were delighted to bring the year to an end with parties and special events, such as the Equality Club and STEM club (pictured). Kathleen, Jess, Lillie, Lucy, Sean and Emily have all recently won the iDEA award for inspiring digital enterprise; well done to them. In English, students were investigating careers in publishing, which complements the extensive exposure to careers that Year 8 students have had this year. Hopefully a session has inspired thoughts of future vocations.

I was proud to announce the winners of awards at Excellence Evenings. Those students did superbly, considering the fact that so many Year 8 pupils go above and beyond what is expected of them in lessons. The winners were:

- Religious Education - Leia J
- Maths - Megan M
- English - Antonia D
- Science - Job C
- History - Harry T
- Geography - Olivia P
- Music - Elizabeth P
- Art - Josh M
- Drama - Dakota T
- MFL - Aidan S
- PE - Sophie H
- IT - John Paul K
- Food and Nutrition - Lucy W
- Resistant Materials - Poppy K
- Textiles - Charlotte D

Our Family award winner was Orla M who is a model student who approaches school life with enthusiasm and humour. Our Faith award winner was Leah R who is an incredibly kind and thoughtful student. Our Excellence award winner was Job C who gives 100% in every single subject, whilst remaining calm, polite and selfless. Our Spirit of St James' award winner was Gabs F, pictured receiving the award from Mr Pontifex, for being wonderfully polite, friendly and conscientious and for being a delight to teach. There are so many students in Year 8 who live out our school ethos and would have

been worthy of these awards. They have adopted habits and skills that will prove invaluable when approaching qualifications and careers in the future. I am very proud of them.

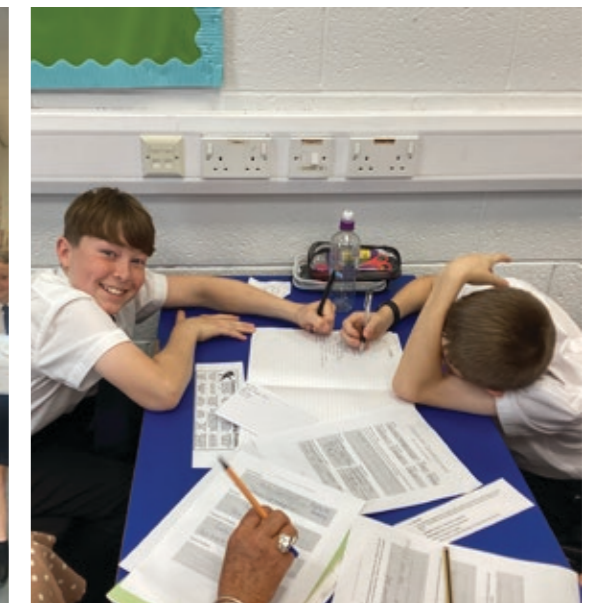
Some students have gone the whole year without receiving a single C point for behaviour. This proves that they are always ready to learn, well organised, complete homework and display a tremendous attitude throughout. To do this every day is a wonderful achievement. Those students are:

- Gabs F
- Sophie H
- Eve K
- Rocco M
- Emily M
- Lucy W
- Sean J
- Maja L
- Olivia P
- Karolina S
- Lucy A
- Valrich F
- Aliah G
- Poppy K
- Dawid K
- Maria O
- Job C
- Chloe L
- Ethan S
- Josh T
- Dillon C
- Leia J
- Megan M

I hope that all Year 8 students realise that they have achieved so much this year and are in a superb position to tackle Year 9 with gusto. This is an important year so I expect students to approach it with maturity, resilience and enthusiasm. When asked what their hopes and aims for Year 9 were, I have received a range of answers. Some are keen to continue their good work and maintain the wonderful friendships that they have cultivated this year. Others were considering the future, aiming for exam success and for being able to study the option they want to at GCSE. Many wanted to be even more involved with extra-curricular activities, such as being in the basketball team or learning a new instrument. Whatever their aims, I hope that the students have a safe and restful summer so that they can start the new academic year full of energy.

I would like to thank the Year 8 Form Tutors for their hard work this year. Mrs Bennett, Mr Walker, Mr Hall, Mr Murphy, Mrs Doyle and Mrs Gill are a wonderful team who support Year 8 brilliantly. I would especially like to express my gratitude to Mrs Malins who is retiring. She is an incredibly caring and kind Form Tutor who always wants the best for 8S; they will miss her immensely. Finally, thank you for your support and I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer.

Mr Cawley
Head of Year 8





YEAR 9



It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of Year 9. It seems to have flown by, although there are a lot of tired minds and bodies amongst the Year group and they are definitely ready for a rest!

This term I have continued to see outstanding attitudes to learning from so many pupils and the final termly data was really pleasing reading. Well done to Revel, Michela, Jude, Eva, Efe, Thomas M, Declan, Jessica N and Freya for getting ATL 1s for classwork across all their subjects. Even more exceptional, was that 2 pupils, Quinn and Imogen M achieved not only ATL 1s for classwork but also for homework across the curriculum too. Fantastic!

It was also great to see the pupils learn so much about themselves and their capabilities from the Duke of Edinburgh expedition, even though some of them said..."never again!!".

The pupils enjoyed taking part in the St James' week challenges, which included pinning the tail on the donkey, penalty shootouts, scavenger hunting and general quizzing. 9C and 9M taking second and third places!

There has been lots of success inside and outside of school. I know lots of our Year 9 pupils compete at a high level in various activities, such as cheerleading, athletics, football, swimming and ice skating and cadets. It's really important to have a good balance of work and play. This always becomes increasingly difficult to manage as exams approach and pressure and intensity increases, but it is important to try and do both.

Excellence Evening was a great opportunity for me to award certificates and prizes to some of our pupils for excellent attitudes, progress or achievement. As I said on the evening, I wish I could have rewarded more pupils, as there are so many deserving students.

Next year brings changes for Year 9. Options have been chosen and GCSEs begin. Please impress upon your son/daughter the importance of regular reviewing of learning and independent revision. They will be sitting Year 10 exams this time next year across their subjects and need to get into good habits early on in the year. Revision classes will take place regularly after school and it is important that pupils attend as many of these as possible to achieve the best possible outcomes.

There will also be the opportunity for your son/daughter to apply to be a Prefect towards the end of the year, so if this is something they wish to do, then it is imperative they get off to a good start in Year 10 and make the best impression. Getting involved in the life of the school and extra-curricular activities would support their application greatly.

I would like to thank the Year 9 Form Tutors and the Pastoral Team for their hard work this year. It has been a pleasure to work with them and your children. I will be taking over the running of the Modern Foreign Languages Faculty next year, whilst Mrs Bennett goes on maternity leave. I therefore must relinquish my role as Head of Year in her absence but look forward to watching over the Year group from a distance until my return the following year. I am sure that Miss Rowley will do a fantastic job, nurturing the Year group.

Thanks for all your support and working in partnership with us to get the best out of your children.

Enjoy the summer!

Ms Cheshire
Head of Year 9



YEAR 10

I can't quite believe that we are at the end of Year 10 already. We've had a busy year with so many different things to celebrate.

Recently the pupils have completed their Year 10 exams in their subjects and I have been delighted with the way in which the pupils have conducted themselves throughout their exam weeks.

I know that they have been thoroughly prepared and it is fantastic practice for next year when they will be taking GCSEs.

Family

The highlight for me was the Prefect process. As you know, the pupils were asked to apply for Prefect positions by filling in an application form and writing 500 words in support of their application. I was thoroughly overwhelmed by the number of applications but more so the words they wrote. I enjoyed reading every single one of them so much.

The process of selecting Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl was incredibly difficult. The pupils that applied for the roles were asked to come for an interview with myself, Mr Maidment and Mr Pontifex and each child stepped out of their comfort zone and performed amazingly. I was so so proud.

A huge congratulations to Qiyi, Georgia, Rodrigo and Crystal who are our new Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl.

Since their appointment they have been involved in lots of things around school and have settled into their positions excellently. I am looking forward to seeing what they and the rest of the Prefect team have to offer as we head into Year 11.



Excellence

Excellence Evening was another particular highlight of this term. I loved presenting all the different awards to everyone and it was so lovely to welcome so many of you back into school.



Back in May, a number of Year 10 girls attended a day at On The Beach head office in Manchester to learn about working in the ICT industry. They thoroughly enjoyed their day.



On Friday 1st July, 22 Year 10 students took part in a taster day at Cheadle College where they attended 3 lessons throughout the day and got a flavour of a day in the life of a college student. They were an absolute credit to St James' and the staff of the college commented on their impeccable behaviour. Well done!



Faith

Throughout this term we have had the opportunity to attend Mass in school every Wednesday at lunchtime and I have been delighted to see so many Year 10 students taking that opportunity.



As we go to print, Mrs Rarity is finalising work experience placements for all our Year 10 students. It is an exciting week for them and we hope that they have a fantastic time learning about the world of work for a week. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Rarity for all of the hard work that has gone into organising the placements.

Finally as we come to the end of the Year, I would like to say a huge big thank you to the Year 10 team, Miss Purkiss, Mrs Moss, Mr Baggaley, Miss Sweeney, Mrs Floyd, Mrs Booth, Mrs Grainger and Miss Hewson for all of their support and hard work with the pupils.

I would also like to thank you for all of your support over this year, have a lovely restful summer and I look forward to welcoming back the Year 11s in September for their final year of high school.

Mrs Linford
Head of Year 10





YEAR 11

And the curtain fell on the final days of St James' Catholic High School for our Year 11s. It must only feel like yesterday that they walked into St James' as Year 7s with uniforms to grow into and a feeling of nerves and excitement about their oncoming journey, finding themselves and each other along the way.

The year has been filled readying the Year 11s for their next steps in life; college applications, careers interviews, apprenticeship events all feel very distant now but it meant that in the last few weeks there was only really one focus....Exams!!!

The four weeks after the Easter Holiday were broken up with practical examinations, oral examinations and last minute written exam preparation. Again the feeling of nerves befell them as they readied themselves for exam season and excitement about their future life paths and summer holidays. These very same feelings that they encountered when they walked through the gates of St James' Catholic High School in September 2017.

Overall a feeling of calm transcended the Year group as they readied themselves for the ups and downs of exams and the last minute preparation. They were a credit to themselves, their families and the wider St James' community.

Indeed, throughout their time at St James' Catholic High School, the class of 2022 have been exemplary in their behaviour, attitude and work ethic. They have performed in plays, sang, danced and played music in a variety of performances, competed in regional sports events, showcased our school during Open Evenings, grown from being the children being shown around

school to the young adults that acted as tour guides and ambassadors for our school at events.

Most importantly, they put a part of themselves into our community and made it their place to learn, grow and work. You made St James' a better place and an amazing place to be. Year 11s, you will be missed.

I hope that they take with them all the lessons they have learnt along the way. The values of Family, Faith and Excellence will also be a gift that they take from St James' Catholic High School and will be a thread throughout their lives.

The Year 11s rounded off their time at St James' Catholic High School with a Leavers' Mass at Christ Church, Heald Green on Wednesday 29th June and celebrated together for the last time as a Year group with a Prom at The Village Hotel, Cheadle on Thursday 30th June. A great night was had by all and I am sure you will join me in wishing them all luck, health and happiness in their future lives.

Finally, I would like to thank the amazing Year 11 Form Teachers, Miss Foong, Mr Hill, Miss Condron, Mrs Williams, Mr Lindo, Mrs Wilby and Mrs Wilde for all the support they have shown our Year 11s during their time at St James' but particularly during the last year.

Enjoy the holidays.

Mr Gallagher
Head of Year 11



SPIRITUALITY

The Summer term has been a busy time for Chaplaincy with the Chapel being a vibrant and busy place for students to go in the heart of the school. This term has seen the continuation of weekly lunchtime Masses at St James', with a brilliant team of clergy from the local parishes regularly coming into school to celebrate Masses, as well as a rapidly growing group of children attending, altar serving and reading at our Masses. As well as this, plans for our new Student Chaplaincy Team are well under way, with a group of student volunteers along with the Faith Prefects meeting to share their ideas for the charity and faith life of the school for the next academic year, as well as contributing their ideas to liturgy and prayer for our St James' family.

Children have also been partaking in Curriculum links between RE and Chaplaincy this half term, with the children having the opportunity to come into the Chapel during their RE lessons, and taking part in a variety of reflections, including peace, Catholic Social Teaching, as well as making prayer beads. Additionally, each Form this term has come into the Chapel during Form time, to pray together as a Form, and start the day off by taking a few quiet minutes of reflection before starting their day.



As we near the end of the school year, I would like to thank the St James' family for making me so welcome in my first half year at St James'. It has been a real joy so far to support the faith of children and experience numerous Masses, liturgies and prayer services together, and I am looking forward to all the exciting things we have going on in Chaplaincy next year.

Miss Hazlewood
Lay Chaplain

ATTENDANCE

With the end of term approaching, now is a great time to discuss all matters of attendance. Our current attendance figure for the whole school is 93%. Our school target is for each child to attain at least 96% attendance. The National attendance figure is currently 90%.

As we are currently below our school target we ask you for your continued support to ensure that we meet this mark. Thank you to all the families who have been working hard to ensure children's attendance and punctuality is high. Establishing good habits early on really will make a positive difference to our children's lives and careers. The link between attendance and achievement cannot be overstated. Your child will achieve better if they are in school every day and they will also;

- Achieve more GCSEs at a higher grade
- Be more settled within school
- Be less likely to be involved with anti-social behaviour

Every school day counts towards your child's future. Days off school equal lost learning. In total there are 175 non-school days a year, this gives families the opportunity to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits and days out
- Attend routine appointments

If your child is to be absent for any reason, please contact the school, before 9am where possible, and no later than 10am using the following number:

0161 482 6900 (Option 1)

Attendance officer – Mrs C Hanley –
c.hanley@stjamescheadle.co.uk
Or via the My Ed App

Mrs Hanley
Attendance Officer

St James' Catholic High School
St James' Way, Cheadle Hulme
Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 6PZ

0161 482 6900
www.stjamescheadle.co.uk

With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26



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