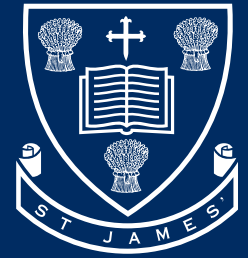


School Newsletter

Winter 2022



As I write this, it is hard to believe we are approaching the end of another Autumn term and it has certainly been a very busy one but we have achieved so much and seen our children live out our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence day in, day out. We are in the privileged position of seeing them looking after each other, supporting charity events and striving for excellence in everything they do. Last week we saw the wonderful production of Matilda which was testament to the many God given talents amongst our children and staff and I would like to thank all of those involved for their dedication and hard work.

Our Year 7 have settled so well into life at St James' and are a real credit to you as parents and carers. It has been fantastic getting to know them, they are a delightful Year group and we are sure they will continue to approach school life in such a positive and engaged way and go on to do great things in their time at St James' and beyond. Celebrating their Welcome Mass with them back in October was a wonderful witness to all that is great about our school community and seeing so

many of them involved in many school activities is so encouraging as we see our school go from strength to strength.

We place great emphasis on our purpose "to educate and develop global Catholic citizens" and this term our children have had many opportunities to participate fully in school life including a plethora of charity events for Mary's Meals including cake sales, Christmas candy cane delivery, chocolate tombola, to name but a few. The amount we have raised so far from contributions from our whole school family is phenomenal. All donations up until the end of January will be doubled by generous benefactors of the charity, we will keep you updated! The Foodbank collection has also benefited from the wonderful generosity of our school family and a huge thanks goes to all those who have contributed in any way. Our children have engaged in extracurricular activities across all areas of school life and as this goes to press our Faith Prefects are leading a Christmas party for our local Parishioners, sharing with them the joy of this wonderful feast.

We are all familiar with the annual celebration of Christmas Day, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, and as well as being celebrated religiously by a majority of Christians it is also celebrated culturally by many non-Christians around the world, and forms an integral part of the holiday season centred around it. The celebratory traditions in various countries associated with Christmas have a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular themes and origins. Amongst the many customs of gift giving, Christmas music, concerts and carolling, an exchange of Christmas cards, church services, feasting, parties, and the display of various Christmas decorations, let us not forget the true meaning. A child was born in humble circumstances and Jesus coming to Earth changed everything and therefore it's a moment we should celebrate with all our hearts as we remember these words "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

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 Wednesday 21st December at 12.15pm, we have various activities planned for the final day allowing children to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, as well as spending time with their Forms.

I would like to wish you a peaceful, happy, holy and healthy Christmas with all good wishes for the New Year. We look forward to welcoming our staff and children back to school on Monday 9th January at 8.30am.

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



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YEAR 7

We are delighted with the way Year 7 have settled into life at St James'. Despite being very nervous when they started in September, the children quickly impressed us with the calm way that they adapted to all their new routines and expectations. It was fantastic to meet our new parents at Parent Tutor Evening and to make that important home, school connection. Year 7 are already reflecting our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence in all they do. It has been a pleasure seeing them integrate into school life so successfully.

Faith and Family

At the start of this term each Year 7 Form enjoyed a retreat day at Savio House that focused on our theme of Gifts and Talents. The day was filled with activities which helped the children to recognise their own unique gifts and talents as well as celebrating the gifts of others.

The work done on the retreat days fed into the Year 7 Welcome Mass that took place at Our Lady's Church, Edgeley. Father Martin's homily inspired us all when he spoke of the importance of using our unique gifts and talents. It was a perfect way to welcome the new children and their families into our community.



Year 7 have learnt the importance of respect, care and compassion for others this term. Their kindness has been obvious in the generous contributions to the Christmas foodbank collections and fund-raising activities that have been planned for Mary's Meals. Each Form has nominated a team of Form Representatives who are doing a fantastic job of coordinating the fundraising efforts.



During Form time and PSHCE Year 7s have displayed great character and have been working together on icebreaker and team building activities as well as focusing on healthy living, enterprise skills and diversity and prejudice.

Every opportunity to impress us and to let their talents shine have been taken this term. A large number of Year 7 contributed to European Languages Day and Bake Off competition with Lucy 7J winning most creative bake and Rory 7A winning most original bake whilst Harry 7E and Olivia 7E won the MFL quiz.



Chromebook Club, Lingua Franca club, Social Club, Dungeons and Dragons and Equality Club all see many Year 7 children contributing. This reflects the genuine enthusiasm that Year 7 children have towards school life, key global issues of sustainability, stewardship, and British Values.

September 2022 saw the launch of the St James' Literary Canon. All children in Year 7 were provided with an age appropriate, suitably challenging fiction text on the theme of 'Troubled Times and Troubled Lives'. Reading for pleasure is a key focus across the school and this has been a great opportunity for the children to access high quality literature and develop their own reading skills. After Christmas we will be swapping their books, so they have a new, exciting book on the termly theme of 'Strange Worlds and Unique Characters'.

The Year 7s have also been lucky enough to be part of the Book Buzz scheme, which is an initiative led by the Book Trust. Children were able to select a book from a choice of 17 different titles, which they have now received, and it is theirs to keep. It was amazing to see the excitement amongst the children when they received their books.

Excellence

The huge number of Value points received by Year 7 has been celebrated each week in assembly when many children have been rewarded with the popular free lunch passes. The pizza reward cinema afternoon was a lovely celebration for the children gaining the most Value points in a half term.



In the termly data Year 7 have shown an incredible attitude to learning, with an overwhelming majority of children completing work to the best of their ability and immersing themselves into new and exciting subjects.

87% of Year 7 children received grade 1 or 2 for their positive attitude to learning in all subjects, earning a place in the 1,2 Club. A special mention, however, must go to Tianna and Hermionie for receiving all ATL 1s in their classwork. This is an amazing achievement.

16 very impressive election statements were submitted by Year 7 children for a place on School Council, reflecting the enthusiasm and interest displayed by this Year group in school life. We are very proud of all who ran for election and look forward to working with the worthy winners; Harry K, Seth C, Luke M, Tianna C, Lucy H and Zara R.



Sporting excellence has also been evident this term with Year 7 boys and girls footballers representing the school;

Boys: Ben H, Alfie H, Max M, Deandre P, Euan N, Noah M, Jason O, Sean P, Riley B, Isaac C, Seth C, Brian A, Jack A, Sam A, Dan B, Crispin B, Charlie D, Ryan J and Luke C. Girls: Bella M, Saoirse R, Zara R, Tianna C, Rose A, Hannah H, Mia S, Erin O'N.

Bella, Saoirse, Rose, Eva, Isabelle O'B, Chesca, Lana, Alfie H, Ben H, Niall G, Dan P have also represented the school at athletics and the following children performed very well at the Stockport School's cross country, Alfie H, Ryan J, Noah M and Isaac C

The Year 7 girls netball team has seen success with Lucy H, Nancy L, Emily G, Tianna, Hannah C, Sophie B, Rose A, Ameila W, Cora B, Lana C, Brooke L, Scarlett M, Hermionie R, Lydia S, Eva D representing school.

Great music and drama skills have been in the spotlight with many Year 7 children joining the cast of Matilda. The Musical Mentors program has also proved very popular with children being assigned an instrumental expert from an older Year group to teach them new pieces. Artistic talent has been another area to celebrate with Tianna C, Ellie S and Cara N winning 'Save the Frog' competition with some amazing entries. These talented winners' work has been submitted online for the worldwide competition in America.



There is clearly a lot of talent within Year 7 and we are confident that children will continue to show a passion for learning in 2023. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Form Tutors; Mrs Williams, Miss Condron, Miss Foong, Miss Jeffers, Miss Bartlett and Mr Hill for their care and support. Their kindness and hard work have contributed to the positive way in which the Year 7 children have settled.

We hope that Year 7 have enjoyed their first term as much as we have, and we would like to thank them for showing such positivity, humour and enthusiasm.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year & we look forward to welcoming Year 7 back in the New Year.

Ms Woods & Dr Nye

Head of Year 7

What the Form Representatives have to say about the best bits of this term...

- J St James' children and staff have been so welcoming
- PSHCE has been a great lesson allowing us to spend time getting to know each other as a Form.
- A Form Tutors have been so nice and have looked after us.
- M We have loved the Chromebooks, using them in lessons, at lunch and for homework
- E The sports activities are really good.
- We have loved football and athletics.
- S Savio was amazing.
- S We like how St James' cherishes morning reflection
- C The value of Family is really good and is shown by everyone being so kind and helpful



YEAR 8

I have been incredibly impressed with Year 8 this term, behaviour is superb for the vast majority of our Year group with 52% receiving zero behaviour points and almost 80% receiving less than 2 behaviour points. Their approach to lessons is, on the whole, mature and sensible, and they are extremely talented in all aspects outside of the classroom with incredible achievement in football, netball and athletics and massive participation and talent in the school drama production. In doing so, it has been really evident that Year 8 has been following our school Values of Family, Faith and Excellence.

Family

In Year 8, children are invited to a careers talk specifically tailored to their interests. So far there have been careers talks from the Hilton Hotel, Manchester Airport and another about careers in law. These career breakfasts are a great way for children to hear first hand experience of certain jobs and can hopefully inspire children to consider what they would like to do once they leave. They will continue throughout the year.

Attendance at clubs has been brilliant with many Year 8s enjoying activities such as STEM club, Youth SVP and the Equality Club where they presented information about other faiths and cultures. We have the largest Year group participation in the Youth SVP who recently wrote Christmas cards for prisoners. We have also had guest speakers coming in to inform us about a range of issues including knife crime. Two of our Year group, Javier and Ashton played the "Last Post" in the school corridors for Remembrance, whilst others took part in a service and laid a wreath.

Some of our Year 8 cohort have been benefiting from some reading and literacy interventions from Year 11 Prefects. We also had 18 children taking part in the drama production Matilda which was a massive hit on the 13th and 14th December.

We have had 30 girls and 33 boys represent school in various sports so far this year. The girls have reached the second round in a national competition in netball, the boys have reached the quarter finals of the Catholic Cup and Stockport League in football and have reached the KS3 badminton finals.

Faith

We have regular attendees at Mass from Year 8 when it is held on Wednesday lunchtime in the Chapel, I am sure those children find the serene experience of Mass a contrast to the hustle and bustle of a normal lunchtime. I hope they can find their peaceful place in school and I am sure this passes onto their peers and lessons afterwards. We are the highest attending Year group at mass and the SVP group, there is strong spirituality running through our cohort, they are the future leaders of our churches, schools and faith.

On 14th and 15th February, Year 8 will be attending a retreat at Ladybridge Connect, Cheadle Hulme. These days will provide an opportunity for children to bond, learn more about their faith and consider the sacrifices and changes we all make during Lent. There will be a letter with more information about this in the new year. The Year group have been brilliant at bringing in food and toiletries for the Foodbanks showing the warmth and kindness that they have for others. We have already completed 3 Charity events for Mary's Meals, 8A ran a basketball competition on the 12th December, 8M ran a Christmas tombola on the 9th December and 8A ran a Basketball challenge on the 19th December.

Excellence

In the recent termly data, a fantastic 75% of Year 8 children made it into the 1,2 club for Attitude to Learning. Nine of those children received a 1 in every single subject; a terrific achievement. Those children were:

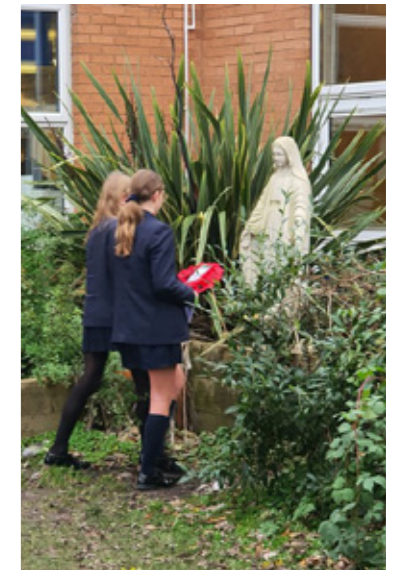
- Miriam A
- Abbie M
- Sadie M
- Abi Q
- Yuri J
- Natalia J
- Katie M
- Robyn N
- Kit C A

Possessing an excellent Attitude to Learning is so important because it enables a greater understanding of the content of lessons and allows children to reach their potential. It has been great, therefore, to see lots of teachers praise children for their excellent work.

Since starting here at St James', the children have shown excellence in all manners of ways. I have been delighted to be able to reward them with 66 free lunches so far this year and am so proud of their efforts. They show the good humour, politeness and diligence I expect from St James' children and I am sure that they will continue this in the new year. Our attendance of 94.9% is good but I am hoping it will be even better in 2022. Attendance is so crucial to a children's understanding of topics and to their enjoyment of the social aspect of school. If any children are worried about catching up on work missed or any other obstacles that may impede their enjoyment of school, I am always available for a conversation as is Mrs McCarthy in Emmaus. Homework club is available every day after school in OR1.

Thank you for all your support in ensuring that our children reach these high demands. I would like to express my thanks for the hard work and care shown by my Form Tutors- Mrs Brown, Miss Frost, Mrs Birch, Mrs Bray, Mrs Clark, Mrs Wear and Mr Fanning. Year 8 are so lucky to have such wonderful Tutors. I hope you and your family have a restful and peaceful Christmas.

Mr Gallagher
Head of Year 8





YEAR 9



Year 9 have enjoyed a successful winter term with plenty going on inside and outside of the classroom. The children were superbly behaved on the River Bollin trips where they analysed the differences between the upper course and the middle course of the river. Some of our Year group also attended the History Battlefields trip. Children were moved by the experience of visiting where so many young men sacrificed their life during the horrendous conflict of World War One. Continuing this theme, Year 9 children were respectful during the whole school Remembrance Day services and have enjoyed creating propaganda posters in their study of war poetry in English.

It has been fantastic to see that the enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities that the children had in Year 7 has not waned two years later; so many children attend a variety of clubs. Year 9 children are integral members of STEM Club, Equalities Club, Computer Club and the School Council. Many of our children are talented

musicians, some spend their free time in the music room whilst others have showcased their abilities in the Matilda musical. The children continue to partake in sporting activities and I've loved hearing about the successes of the basketball team who have reached the Stockport finals. Children have been generous in their donations and involvement in charity events, such as in 9C's brilliant tombola that raised £100.

The termly data is great proof of Year 9's fantastic attitude to learning. The majority of children, 64%, scored an ATL 1 and 2 for both classwork and homework in all lessons. This reflects the hard work that they put into their work. A further 59 children only had a 3 for one subject; showing that if they focused more in that one lesson, the amount consistently reaching outstanding and good Attitudes to Learning would be even more impressive. Ten children achieved the remarkable feat of scoring an ATL 1 for all of their lessons. They were:

- Lucy A
- Grace R
- Ethan M
- Gabs F
- Leia J
- Olivia P
- Anna D
- Megan M
- Humaira N
- John Paul K

It is clear that they, and so many, adopt a mature and purposeful attitude to learning. This mentality will be even more important as children ponder what GCSE Options to pick in the next term. I urge children to choose subjects that they enjoy, that they are good at or ones that may help them meet certain ambitions for their career. Year 9 should not choose subjects because of their friends or because it's the lesser of a number of evils! I am always available to children if they want to discuss this, or any other issue, with me in person.

I would like to thank my amazing Form Tutors, Mr Greenlees, Mr Walker, Mr Hall, Mr Murphy, Mrs Doyle, Miss Nagdee and Ms Cheshire. They are such a supportive group and the Year group is lucky to have them. Thank you for your support this term. I wish you and your family a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Cawley
Head of Year 9



YEAR 10



The Year 10s have made a great start to their two year GCSE journey. The children returned in September eager to learn and full of enthusiasm. They have settled into a routine and have shown our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence.

The value of Family has been evident in the Year group. The children have set high standards in terms of behaviour and uniform, acting as role models to the new Year 7s. They have shown both kindness and positivity, whilst constantly developing new skill sets in their chosen option subjects. It has been a real pleasure to see them grow and develop both academically and emotionally over the last term. It is important that the children now remain focused, work hard and stay positive for the remainder of the year in order to continue to grow and succeed.

The value of Faith is at the centre of everything we do. This term has provided a variety of opportunities for our Year 10s including a trip to the Battlefields which allowed the children to reflect on past events and appreciate what soldiers sacrificed for their country.

At the start of the month children enjoyed a retreat day at Ladybridge Connect where we came together as a Year group to take part in a variety of Advent activities which included making Advent candles and praying for the vulnerable and less fortunate.

The experience allowed us to reflect and appreciate how lucky we are to have such a privileged life and to be part of the St James' family.

All Forms in Year 10 have successfully organised a charity event to raise money for Mary's Meals. The Form events have included a guess the number of sweets in the jar, a darts competition, cake sales and a penalty shootout. The money raised will go towards helping fund school meals for the less fortunate.

The value of Excellence has been highlighted across the Year group in the impressive termly data and assessment results received in November. The attendance of the Year group has been good showing that the children enjoy school and value the importance of being present to avoid missing vital GCSE content. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 10 Form Tutors for all their help and support this term with registration and conducting Form activities.

I wish all members of Year 10 a restful holiday and a very merry Christmas. I look forward to welcoming them back in the New Year.

Miss Rowley
Head of Year 10





YEAR 11

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Time is so precious and I cannot believe we have finished our first term of school for the very last time. I have been exceptionally proud of the children since they returned as Year 11 children in September. I have seen them really embrace the fact that they are in their last year, and I have been super impressed with the commitment that they have shown across their school life.

As always, our 3 core values of Family, Faith and Excellence have been evident throughout the Year group.

Family

We ended Year 10 by appointing a fantastic team of prefects headed by Georgia, Qi Yi, Rodrigo and Crystal, and the team have displayed superb leadership skills and taken on a whole host of responsibilities across school. They have been reading buddies and mentors for younger children, they have hosted lunchtime clubs for children, they have shown families around at our Open Evening, they have been active fundraisers for our school charity – Mary’s Meals, and they have attended lunchtime Masses throughout the term. The team has done so much in such a short space of time, and I continue to be impressed by all the work that they do.

Faith

Our Year 11 Faith Prefects had a wonderful opportunity to participate in the UK Pilgrimage of the Relics of St Bernadette in Chester back in September. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and uplifting experience for the children. Back in October, the children took part in an in-school retreat run by Miss Hazelwood, the theme being Lourdes and Our Lady. The children reflected on 3 important key features of Lourdes, - the stone, the candle and the holy water and considered how these could be brought into their own lives. They wrote private prayers and made prayer beads that represented the rosary. It was a lovely prayerful reflection and I know the children got a lot from it.

Excellence

The children have listened to a number of college presentations during assembly time, so that they are fully informed about their post 16 choices. We have had speakers from Aquinas, Loreto, Xaverian, Cheadle, and Manchester College and in addition to that we had a very well-attended Careers Convention, where we had representation from a variety of colleges and businesses who offer post 16 opportunities. A huge thank you to Mrs Rarity and Miss Ashworth for organising that opportunity for the children. The children are currently making big choices about their futures and filling in application forms, and I am once again, very proud of the way that they are getting themselves organised, visiting open days and attending taster days.

As I write this, the children are sitting their first mock exam and they have a busy couple of weeks ahead of them, however I know that the hard work that they have put in so far will pay off and the results will demonstrate this.

I would also like to give a special mention to our Head Boy Qi Yi who recently spoke at a Catholic Conference at St Bede’s College about the transmission of the Catholic Faith in our Catholic schools. We are incredibly proud of him.

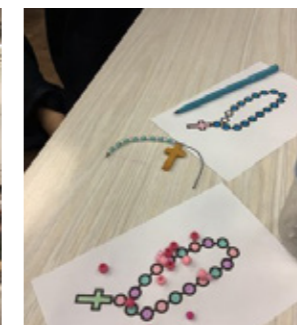
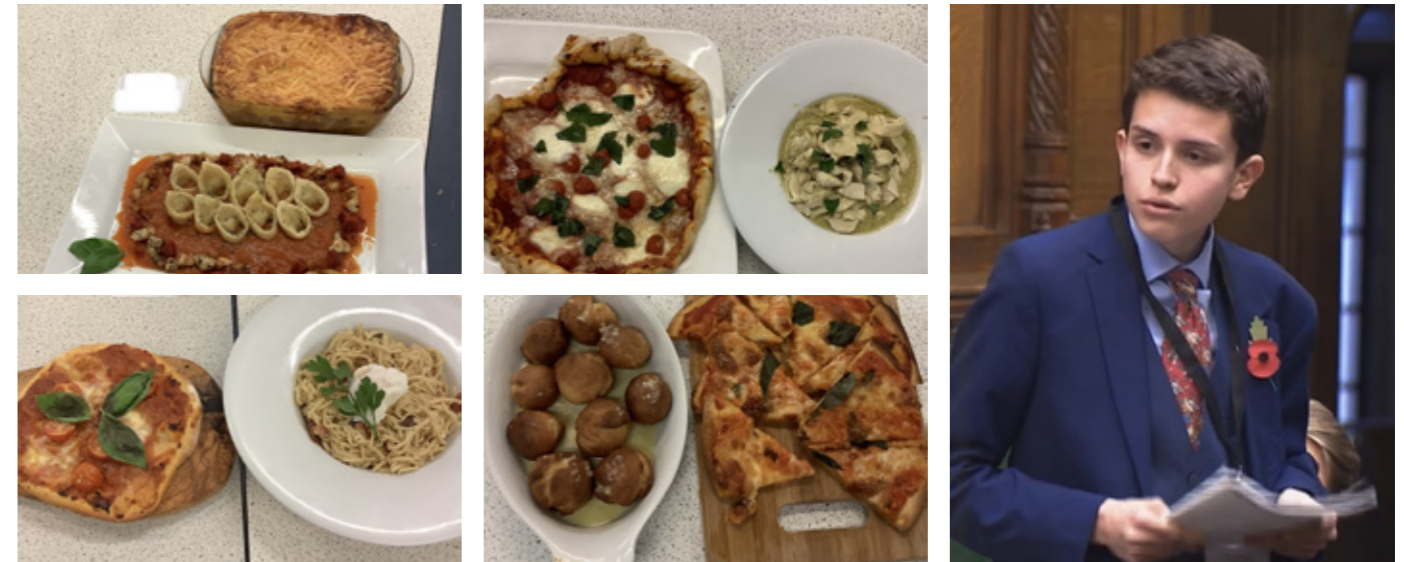
Our Deputy Head Boy Rodrigo attended the House of Commons and spoke about climate change, a subject that is very close to his heart. The full video is on our school Twitter feed and is well worth a watch. We are all so proud of the work Rodrigo does in his role as Member of Youth Parliament.

In GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition children executed their task of 'Italian Cuisine' with creativity and skill. You can see some of the images and I’m sure you’ll agree, we have some very talented chefs in Year 11.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the Year 11 team; Miss Purkiss, Mrs Moss, Mrs Ellis, Mrs Booth, Mrs Floyd, Mrs Grainger and Miss Hewson. They have done so much this term to help and support the children and I am forever grateful for the help and support that they give to me as well.

I hope that you and your families have a restful and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming all the children back on Monday 9th January 2023.

Mrs Linford
Head of Year 11



SPIRITUALITY

In November, we said goodbye to our Lay Chaplain, Miss Hazlewood, who moved on to pastures new but as we recruit for this post, the Faith life of our school continues to go from strength to strength.

Our Faith Prefects have demonstrated excellent servant leadership and as I write this, are finalising preparations for our end of term Christmas service which will be entirely led by our Faith Prefects. It will be an opportunity to pause and reflect as a school family on the real meaning of Christmas. They are also leading a Christmas party for our local parishioners, they really are living out their faith.

During this busy term, children have been able to take time out to reflect and pray. Years 11, 10 and 7 have all had the opportunity to participate in a retreat and in January and February it will be the turn of Year 8 and 9. Children have also been able to participate in prayer at the start of the day with their Forms either in their Form room or the Chapel and the whole school has paused at lunch and the end of the day to share in prayer.

As part of our understanding of Family, and developing ourselves as global Catholic citizens, lots of fundraising has been going

on. The efforts put into raising funds for Mary's Meals, as well as contributions to the Foodbank are testament to the wonderful caring ethos that runs through our school.

You may wish to take an opportunity as a family to pause in prayer:

O God, you once lit up the sky with the heavenly host of angels singing your praises, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Open our ears to hear their good tidings of great joy, join our voices with them in praise, and move our hearts to constant prayer, that in the course of our daily lives we may see your light shining in the darkness, and that we also may shine like the stars in the universe, reflecting the brightness of the true Light; Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a joyous and peaceful Christmas with all good wishes for a wonderful New Year.

Mrs Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance remains above the national average, which is a great achievement.

Regular attendance at school is important as absenteeism will impact on your child's academic progress; children need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education.

A child who has only 90% attendance misses almost 4 weeks of school every year. That's over 100 hours of learning lost. If young people do not attend school regularly, they will experience difficulty in keeping up with their studies. They also miss out on the many activities and opportunities that we offer at St James' Catholic High School that support the curriculum and nurture their growth into young adults. Children who do not attend school regularly are at a greater risk of becoming involved in crime or becoming a victim of abuse.

Here at St James' Catholic High School we believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

Children and parents often don't realise the impact of having time off school;

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Attendance during the school year	Equates to days absent	Which is approximately	Equates to number of lessons missed
97%	6 days	1 week	30 lessons
94%	10 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	95 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	145 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	190 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	240 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	285 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	335 lessons

As a way of celebrating our children who have attained 100% attendance since the start of the academic year, we will be rewarding these children with a selection box this Christmas. Our fortnightly attendance initiative of a £5 voucher continues to be a popular incentive.

Next year, we will be holding a Lenten attendance challenge on the approach to Easter. If you have any concerns regarding your child attendance, please contact me on: c.hanley@stjamescheadle.co.uk | 0161 4826966. Please remember that all attendance/ appointments or leave of absence requests should be directed through myself. May you have the gift of faith this Christmas and many blessings throughout the New Year.

Claire Hanley
Attendance and Family Liaison Manager

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With God all things are possible

Matthew 19:26

