

School Newsletter

Summer 2023



The academic year 2022-2023 seems to have flown by, probably because it has been packed full of so many fantastic opportunities and through many experiences, our children have been living out our school of values of Family, Faith and Excellence. We truly believe in our purpose to "educate and develop global Catholic citizens" and as this goes to press, many of our children have returned from an amazing experience in France, having developed their linguistic and musical skills and with a greater cultural understanding. Our children really are a credit to you as parents and carers.

Curriculum Excellence Week has been full of wonderful opportunities and we are proud to offer our children so many enrichment opportunities including our trips and visits out of school. We have also been upskilling our children in preparation for their future careers with our Year 10 children having completed Work Experience and a dedicated Careers Day for Years 7 to 9. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the children I have spoken to have shared how much they have enjoyed the end of year.

When Year 11 left us a few weeks ago, we were delighted to experience their Leavers' Assembly, to join together in faith to celebrate their Leavers' Mass at Christ Church with Fr Tony and finally to see them all in their finery at the Prom, they were all truly wonderful celebrations. They have shown real resilience throughout their time at St James' and approached their

GCSEs with such maturity. 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 school production of Annie next year, 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. I am looking forward to seeing the Faith Prefects lead each Year group in the end of year reflection. 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 Mary's Meals as our chosen school charity this year and I am delighted to say that we have raised in excess of £1500 so far with more money yet to be counted.

I would like to thank our school Family for their continued generosity, you may still contribute via ParentPay if you wish.

Our Reading Ambassadors are delighted to be running the summer holiday 'Get Caught Reading' competition. We would love children to email pictures of the most creative places that they have been captured reading...whilst horse riding, shopping at the supermarket, walking the dog...absolutely anywhere! Please email entries to Mrs McManus in the Library, j.mcmanus@stjamescheadle.co.uk, where they will be collated and shared via Twitter and on promotional material at school. The most inventive captures will receive prizes once we return to school in September.

We have a number of staff leaving us this year including Mr Hall, Miss Rowley, Dr Nye, Miss Condon, Miss Foong, Mrs Hanley, Miss Blake and Miss Maguire. 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 20th 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 Wednesday 6th September for Year 7 only and on Thursday 7th 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



YEAR 7



We can hardly believe that we are at the end of Year 7. The time has passed so quickly and the children have achieved so much. 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 children who received awards were truly deserving of them. However, there are so many additional children who could also have been rewarded for their excellent effort, attitude and contributions to school life. Luckily we had the opportunity to do this in our film and pizza afternoons as well as in the rewards breakfasts.

The values of Faith and Family have been clearly on display this term with several of our Forms undertaking their fundraising events for Mary's meals. 7C's Mario Kart proved a great success as did 7M's sweet jar challenge.

In April and June two lucky groups of children were invited to the Shrewsbury Diocese Mini DASH event where they participated

in activities to enrich and renew their spiritually, connecting themselves to God by removing them from the routines of daily life.

After the April Mini DASH Seth C reported;

"It was an amazing experience. We were able to talk to lots of people and make new friends. I had lots of fun and really enjoyed the activities. We wrote cards to the sick and to people who needed to know someone cared. This was my favourite activity as I felt happy knowing I was helping people. We also made lanterns, listened to bible readings and collected candles. This was a great opportunity, and I had a wonderful time."

On the 15th June the whole school took part in Clean Air Day. Year 7 children displayed their usual enthusiasm by walking, cycling and even scootering to school where they were greeted by staff handing out the Clean Air stickers. They then took part in

lunchtime activities in the library and had the opportunity to write a Clean Air Day pledge and play a Kahoot quiz during registration. Well done to 7A who were the quiz winners.

Applications for the position of Reading Ambassador were submitted by a large number of children and our congratulations goes to Ruby R, Finn P, Rose A, Isabela M, Chesca-Belle S and Hermionie R who were selected for this role.

The final termly data reflects all the hard work and dedication of Year 7 with 138 children earning Attitude to Learning grades of either 1 or 2 and 17 children missing their place in the 1,2 Club due to just one subject. A special mention must go to JJ B, Olivia C, Zara C, Gill C, Theo G, Max I, Charlotte L, Ysee R, Ruby R and Sebastian S-R. These children received an ATL grade 1 for their classwork in every subject. This is an incredible achievement, and the Year 7 data really reflects our value of Excellence.

Sporting excellence continued to be celebrated this term in the many extra-curricular events. Just some of the successes this year include dodgeball, basketball, badminton, athletics, football, and netball.

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

Chester Zoo and Blackpool Pleasure Beach in addition to Sports Day and the activities on Science, PE and Careers days.

As we end this year we say goodbye to one of our amazing Form Tutors. 7A are very sorry to see Miss Condron leave and we all wish her every success and happiness. Miss Condron will be a huge loss to St James' but a fabulous addition to her new school. We also sadly say goodbye to Dr Nye who is relocating in September. Dr Nye has been Head of Year to a great many children over the last 20 years and has been a great support to both them and to staff in her pastoral role and as a teacher of Science. I personally will be lost without her and know that she will be greatly missed.

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 the children for their enthusiasm 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 and Dr Nye
Heads of Year 7





YEAR 8



As we approach the end of the year, I want to begin with thanks for our amazing parents, carers and children. Sincerely, I thank you for all the support and understanding that I have been shown whilst you allowed me to care for your precious children. Year 8 has been a year of growth, there is a real sense of maturity within the Year group that will be needed before decisions are made on future studies in Year 9.

Behaviour is superb for the vast majority of our Year group with 79 children (48%) receiving zero behaviour points and 100 children (62%) receiving less than 1 behaviour point this term. This year an incredible 51 children (31%) have received zero behaviour points and 76 (46%) have only received one behaviour point. What an incredible achievement. It is testament to your support at home as well as the aspiration and dedication of your sons and daughters in school. I am just as proud of them as you are.

Year 8's approach to lessons is on the whole mature and sensible, and they fully immerse themselves in all aspects of extra curricular life. This year an amazing 77 children (46%) have represented St James' school teams at a competitive sporting fixture. This is the most in the school. They are extremely talented in all aspects outside of the classroom with incredible achievement in football, netball and athletics and brilliant participation in the Year group retreat days. In doing so, it has been really evident that Year 8 has been following our school ethos of Family, Faith and Excellence.

Family

Year 8 fully immerse themselves in the life of the school, attendance at clubs has been brilliant with many Year 8s enjoying activities such as STEM club, SVP society, the Equality Club, Art Club, Choir and Orchestra and obviously the sports that Year 8s excel at.

Both the girls and boys were runners up in Stockport Schools Athletics Championships, we had several individual winners, but a particular mention must go to Harlem M whose 800m time would have won the Year 9 and Year 10 competition! The boys also won the treble; they won the Stockport Cup at Edgeley Park, the Greater Manchester Catholic Cup at Avro FC and the Everton Invitation Tournament at Finch Farm (Everton's training ground). I hold high hopes for future years that the boys and girls can build on this year's success.

The careers talks specifically tailored to the interests of the children have finished, every child in Year 8 has been invited to a careers talk at some point in the year. We have had brilliant talks from a BBC Match of the Day producer who is St James' alumni and this week from the Head of Football at Stockport County. The children get to hear first hand from jobs that they have shown an interest in and it will hopefully inspire them to consider what they would like to do once they have left school and help them with option choices next year.

Faith

Every Form has now completed a charity event for the schools designated charity, Mary's meals. As a Year group we have raised close to £300. We have also been serving our community as toilet stewards, helping peers recognise the importance of respecting our own environment and taking responsibility for our own area of the school.

Year 8s have again attended school Mass in greater numbers than other Year groups, they will grow to share their faith with others and I am really proud of them.

Excellence

In the recent termly data, a fantastic 121 children (73%) from Year 8 made it into the 1,2 club for Attitude to Learning. An amazing 18 of those children received a 1 in every single subject; a terrific achievement. Those children were:

- Miriam A
- Kit C A
- May C
- Alexandra D
- Ben H
- Luke H
- Natalia J
- Yuri J
- Harry K
- Grzegorz M
- Abbie M
- Niamh M
- Katie M
- Talia O
- Florence P
- Abi Q
- Ella R
- Sofia W

An incredible 49 (30%) children had less than 2 ATL 2 grades and the rest 1s.

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.

Your children show good humour, politeness and the diligence I expect from St James' children and I am sure that they will continue next year and beyond. Our attendance of 93.2% is the second highest year attendance in school and 5.5% above national average. Attendance is so crucial to a child'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, Mrs Linford is always available for a conversation as is Miss Ellison and Mrs Stewart in Emmaus. Homework Club is available every day after school in ORI.

Thank you for all your support in ensuring that our children reach these high standards. I would like to express my thanks for the hard work and care shown by the Form Tutors- Mrs Brown, Mr Nokes, 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 summer break. It has been a pleasure to build so many wonderful relationships with you and your children this year, and serve them as best I could, they are a credit to you all. Thank you.

Mr Gallagher
Head of Year 8



YEAR 9

I have been delighted that the majority of Year 9 children have continued to display the fantastic attributes and characteristics that have been so evident throughout Key Stage 3. To consistently have a positive Attitude to Learning, even in lessons not opted for at GCSE, represents the conscientious nature of the Year group and proves how well-placed they are for Key Stage 4. They are a truly special Year group and I am so glad that the high standards they demanded of themselves in Year 7 have not dipped with age. This success is most evident in their excellent termly data. 69% of children scored an ATL 1 or 2 for every single subject that they study and a further 15% would have joined them had it not been for just one erroneous 3. The following children achieved the incredible feat of scoring an ATL 1 for every subject for either class work or homework:

- Bill R
- Gabs F
- Mya R
- Grace G
- Andrea J
- Grace R
- Humaira N
- Anna D
- Natalie S
- Alex F
- Olivia P
- John Paul K
- Ethan M

The childrens' efforts have been recognised during Excellence Evening and through a series of rewards. The children named above were given a pizza lunch alongside children who had received the most value points during the half-term. Children who had been perfectly behaved all year were treated to a rewards breakfast, whilst it was great to see special recognition during Excellence Evening. The winners were:

- RE: Megan M
- Maths: Olivia P
- English: Emily T
- Science: Lennon M
- History: Ethan M
- Geography: Toby D
- Art: Orla M
- Music: Job C
- Drama: Sadie O
- MFL: Harry T
- PE: Corey L
- IT: Logan H
- Food and nutrition: Michael B
- Resistance materials: Olivia M
- Textiles: Lara C
- Family: Sophie H
- Faith: Mya R
- Excellence: Sean J
- Spirit of St James': John Paul K

Whilst childrens' standards have not dipped, neither have their contributions to the wider aspects of school life. Extra-curricular participation remains very high, such as in the STEM club, Computer Club, Warhammer Club and in sports. We have many talented actors and musicians who represented the school in the Atomic Voices Paris trip, production of Annie and even in a local pub where our band PR2 performed. There are many compassionate and altruistic members of the Year group who are always keen to try to help those in need, shown by being Reading Ambassadors, discussing key issues in Equality Club and contributing to charity ideas. 9S's donut sale went down a treat, as did 9A and 9E's raffles. 9J and M joined forces to raise money via a basketball challenge, which was won by Bill R and Charlie D. The Year group's compassion was evident in the respect they showed our speaker during a powerful and moving Global Acts of Unity talk.

I am so pleased that Year 9 has been so well behaved throughout Key Stage 3. It seems to have come around so quickly and I am really confident that the children possess all the skills and the attitude needed to face GCSEs. I would like to stress the importance of attendance. Whilst most of us would be happy with 90% in a test score, 90% attendance means missing one day a fortnight, which instantly hinders a child's academic progress. I understand that there are many aspects of school life and teenage life that are very difficult and will be challenging so I'd like to reiterate my assurances that I am here for times when the obstacles to learning become too much, as are the childrens' Form Tutors.

I'd like to thank my wonderful Form Tutors for their incredible work with Year 9, especially the departing Mr Hall who leaves 9M with all our best wishes. Thank you for all your support, and I'd like to thank the children for being pleasant, polite, good humoured members of the school. I hope they have an enjoyable, restful summer and I look forward to welcoming them back in Year 10.

Mr Cawley
Head of Year 9





YEAR 10

The summer weather seems to have had a positive impact on the Year group as a whole and the children have been full of joy and happiness over the last term. The children have remained settled and have shown our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence. It has been an absolute pleasure to be Head of Year 10 and I am exceptionally proud of each and every individual for their achievements this academic year.

The value of Family has been highlighted across the Year group. Since the Year 11s departure, the Year 10s have acted as role models to the younger children. They have had smart uniforms, shown enthusiasm and had a brilliant attitude to learning. They have continued to grow and develop into polite, well rounded, young adults with a strong work ethic.

The Year 10 Apprenticeship Evening took place this term. The children found it a really useful and insightful experience to talk to employers about career options. The children also have a work experience week coming up in the last week of term which is an

exciting opportunity to gain new skills and learn about the key roles of a specific career. Hopefully it will inspire them to start thinking ahead and planning for the future once they leave St James'.

The value of Faith is in everything we do and after all 'with God all things are possible'. As a Year group we have used Form time to pray and reflect on the core values of life. In assembly we have discussed the importance of giving back to our community and helping others to make the world a better place. I think it is really important that the children realise how lucky they are and I am always recommending that they take any opportunity to help with charity work or the sick and vulnerable.

The value of Excellence has been evident across the Year group. The children have recently had the opportunity to do mock exams in most subjects. This is a valuable experience to show their progress and allow them to practise for the GCSE exams next year. In general, I have been very impressed with how mature and

hard working the children have been in terms of preparation and attending extra revision sessions. The children need to make sure they continue the hard work next year.

The Year 10 boys football team has also excelled this term. They won the Stockport Cup final and came runners up in the Cheshire Cup. The standard was exceptionally high and the boys should be very proud to have got this far against so many other schools in the area.

A group of Year 10s also completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver award this term. The children pushed themselves to their limits and were self-sufficient in navigating, camping and carrying all of their possessions with them over the 3 days. The children should be very proud to receive such a prestigious award which will allow them to stand out when applying for colleges and jobs in the future.

The attendance of the Year group has been good showing that the children value the importance of being in school in order to prevent missing out on vital GCSE content. This has been celebrated with an attendance lottery whereby children have won Amazon vouchers to celebrate.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the amazing Year 10 Form Tutors; Miss Brett, Mr Baggaley, Miss Mylott, Miss Toner, Mrs Healey, Miss Allen and Mr Reid, for all their help and support this term. Thank you for your support with the children and I wish all members of Year 10 a fabulous summer holiday. I hope they have a relaxing time off and come back refreshed and ready for the all-important Year 11.

Miss Rowley
Head of Year 10





YEAR 11

This term has definitely been the busiest for the Year 11s and I am so proud of the way that they have taken everything in their stride. When we returned to school after the Easter break, they were fully aware that they only had a few weeks before their first exam on the 15th May.

I was so delighted to see so many of them attending revision classes after school and was equally delighted that the attendance figure for Year 11 remained high in the run up to, and during, the first few exams.

The children have been amazing regarding their exam preparation, and when it was time to go into the hall to sit their exams, they conducted themselves calmly and very maturely. It made for a fantastic start to each of their exams.

On the 24th May, we said our initial goodbye through an emotional leavers' assembly which I loved delivering to them. Raking up old pictures and sharing them was definitely one of the highlights. The exam season has gone without a hitch and I am so glad that the children are now enjoying their very well deserved long summer break.

On the 28th June we celebrated together at Christ Church in Heald Green with a lovely and prayerful Leavers' Mass. Fr Tony celebrated Mass and during his sermon encouraged the children to really think about what they wanted out of life. It was a truly lovely celebration. A big thank you to our fantastic Head Girl and Head Boy, Georgia and Qiyi for putting together our readings and our bidding prayers.

The following evening we held our Prom at Edgeley Park and it was a fantastic event. We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating with them and it was amazing to see so many of them enjoying the time with their friends.

An enormous thank you to the amazing Year team that have supported me and all the children throughout their five years as St James'. I have very much enjoyed working closely with them and wish them lots of luck as they move to the new Year 7 team. Miss Purkiss, Mrs Moss, Miss Stancombe, Mrs Ellis, Mrs Booth, Mrs Floyd, Miss Hewson and Miss Grainger - thank you for all that you have done.

I also want to thank the amazing team of Prefects who have worked tirelessly throughout Year 11, even giving up their last day of their summer holidays back in September 2022 to help the new Year 7 children settle into school.

I want to finish by saying an enormous thank you to each and every Year 11 child and their families. It has been an absolute pleasure to be their Head of Year for the past 5 years. I have loved watching them grow into the delightful and mature young men and women that they have become. I will miss them very much and I truly wish them all the very best for their journeys beyond St James'.

Have a restful summer.

Mrs Linford
Head of Year 11



SPIRITUALITY

The Catholic life of our school underpins everything we do and is Christ centred with our school purpose being "To educate and develop global Catholic citizens." This half term we have continued our fundraising for Mary's Meals and I look forward to sharing the total we have raised once all monies have been added up. It is still possible to donate via ParentPay if you wish. I will be discussing with our Faith Prefects a charity for the next academic year and I look forward to sharing with you. The tenure of our Year 11 Prefects has now finished. Our new Y10 Prefects have assumed their new roles and the Faith Prefects are currently working on a service of thanksgiving as part of the end of year assemblies that will take place on our final day of the term. They are involving representatives from each Year group affording all children the opportunity to actively participate. Some of our children participated in Mini DASH at Holy Angels in Hale Barns, they had a wonderful time and were accompanied by Miss Foong. Every day we pause in prayer as a school family at the beginning of the day, before lunch and at the end of our day. It is wonderful to see the children engaging with this.

You may wish to share this prayer with your family, as we begin our summer break:

We put ourselves into Your hands, and pray that You will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer. May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summertime. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen
Wishing you a restful and enjoyable summer.

Mrs Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Firstly, congratulations to our children on a good term; our whole school attendance remains above the national figures. We have also been awarded a 'National School Attendance Award' for the Spring term for being in the top 10% of all FFT secondary schools. However, there is still room for improvement!A child's attendance will directly affect their achievement in school. Evidence shows that a child's progress and attainment is affected if their attendance falls below 90% and statistics show that if children miss just 17 days of school, their GCSE attainment is likely to drop by an entire grade.

It is important that we help our young people to get into the good habits that they will need in the workplace. Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential in their future employment. Children who develop a poor pattern of attendance and punctuality will be monitored by the Pastoral Team and you may be invited into school for a meeting. As a parent/carer, you are legally responsible for ensuring that your child attends school regularly and is punctual.

As a way of celebrating children who have attained 100% attendance for the whole academic year, they will be rewarded

with a £10 gift voucher and a badge to wear on their lapel. These will be handed out at the beginning of the next academic year.

The Form in each Year Group with the highest attendance percentage for the academic year will receive chocolates to enjoy on the last day of term.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact me on ;

attendance@stjamescheadle.co.uk | 0161 4826966.

Please remember that all attendance /appointments or leave of absence requests should be directed through myself rather than Form Tutors.

Wishing you all a restful summer holiday

Claire Hanley
Attendance and Family Liaison Manager



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With God all things are possible

Matthew 19:26

