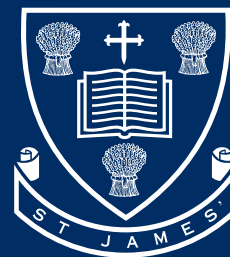


School Newsletter

Spring 2024



As we near the conclusion of the spring term, reflecting on the past few months brings a sense of awe at the sheer volume of activities and achievements embraced during this time. Each Year group section encapsulates the richness of experiences we've shared. With the first signs of spring gradually appearing, anticipation for the forthcoming summer term is palpable, carrying hopes for brighter, sunnier days ahead.

Our Year 11 children have already begun their examinations in subjects such as Food and Nutrition, Art and Drama GCSEs. As we approach Easter, the pace of exams will intensify, and I request your thoughts and prayers as they navigate this demanding period.

The conduct of our children continues to fill me with pride as they consistently embody the core values of our school. The diverse array of activities undertaken serves as a testament to the excellence and faith ingrained within our family, evident in every facet of school life, particularly highlighted in the Catholic Life of the School section. The generosity of our school family shines through in the donations made to Cafod,

our designated school charity for the year. The concerted efforts of both staff and children across all Form groups not only support these fundraising endeavours but also exemplify the familial bond cherished here at St James'.

Throughout the academic year, numerous opportunities have been extended to our children, ranging from educational trips to Berlin and skiing in Italy to engaging in sports events like Manchester Thunder Netball. These experiences align with our overarching mission to nurture global Catholic citizens.

Our commitment to promoting literacy remains steadfast, as evidenced by the vibrant celebrations of World Book Day across the school. From themed dressing to incorporating reading into lessons, our dedicated teachers and librarian continuously enrich our reading provisions, underscoring the importance of literacy in education.

I'm thrilled to report the flourishing growth of our St James' Alumni Network, a testament to the enduring connections forged within our community. Past

students and staff members have remained engaged with the school, contributing their valuable insights and experiences, a testament to the enduring impact of our shared journey.

For the latest updates and news, I encourage you to follow us on Twitter @StJamesCheadle and explore our website, www.stjamescheadle.co.uk, brimming with valuable information. As we approach the term's end on Thursday 28th March at 12.15pm, our final liturgies will offer moments for reflection on the profound significance of Easter, the cornerstone of our liturgical calendar.

As Easter approaches, I extend warm wishes for joy, holiness, and good health to you and your loved ones. May the spirit of Easter, commemorating Jesus' resurrection, fill your hearts with abundant blessings. I eagerly anticipate welcoming our staff and children back on Monday, 15th April at 8:30 am.

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

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 has allowed us as a school family to experience the Lenten season, with children reflecting on the real meaning of Lent and the three pillars of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

We have also continued to promote the principles of Catholic Social Teaching for example our Youth Ambassador Travel Group supporting Stewardship through promoting sustainable travel "God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and guard it" Genesis 2:15. The whole school has focused on raising money for charity supporting the principle of Option for the Poor "When Lord did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our school charity, CAFOD, so far this year, we have raised over £1900 which is incredible.

Three out of our five Year groups have now participated in their retreats led by the Shrewsbury Youth Mission team and they were a very worthwhile experience for all, giving much needed time and space for prayer and reflection. Year 8 and Year 9 will participate in theirs next half term.

We have also been blessed to have three of our Parish Priests, Father John, Father Tony and Father Peter come in to celebrate lunchtime Masses. We are lucky to have such supportive local clergy. This Maundy Thursday we will gather as a whole school family to remember the Last Supper and the sacrifice Jesus made for us. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and holy Easter and I leave with some Lenten thoughts from Pope Francis: "We are not alone: Jesus, the Living One, is with us, forever, let the Church and the world rejoice, for today our hopes no longer come up against the wall of death, for the Lord has built us a bridge to life."

Mrs Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher





YEAR 7



It has been another busy term at St James' for Year 7 and we are so proud of the excellent attitude the children continue to display around school.

Values of Family and Excellence

Over the last few weeks there have been many opportunities for children to take part in exciting and interesting activities. In February Quinn 7J, Rory and Leo 7A, Scarlett and Poppy 7C and Nicole 7J took part in the Royal Society 2023 Young People's Book Prize. Our winner was 'Am I Made of Stardust' by Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock. This was submitted and children were able to watch a live streaming of the awards ceremony on 19th March.

Great music and drama skills have been in the spotlight with many Yr7 children joining the cast of Annie.

Jessica C, Jack W, Connie R and Sophie T were fantastic and reflected our values of Excellence and Family when they represented St James' at a Youth Travel Ambassadors event. After a successful pitch to 3 industry judges the children won £500 to support with rolling out our campaign.

World Book Day was celebrated with many literacy activities including 'My Favourite Book' scavenger hunt. The worthy winner of the prize draw for this event was: Erin G 7E. Children also took part in Guess the number of words in the book 'Twitch' by M G Leonard which contains 89700 words. The winner of the book was Cat B 7M and Grace T 7M won the book, 'Johnny and the Bomb' by Terry Pratchett for her guess. As part of Drop Everything and Read

all children listened to a short story, 'The Strap Box Flyer' by Paul Jennings over the course of their five lessons.

Thursday 14th March children celebrated annual Pi Day, an opportunity for Maths enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi and talk about Maths. Children competed in naming the dingbats stuck up around the school building. In this same week we also celebrated British Science week, where in Science lessons children were given the opportunity to investigate Science careers. A large group of Year 7 children also took part in the Road to RIAT STEM Challenge Day where they worked as Engineers to design and make aircraft prototypes. The children had to solve problems, design, manufacture and cost their prototypes before setting off on their test flights. Throughout the day children developed skills in teamwork, leadership, communication, creativity, and problem solving. All children will receive a British Science Association CREST Discovery Award to acknowledge the amazing work they completed. Sadly, there could only be one winning group and it was a difficult decision. Grace, Mia, Emily, Faith, Issy, Molly won and will now go up against other schools for the chance to watch the Royal International Air Tattoo. It was an incredible day, and we are very grateful for Ant from the Smallpiece Trust and the RAF for such an inspiring event.

We are delighted to have been able to reward so many of Year 7s this term for both excellent punctuality to school and lessons and for receiving no behaviour points. These impressive achievements have been rewarded with the very popular Value passes which entitled children to a free lunch and to go to the front of the lunch queue. Awarding so many deserving recipients the value passes in



our weekly assembly, reflects what an excellent Year group Year 7 are. As our half term rewards there have been two fun filled cinema afternoons. The children nominated were able to take a friend to a pizza lunch and a film afternoon. Children in 7J and 7E have also enjoyed rewards Form breakfasts for outstanding behaviour and for supporting each other and significantly improving their behaviour data.

It was fantastic for staff to share lots of excellent academic feedback and discuss the termly data at the Year 7 Parents Evening on 21st March. Although this was a virtual event it was very well attended, and we hope you found it useful and informative. We are delighted with the number of Year 7 children who received grade 1 or 2 for their positive Attitude to Learning in all subjects for both homework and classwork. A special mention must go to Cara B, Poppy R and Rory W who received all ATL 1 for both classwork and homework. This is such an impressive achievement.

Excellence in Sports

Hiedi, May, Scarlett M, Dolly, Macy M, Amelia, Olivia, Lexi-Mae, Millie and Grace B participated in the Greater Manchester Determination Festival where they took part in climbing, archery, scootering, an assault course and team building games. The children were fierce taking on every challenge. The netball team have had some great wins since January and are improving each game. The girls hockey team came 3rd in the Stockport schools competition. The girls football team came 1st in the great Manchester Catholic Schools cup. They also played Hazel Grove in the league winning 4-1. The boys football team had a great win over CHHS 5-0.

Value of Faith

7S confidently delivered their Form assembly this term celebrating individuality. The sense of faith and family was evident in the beautiful prayers and readings that they shared.

During the Lenten period children have taken part in fundraising charity events and were encouraged to participate in CAFOD Family Fast day. This involved giving up a snack that they would have bought that day, and instead donating the money saved via ParentPay to CAFOD. Children have bought cakes, raffle tickets for Easter eggs and donated spare change for our chosen charity, CAFOD.

We couldn't be more impressed by the commitment and the dedication that Year 7 children have put into both their classwork and extracurricular activities. We wish them the restful and Holy Easter break that they deserve and look forward to welcoming them back for their final term of Year 7.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to thank all Year 7 parents and carers, pastoral staff, and our team of Form Tutors for their continued hard work and support in ensuring our values of Faith, Family and Excellence are upheld. Wishing you all a happy Easter break.

Ms Woods & Miss Hewson
Heads of Year 7



YEAR 8

I have been incredibly impressed with Year 8 this term, behaviour is superb for the vast majority of our Year group. 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

This year, the Year 8 pupils are invited to a careers breakfast, a talk specifically tailored to their interests. So far there have been careers talks from Stockport County about careers in sport, a presenter from Radio 5 Live came in to talk about careers in the media, a doctor spoke about careers in medicine, a police officer came to talk about careers in the emergency services and Mr Pontifex talked about careers in education. Hopefully our children enjoyed these talks and heard first hand experience of life in the industries they are interested in. I hope we have inspired them to consider what they would like to do once they have left school.

We also had an outside speaker to talk about Knife Crime in March, each Form spent an hour with him. Educating our children to keep them safe and behave appropriately is important for our future society.

Attendance at clubs has been brilliant with many Year 8s enjoying activities such as STEM club and 25 regularly attending Chromebook club.

We had 20 children who were superb in the school drama production, Annie, including Cara N and Olivia Y who shared the lead role. They were both phenomenal as were the rest of the cast. The production took place over three nights and was simply incredible. Well done to all involved.

We have had 33 girls and 43 boys represent school in various sports so far this year.

Faith

We have six regular attenders at Mass from Year 8 when it is held on Wednesday lunchtime in the Chapel, I am sure those students find the serene experience of Mass a contrast to the hustle and bustle of a normal lunchtime. We had a year group Mass in March and 30 students packed the chapel out with Fr Peter. There is strong spirituality running through our cohort, they are the future leaders of our churches, schools and faith.

We are excited about our Year team retreat on the 17th and 18th April 2024. We will be going to Total Fitness to spend the day with the Shrewsbury Diocesan Youth Team to think about values and what we value in Life and how we can place those things at the forefront of our minds when other things try to get in the way.

Excellence

In the recent termly data, a fantastic 73% of Year 8 children made it into the 1,2 club for Attitude to Learning, meaning they achieved a grade 1 or grade 2 in every subject. This is a slight dip from the 75% they achieved in term 1. Nine of those children received a 1 in every single subject; a terrific achievement. Those students were:

Daniela B 8S
Olivia C 8C
Seth C 8M
Charlotte L 8S
Finn P 8J
Ysee R 8J
Ruby R 8J
Hermione R 8E
Olivia Y 6E

Incredibly 3 of those pupils have managed to get ATL grade 1 in every subject in term 1 and term 2. They live as model examples for the Year group and myself on how to approach school life.

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 the year, 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' students and I am sure that they will continue this in the New Year.

Our attendance of 95.0%, is the second highest in school and 3.4% 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, I am always available for a conversation, as are the Pastoral Team 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 demands. I would like to express my thanks for the hard work and care shown by my Form Tutors: Mrs Williams, Miss Delohery, Miss Adams, Mrs Bradford, Mrs Edwards, and Mr Hill. Year 8 is so lucky to have such wonderful Tutors. I hope you and your family have a restful and peaceful Easter.

Mr Gallagher
Head of Year 8





YEAR 9

This term has been a very busy one for Year 9. We started the term with our Year 9 Parents' Evening which was a great evening and gave teachers the chance to discuss progress and celebrate success. Thank you for your support with Parents' Evening as always.

At the beginning of February, the school production took place and I was delighted to see lots of Year 9 children involved. The show was excellent and a big well done to all of the Year 9 children that took part.

Mrs Bennett organised an assembly for the children in which they heard a fantastic talk by a speaker from the University of Manchester about unlocking the world through languages. It was a really informative talk and gave the children lots to think about when choosing languages for GCSE and further study.

During half term, some of the Year 9 children went on the St James' ski trip and had a fantastic week in the snow.

After a restful half term, we returned to school for Options Evening, which was superbly attended by the children and their families. During the evening, the children were given the opportunity to find out a bit more about the subjects that they wanted to choose for GCSE and they were able to make informed choices. I know that Dr Guscott is working very hard behind the scenes to put together the classes ready for September.

On Monday 11th March, we invited a mixture of past pupils and employees from local businesses into school to take part in the Year 9 Careers Café. It was a superb event and the children were given the opportunity to listen to each employee for 4 mins, talking about their career path. It gave the children a real insight into the world of work and how to get into particular careers. A big thank you to Mrs Rarity and Mrs Cooper for putting the event together for us.

There have been a number of sporting successes this term. The girls netball team have been successful in a great number of their matches this term. I enjoy watching them play, they work so well as a team and they are a very talented group of girls. They have had amazing success this netball season, coming 2nd in the Stockport Schools tournament and getting to the 5th round of the national Sisters in Sport competition.

6 children have represented St James' in the Stockport schools triathlon. We have played in the Greater Manchester Catholic Schools netball and football competitions where there was a great display of excellence.

The boys football team have also been successful this term, and as I write this newsletter they play in the semi-final of the Stockport Cup (22nd March) with the prospect of playing in the final next Wednesday (27th March) They are also in the semi-final of the Catholic Cup which will take place after the Easter break. I would also like to congratulate the following girls who are now officially the Stockport Schools KS3 Girls badminton champions, Eve M, Izzy F, Ellie L and Celeste F. A fantastic achievement.

68 Year 9 children have been working hard planning their Duke of Edinburgh bronze routes, learning how to read a map and building on their teamwork and communication skills. They will be putting these new skills into practice in the summer term on their expeditions.

I was delighted to see that there were a number of Year 9s who have got involved in the Gaelic football that has recently started at school. Back in September, I spoke to the children in assembly about taking opportunities when they present themselves and I am pleased that this is happening.

I would like to wish all of Year 9 and their families a restful and holy Easter celebration and I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 15th April ready for the last term of Year 9.

Mrs Linford
Head of Year 9





YEAR 10

I would like to take this opportunity to further introduce myself as the Head of Year 10. It has been a privilege getting to know the Year 10 children over the past half term in my new role. This half term has provided lots of exciting opportunities for our Year 10 children moving forwards to the summer term.

This half term has seen the launch of the end of year Alton Towers rewards trip. We continue to see our Year 10 children rise to the challenge and continually meet our expectations. This will stand them in good stead as they move ever closer to Year 11.

It was a privilege to watch how each and every one of Year 10 children conducted themselves during the mock interview process. This was an extremely rigorous process which involved drafting an application form prior to interview. During the interview children were faced with a number of questions based on the application form previously completed. The feedback

received from all interviewers was that all children were a pleasure to interview. Having spoken to many of our Y10 children they have expressed how beneficial of an opportunity this was and we hope it has aided them with future job and college application processes.

This week has seen the launch of our Prefect application process. During Tuesday morning's assembly all children were briefed on the process of applying to become a Prefect and Head Boy/Girl. As the Head of Year 10 it will give me great pleasure to see many of our Year 10s develop into the next generation of ambassadors of St James' as they take over from the present Year 11 children who make their next steps on their educational journey. It is important to note that the deadline for application forms to be submitted is Friday 19th April and all expressions of interest must be submitted prior to this date.

A number of Year 10 children have had the opportunity to take part in a climate debate at Stockport Town Hall, all children involved were a credit to the school in the way in which they conducted themselves during the visit.

This term witnessed our annual Drama production and this year a number of our Year 10 children contributed to an excellent production of Annie. It was a real testament to their hardwork and dedication to rehearse for the show and perform to the levels that they did over the course of the production.

A number of Year 10 children have also had the opportunity to take part in various college and university trips as we aim to best prepare them for the next stages of their education. As we approach the Summer term all Year 10 children will face the exciting prospect that is their work experience placements. I

encourage all children to make headway with arranging those work experience placements if they have not already done so to ensure that they are suitably placed for what should be an extremely beneficial and insightful experience.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all Year 10 parents and carers, Pastoral staff, and my team of Form Tutors for their continued hard work and support in ensuring our values of Faith, Family and Excellence are upheld. Wishing you all a happy Easter break.

Mr Reid
Head of Year 10





YEAR 11



Another busy term has passed by for Year 11. The highlight of the term was our retreat with Shrewsbury Diocese. The incessant rain subsided and we had a lovely walk across to Total Fitness, where the children learned about the journey they are on. They discussed what they would take on a journey and what was really important in life. They worked together to discover different roles individuals play in a team. We also discussed stumbling blocks along the way and how these are not necessarily negative, but could end up shaping our futures in a different but positive way. Allowing time for mindfulness, stopping every now and again and taking time for ourselves in this busy time is so important and the retreat came at a really purposeful time in the lives of Year 11.

The second round of mocks took place on our return from the February break, where children had their last opportunity to practise exam technique and decorum before the whole school examinations begin.

Revision booklets have been handed out to allow children to organise their revision time effectively. It is important that they keep up with the tasks as best they can, so that staff can visit those tasks in class and children can get feedback.

Revision classes continue for most subjects after school with some lunchtime sessions also taking place. Homework club remains open for all every evening until 4pm, which might be an ideal place to go for children to complete some of the revision tasks set. Practical examinations have begun. Those taking the Food and Nutrition exam were fully prepared and practised well at home. Similarly in the last week, those studying Art have been preparing for their examination, taking place this week.

In amongst exam preparation Year 11 Forms have carried on raising money for our charity CAFOD, with a darts competition and a penalty shoot out at lunchtime.

Our Family, Faith and Excellence Prefects have also continued to carry out an excellent job in their roles throughout the year. Thanks to all of you for supporting the school and representing St James' so well.

Well done to the following children who all scored all 1s for their "Attitude to Learning" in the last round of data:

Revel A, Aiden B, Mac B, Leo D, Hannah D, Oliver H, Noah, L, Thomas M, Amy M, Imogen M, Alisha M, Alex O'N, Matthew R, Kynon R, Chester T, Quinn T, Megan W and Patrick Y. It is fantastic to show this dedication across all the subjects. Well done to all of you!

The prom is approaching, which is something to really look forward to at the end of the examination period. Staff are looking forward to seeing the children outside of the classroom and celebrating with them after all their hard work. If your child is eligible to attend

please remember to pay for the ticket by Friday 24th May, so that we can give final numbers to the venue.

Good Luck to all the Year 11 children in their GCSEs and thank you parents and carers for supporting them and managing those turbulent emotions that exams can bring to our young people. I hope you have a lovely and restful Easter with your families and I look forward to seeing the children back after the break.

Ms Cheshire
Head of Year 11



ATTENDANCE

This term, we have put the spotlight on attendance! At St James', we believe that regular attendance is key to academic success and personal growth. We are incredibly proud of our children who consistently show dedication by attending classes every day. To recognise and reward this commitment, children achieving 100% attendance during this term will receive an Easter-themed treat as well as the opportunity to be included in the pizza rewards. It's our way of celebrating your commitment to learning and being part of our vibrant school family.

We understand that circumstances may arise that could lead to absences. However, we encourage children to prioritise their education and strive for regular attendance whenever possible. Remember, each day of school missed is a missed opportunity to learn and grow.

We deeply appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring their children attend school regularly and punctually. Your encouragement and involvement play a crucial role in fostering good attendance habits and academic success.

Thank you for your continued support and participation. We wish all our children a fantastic Easter break.

Mrs Taylor
Attendance and Family Liaison Manager

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With God all things are possible

Matthew 19:26

