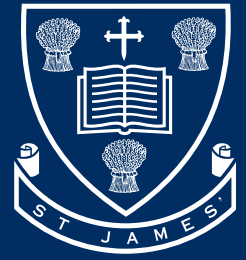


# School Newsletter

Autumn 2025



As we draw a vibrant and rewarding Autumn Term to a close at St James' Catholic High School, I am delighted to celebrate the many moments, large and small, that have shaped our school family over the past months. This term has been characterised by a renewed sense of energy, faith, and purpose, and it has been a privilege to witness our children and staff embodying the very best of the St James' spirit.

Our new Year 7 cohort began their St James' journey on 3rd September, joining us a day ahead of the rest of the school. Their transition has been remarkable, bringing enthusiasm, curiosity, and kindness into our corridors and classrooms. Their early days were enriched by their Retreats, which offered precious time for reflection, bonding, and personal growth.

Our annual Open Evening was another highlight. The event was exceptionally well attended, and it was inspiring to see our children acting as ambassadors, full of pride, warmth, and confidence, as they guided guests, led activities, and shared their experiences of life at St James'. Feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive, noting the welcoming atmosphere, the quality of teaching demonstrations, and the strong sense of family that defines our school.

Our spiritual life continues to flourish. The school year opened with a beautiful whole school Mass celebrated by Fr Simon on 12th September, creating a genuinely uplifting and memorable start to the year. This spirit continued at the Year 7 Welcome Mass in October at St Ann's, where families, staff, and children gathered to celebrate their formal introduction to our community. The evening was filled with joy, gratitude, and a profound sense of belonging.

A standout event this term was our Prize Evening for the Class of 2025, held on 13th November. The hall was filled to capacity with families, staff, and award winners. The celebration was a wonderful reflection of their hard work, determination,

and success. The pride in the room was palpable, and it was a privilege to recognise their achievements and wish them well as they continue their next steps. Alongside these celebrations, our children have embraced a wide range of enriching opportunities. We were exceptionally proud that 14 of our children had their creative writing published in Grim Tales Fiction From The UK as part of the Young Writers competition, a testament to their talent, resilience, imagination, and commitment.

Our Year 10 and 11 children benefited from a dynamic Careers Convention on 16th October, with a wide range of organisations, employers, and training providers offering valuable guidance and inspiration. The engagement from children throughout the morning was outstanding.

The performing arts took centre stage this term with our school musical, *Sister Act*, performed across two spectacular nights. The production showcased the dedication, teamwork, and creativity of our children and staff. Both evening performances and the dress rehearsal for Cheadle Catholic Junior School were filled with joy and admiration, highlighting the power of arts education to bring our school family together.

Younger children also benefited from an immersive Road Safety experience delivered by the council, equipping them with vital knowledge and awareness as they navigate their growing independence. Meanwhile, our Year 11 children participated in their annual retreat, a meaningful opportunity for spiritual reflection and personal grounding in this pivotal year.

We were especially honoured to receive the Educate Award for Outstanding Commitment to Sport in a Secondary School. This recognition celebrates the depth and breadth of our provision, from elite pathways to inclusive opportunities ensuring all children experience the joy and benefits of physical activity. It is a tremendous achievement and a testament to the dedication of our PE department and wider staff team.

This term has been rich with achievements, opportunities, and moments of growth, all firmly grounded in our values of Faith, Excellence, and Family. I extend my sincere gratitude to all staff, children, parents, and governors for their continued support and commitment. Together, we have laid strong foundations for the remainder of the academic year.

As we approach the season of Christmas, I would like to wish all members of our school family a joyful, peaceful, and holy Christmas, filled with love, blessings, and time with family and friends. Our term will end on Friday 19th December at 12:15pm, and we look forward to welcoming all staff and children back to school on Monday 5th January at 8:30am.

For regular updates and a window into daily school life, please follow us on BlueSky at [@stjamescheadle.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@stjamescheadle.bsky.social). I look forward to continuing our journey of excellence, joy, and community spirit as we move into the new year.

With warmest regards,



**Mr A Pontifex**  
Headteacher



# CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

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.”

It was lovely to return to school after the summer holidays to see the faith garden flourishing. During CEW week, the children in Year 8 had weeded and tidied the faith garden and they planted flowers and vegetables. Over the summer it had been fenced, to protect the grass and Mrs Dooley had been faithfully watering the plants. The grass is now lush and the garden is available as a quiet outdoor space for prayer and contemplation.

Each of our new Year 7 forms were lucky enough to enjoy the retreat days run by Shrewsbury Diocesan Youth Team. The children enjoyed the games and activities and the opportunity for spiritual development around the theme of ‘gifts and talents’. We were impressed by the maturity with which they approached the day and their behaviour was impeccable.

In September, the whole school came together in the sports hall to start the new academic year off in a spirit of prayer and reflection. Regular hymn practices were introduced in which children are taught the hymns for Mass where we will revisit well-known hymns and introduce new ones, to widen our repertoire.

Some of our children attended a Mass to celebrate the canonisation of St. Carlos Acutis along with our Chaplain. Fr. Martin presented St. James’ school with a portrait of this new saint.

At the beginning of October, our school hosted the ‘icon’ picture that has travelled on pilgrimage around the diocese. Children from Cheadle Catholic school brought the icon to us and they shared their work and prayers. A small group of our children took the icon to Sacred Heart school in Baguley and led an assembly. They represented our school well and were greeted with enthusiasm by the children.

In October, we had a welcome Mass for year 7, hosted by Fr Samuel at St. Ann’s Church in Cheadle. The Mass was extremely well attended. It was a joyous occasion in which the children led the prayers and sang like angels.

Year 8 children went to a diocesan event run by the Youth Team and met with young people from other schools at a school in Chester. The event is known as ‘Mini Dash’ as the diocesan headteachers meet together on the same day. Our children enjoyed interviewing Mr. Pontifex and asking him about his role as a headteacher of a Catholic school.

There have been voluntary Masses in the Chapel at lunchtime and these have been well attended by children from across the year groups. Some of our children have written the prayers of the faithful, served and read at the Mass.

In November it was Year 11’s turn to go on a retreat for the day. They enjoyed the opportunity to step away from preparation for mocks and to reflect on their life journeys. They thought about moving on and contemplated which signs are worth following.

Children were invited to pray the rosary in the Chapel during the month of October. We answered Pope Leo’s call to pray for peace. It was wonderful to see children regularly attending these sessions and praying for members of their families and peace in the world.

Key stage 3 children have had opportunities for prayer and reflection in the Chapel during RE lessons. They have been able to think about the friendship and joy between Mary and Elizabeth and to reflect on the relationships in their own lives. During Advent, they have been reflecting on a theme of prophecy and promises and have learned



about God’s promises to us. It has been a privilege to share this time with our children who have participated in these sessions with such positivity and maturity.

A quiet but significant development has been the establishment of a St. Vincent de Paul group in school. Children of all ages are invited to join so that they can put their concern into action. Our members have expressed their concern for refugees and for the poor. We have discussed what we can do for the lonely members of our community and particularly for women in need. This term, we have been painting tealight holders to give as gifts and making Christmas cards. We have also discussed a ‘hungry cupboard’ for those who don’t have enough to eat. This term, they have been supported by Colette Halkon, a link volunteer and by Sheilagh Lochery, a parishioner who is also an SVP member.

Finally, our ‘Knit and Natter’ group has been well attended and has given children an opportunity to learn new skills so that they can perhaps use it to benefit others.



It has been a busy term and we are looking forward to rounding it off with our parishioner’s party on 12th December and our Advent Mass on 16th December.

Children at St James’ have been praying for family and friends and members of our community throughout this term, especially in faith and family time. We ask for your prayers and continued support in the new year.

Looking ahead...

A junior trip to Lourdes is planned in the summer of 2026, with Shrewsbury Diocese. A letter has been sent to all families and the expression of interest needs to be completed by the end of term, which can be found at <https://forms.gle/7QDyhRCdqBS9d7d66>.

**Mrs McGeough**





# YEAR 7

It is hard to believe that Year 7 have already completed their first term at St James'. We couldn't be happier with the fantastic way that they have settled in and despite a nervous start in September, children are adapting to their new routines and our high expectations. Year 7 are already reflecting our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence in all that 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 St Ann's that focussed on the theme of Gifts and Talents. The day was filled with activities run by the Youth Mission from the Shrewsbury Diocese and helped children to recognise their own unique gifts and talents as well as celebrating the gifts of their new peers. Form Tutors, Miss Ellison, Mr Baggaley and Ms Woods all had a fantastic few days getting to know the new Year Group. We saw the children start to bond as a school family and this has continued to grow throughout the term.

The work done on the retreat days fed into the Year 7 Welcome Mass that took place at St Ann's Church, Cheadle Hulme. Each form delivered part of the Mass, including serving on the altar. It was lovely to see children's faith in action and was a perfect way to welcome new children and their families into our community.

Meeting so many new parents at Parent Tutor Evening to make the important home school connection was another important event this term and on 23rd April parents will have the opportunity to meet class teachers online for the academic Parents' Evening. Year 7 have developed their faith in two whole school Masses and many assemblies. A highlight of this term was when children in 7M and 7A (photo) delivered assemblies to the rest of the Year Group and when Neil and Ann from Good News visited us, presenting all children with their own Good News New Testament. A representative from Youth SVP also joined one of our assemblies to present the new members with their badges and prayer cards. This was a special occasion that was nice to celebrate as a whole Year Group.

This term we have focused on the importance of respect, care and compassion for others. Children's kindness has been evident in the generous contributions to the Bare Necessities collection as well as the Christmas foodbank collections. 7S collected the most items for Bare Necessities and enjoyed a Form breakfast to reward their generosity. Each Form has nominated a team of Form representatives who are doing a fantastic job of co-ordinating the fund-raising efforts and Form activities.

Every opportunity to impress us has been taken this term. Chromebook Club, Drama Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Choir and Creative Writing Club all see many Year 7 children attending. It was fantastic to see some children join the cast of Sister Act and for them to be supported by their peers in the audience. This reflects the genuine enthusiasm that Year 7 children have towards school life.

Many Year 7 also contributed to European Day of Languages Bake Off competition and received certificates and prizes in assembly for their amazing bakes. The £180 raised from the sale of cakes went to Macmillan as part of the Macmillan coffee morning week.

A number of children in each Form put themselves forward for a place on the School Council and have been meeting at lunchtimes to share requests and ideas to improve different aspects of the school. This role is a massive responsibility and commitment, and we are so proud to see Year 7 involved in the wider life of the school.

## Excellence

The introduction of the Expected Excellence card was an opportunity for Yr7 to shine this term. Over 130 children were invited to the rewards breakfast for half term 1. These children received one or no signatures on their card showing all aspects of uniform and organisation had met our high standards.

Year 7 were complimented on the way they represented St James' in the Road Safety workshops organised by Stockport LEA. We hope the information received will be helpful in keeping children safe, especially when travelling to and from school.

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. Joyce C in 7A has received the most value points this term and over 75% of Year 7 have no behaviour points at all. This is really incredible and reflects a very special year group. The cinema rewards afternoon was a lovely celebration for the children gaining the most value points in the first half term and the highest Attitude to Learning data from the Termly Data Report.

The Year 7 termly data reflects the outstanding attitude to learning children have shown, with children completing work to the best of their ability and immersing themselves into new and exciting subjects.

An impressive 87% of 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 Florence B 7J, Lawrence G 7A,



Nancy H 7S, Ignacy M 7M, Theia M 7S and Patrick S 7M for receiving all ATLs in their classwork. This is a truly amazing achievement. Sporting excellence has also been evident this term. Year 7 boys have made an excellent start. The football team have advanced to the 4th Round of the English School's competition, as have their 'B' team counterparts. Badminton has also been a big success, with lots of boys participating at both lunchtime and after school practices. 7X beat 7Y in the intra-school badminton match, with a similar fixture set up for rugby. A team of badminton players recently visited Cheadle Hulme School for a friendly fixture. After Christmas, it's onto table tennis and basketball, with the football and badminton fixtures continuing as well!

Year 7 girls have also had an action packed first term with teams represented in football, netball, hockey, dodgeball and athletics. The netball team has been incredibly popular with over 30 girls already playing for St James' in fixtures against Reddish, CHHS, CHS, Bramhall and Kingsway. Victories against Kingsway and Bramhall saw them move into a strong position in the Year 7 league. The girls football teams have taken part in the Stockport league, Stockport Cup, English schools cup and SIS cup as well as a Stockport County 6 a side tournament. A number of Year 7 children play hockey both for St James' and clubs outside of school. Alongside all of these sports and fixtures children have also attended badminton practice, dodgeball competitions and athletics held at Woodbank Park.

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 2026. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Form Tutors; Miss Nagdee, Mrs Ellis, Mrs Bennett, Mr Pedley, Mr Murphy, Mrs Booth and Mrs Floyd and Mr Greenlees for their care and support. The kindness and hard work of Form Tutors alongside Miss Ellison, the Year 7 Pastoral Manager, have hugely 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 and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of this new addition to the St James' family.

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. It is with regret that Mr Baggaley is stepping down from the joint HoY7 role next term due to personal reasons. I really appreciate all his support and hard work this year and will greatly miss working alongside him.

**Ms Woods and Mr Baggaley**  
Heads of Year 7





# YEAR 8

As we reach the end of this first term, there is so much to celebrate! It has been an exciting, action-packed few months, full of activities, learning milestones, and unforgettable experiences. Our Year 8 children have made the most of every opportunity, and we are proud of all they have achieved.

**A Term Filled with Achievements**

From classroom successes to extracurricular triumphs, this term has been a testament to the dedication and growth of our Year 8 children. In the classroom, we've seen remarkable progress in key subjects, with many children showing great improvement in their academic work and deepening their understanding of complex concepts. Our teachers have been impressed by the hard work and excellence shown by our Year 8 children and have been issuing lots of value points.

Beyond academics, there has been no shortage of extracurricular activities that have sparked creativity, teamwork, and leadership. Whether it was sports tournaments, school plays, acts of faith, or charity events, our children have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm. It has been truly heartwarming to watch them take on new roles, build friendships, and develop skills that will stay with them for years to come.

**Building Character and Confidence**

What's equally important is how our children have grown as individuals. Over the term, we've seen their confidence blossom, their resilience strengthen, and their empathy deepen. Whether working together on a group project or showing support for one another in tough times, our children have demonstrated incredible character. These experiences are shaping them not just as children, but as compassionate, thoughtful individuals who will continue to make a positive impact in their communities.

**Faith**

This term, our Year 8 children have embraced the opportunity to deepen their faith through a variety of meaningful activities. Each day, they have participated in Form time faith sessions, in which they reflect, pray, and discuss key spiritual themes that guide their personal growth. These moments of connection have provided them with a steady rhythm of faith throughout their school day. In addition, our Year 8 children have actively participated in the

whole school Mass, coming together as a community to celebrate and strengthen our shared values. Their involvement in fortnightly hymn practice has also been a highlight, this is additional to participation in the whole school Mass. It's been wonderful to see our children grow in both their spiritual understanding and their sense of community, reinforcing the importance of faith in their everyday lives.

**Family**

This term, our Year 8 children have truly shown what it means to be part of the St James' family by living out the spirit of St James'. Year 8 children have shown their kindness, teamwork, and willingness to support one another. They have demonstrated the St James' spirit by looking out for younger children, working respectfully with their peers, and contributing positively to school life both inside and outside the classroom. Whether lending a hand during events, showing compassion during Form time discussions, or simply offering a friendly smile in the corridor, our Year 8s have played an important role in strengthening the sense of belonging that makes St James' so special. Their actions this term reflect the heart of our school: a family built on respect, care, and unity.

**Excellence**

This term, our focus on excellence has truly shone through the hard work and dedication of our Year 8 children. There have been lots of opportunities to celebrate high standards and outstanding achievements. Our new Excellence Cards have been a great success in supporting children to maintain the high standards we expect, and it has been wonderful to see so many children proudly keeping their cards blank each week. The weekly prize draw has become a real highlight, with an impressive number of entries showing just how committed our children are to meeting expectations. At the half-term point, we were delighted to award over 100 certificates to children who demonstrated exemplary behaviour during the first half of the term—an achievement that reflects their maturity and determination. Even more impressively, over 50 Year 8 children have already achieved more than 100 value points, an outstanding accomplishment that speaks to their effort, attitude, and desire to excel. Over 100 Year 8 children attended the rewards breakfast for maintaining their high standards on their excellence cards. We could not be prouder of the positive example they are setting for our school community.



**Highlights of the Term**

- We were delighted to see so many Year 8 children take part in our wonderful school production of Sister Act. Watching them shine on stage was a proud moment for staff, families, and the whole school community.
- We had a visit from our local MP Tom Morrison and some Year 8 children had the opportunity to meet him and ask questions.
- Year 8 girls have taken part in numerous sports opportunities this term—including netball, football, hockey, and cross country—proudly representing St James' and bringing energy, determination, and team spirit to every event.
- It has been fantastic to see so many Year 8 boys representing the school in so many sports, including, dodgeball, football, badminton and cross country. Their commitment, enthusiasm, and positive attitude have made them excellent ambassadors for St James'.
- Year 8 children represented the school and participated in the Diocesan Association of Secondary Headteachers conference.

**Looking Ahead**

As we reflect on all that has been achieved, it's clear that there's much to look forward to. The upcoming term is full of new opportunities for learning and personal growth. Our children will continue to build on the foundation they've established this term, and we're excited to see them continue to thrive.

To our parents: thank you for your continued support in fostering your child's growth and success. Whether it's helping with homework, cheering at a sports event, or simply encouraging your child's efforts, your involvement has made all the difference. Together, we can keep the momentum going!

We hope you enjoy the upcoming break and look forward to another fantastic term ahead.

**Ms Bradford**  
Head of Year 8



# YEAR 9



The Christmas period is upon us once again and Year 9 are fully settled into life at school. I have been really impressed with the positive attitudes to learning on their return to school after the summer holidays. The vast majority of the Year group have responded well to the new Expected Excellence system, with most of the children getting none or very few signatures on their cards. We have seen an improvement in the standard of dress and correct equipment brought to school. Thanks for your support with this. It does make a difference.

Those children fully equipped for school and wearing their uniform smartly were rewarded with a breakfast fit for a king after October half term. There will be another reward on our return to school after Christmas.

Movie rewards have also taken place twice this term for those with lots of value points, excellent work ethic and outstanding termly data.

It can be a difficult age to encourage children to get involved with extra- curricular activities on offer at school but it is so important to not only learn in the classroom but also become a well - rounded individual by joining in fully with the life of the school.

Well done to all those who have taken part in sporting activities, to Molly G, Mia W and Faith L who have represented the school across a number of sports. Well done to all the sports leaders, Pearl, B, Sienna C, Hannah J, Holly P, Hannah M, Evie B, Anna C, Scarlett G, Sophie T, Grace T, Caitlin B and Libby F.

A special congratulations go to the basketball team, Mia, Faith, Una, Connie, Poppy and Molly who won the Stockport school tournament.

Well done also to the boys, Rafael, Jake K, Dan L, Joel M and Cole H for coming runners up in their basketball tournament. Medals all round!

The boys football squad continue to play well and are top of the league as we approach the Christmas break. They are due to play the next round of the Catholic Schools' Cup in the coming weeks. A mention must definitely go to Sophie T for her outstanding performance in the school musical Sister Act. Well done Sophie! A lot of problems we encounter in school derive from social media. We welcomed the Youth Offending team into school this past half term to talk to the year group about cyber crime. They talked about staying safe on line and highlighted current issues, such as sexting, encouraging ghost mode, being transparent with parents/ carers about who they are speaking to and they gave examples of people who had been unsafe online and the subsequent consequences. I hope that the children took a lot from it. It was certainly very useful and informative.

On 28th November we were lucky to have our local MP Tom Morrison come into school to talk to some of our children. Discussions took place predominantly about knife crime, the police and public transport issues. Tara M from 9C said:

"I really enjoyed the meeting on Friday. Before, I didn't really know the job of an MP. The MP of Cheadle was really welcoming and not really what I expected at all. He respected all of us and tried to answer our questions to his best ability, constantly reassuring everyone that he agrees that there are plenty of problems in Cheadle that he was trying to solve." 9C started the ball rolling with the first charity event in November. They held a cake sale and managed to raise over £90. This is great news. Well done 9C.

9S are next and plan to hold a glow in the dark dodgeball game for their charity event. This is a great idea and sounds like lots of fun, whilst simultaneously raising money.

I wish everyone a restful and joyous festive season and look forward to welcoming the Year group back in the new year.

**Ms Cheshire**  
Head of Year 9





# YEAR 10

Year 10 began their Key Stage 4 courses in September, and with this has come a noticeable increase in maturity and commitment. They have settled well into the challenges and rigour of GCSE study. Behaviour has been excellent, with 44% of children receiving no behaviour points, 55% receiving one or fewer, and 75% receiving fewer than three—a superb achievement.

Outside the classroom, Year 10 continue to impress with strong performances in football, rugby, netball and athletics, as well as outstanding participation in the school production. It is clear that they are living out our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence.

### Family

Attendance at clubs has been excellent, with many Year 10 children enjoying activities such as Dungeons & Dragons Club, the SVP group and lunchtime Mass.

So far this year, 28 girls and 34 boys have represented the school in sport. The KS4 boys' badminton team, which includes four Year 10s, won their qualifying round and will compete in the Stockport finals in December. Many Year 10 boys have also taken up rugby outside school; it was a pleasure to watch eight of them play in a recent club fixture, and we hope to arrange school matches soon.

Year 10 made a huge contribution to the school production of Sister Act, with four children taking lead roles and many more supporting behind the scenes. Their performances were outstanding.

We are incredibly proud of Ellie S, who last year was named Stockport Young Carer of the Year and this year has been awarded the British Citizen Youth Award, presented at the Houses of Parliament. She is a wonderful example of the exceptional young people at St James'.

### Faith

Ten Year 10 children regularly attend lunchtime Mass, taking time for quiet reflection away from the busyness of the school day. A strong sense of spirituality runs through the Year group, and they are developing into the future leaders of our churches and communities.

This week, 11 children were commissioned into the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They have already attended several meetings and will soon begin supporting vulnerable members of our school and wider community. Their commitment and compassion are something to be very proud of.

The Year group also contributed generously to the Shoe Box Appeal for children in Ukraine. Their warmth, kindness and respect for others continue to shine through everything they do. Well done to all involved.

### Excellence

In the recent termly data, an impressive 81% of Year 10 children achieved grades 1 or 2 in every subject for Attitude to Learning, up from 67% at the same point last year. Even more remarkable, 31 children achieved a grade 1 in every subject, compared with just 6 last year—a truly outstanding achievement. These children were

- Leila B, Toby B, Amelia B, Katie B, Sophie B
- Tom C, Olivia C, Zara C, Caius C, Hannah C, Seth C, Lana C
- Sophia D, Reuben F, Morrie F
- Amelia L, Nancy L, Brooke L, Charlotte L, Lola L
- Nate M, Fin P, Ruby R, Hermione R, Ellie S
- Mia T-C, Jaxon W, Neave W, Harry W, Amelia W, Olivia Y

Possessing an excellent attitude to learning is key, as it allows children to fully understand lessons and reach their potential. It has been wonderful to see so many children praised by teachers for their dedication and effort.

Since the start of the year, Year 10 have demonstrated excellence in many ways. I was delighted to reward 90 children with a special breakfast for consistently following our excellence expectations—a truly memorable event.

The Year group continue to show good humour, politeness, and the diligence we expect from St James' children. Attendance is currently 93.4%, the third highest in the school and 2% above the national average. We hope to reach 97% in 2025, as regular attendance is vital for both learning and social development. If any children are concerned about catching up on work or face other challenges, I and the Pastoral Team in Emmaus are always available to help.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children meet these high standards. I would also like to thank our Form Tutors—Mrs Williams, Miss Daly, Miss Purkiss, Mrs Rigg, Mrs Edwards, and Mr Wilson—for their hard work and care. Year 10 are fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

I wish you and your family a restful and peaceful Christmas.

**Mr Gallagher**  
Head of Year 10







# YEAR 11



We have been delighted by the way in which Year 11 have approached their first term of their final year at St James'. They returned in September ready to face the challenges ahead, and they have done so with maturity and a belief that whatever effort they apply to their studies, they will see success. We are very proud of them.

We have had a busy first term that has culminated in the first set of mocks being completed, and we are delighted with the way that the children have conducted themselves during the 2 weeks and it is evident that they are prepared and have worked hard. This bodes well for the months ahead.

During the months of September and October, we were visited by the local colleges who gave the children useful information about making applications. We know that lots of them have already applied to different places and we will continue to assist them when they are making their choices. Its exciting to see so many different options available for them.

Back on September 18th we held our open day for prospective parents and the Year 11 prefects did an amazing job of showing parents and children round our school. There were lots of fantastic comments from parents about our prefect team so we wanted to say a huge well done to all the prefects who helped on the day.

Talking of prefects, we have been utterly delighted with the work that the prefect team have done around school since September. They are a really active team with lots of great ideas and initiatives and have embraced their roles brilliantly. Just before mock exams began, they were working with Year 7 children as reading buddies, and it was so lovely to see how the prefects were supervising the reading.

Special mention to Joe L and Ella R for leading the team so well and especially to Mrs O'Shea who oversees all the work that the prefects do.

In October, we held our annual careers convention for Year 10 and 11 children, where the children were given the opportunity to hold informal conversations with people from colleges, industry and apprenticeships. It was a really useful hour and the children got a lot from it. Thank you to Mrs Rarity and Mrs Cooper for organising the event.

After half term, we held our final retreat days for Year 11. We walked over to Manchester Rugby Club and the children took part in a number of activities around the theme of journeys. They were asked to reflect on their own journeys and how it is important to notice the signs around you. It was a fantastic 3 days overall and the children were fabulous and engaged in all the activities.

The first of 3 termly data figures have impressed us, with a good number of children gaining all 1's for their attitude to learning. Well done to:

Elizabeth A, Finlay C, Archie C, Leia H, Mavis H, Xavi J, Gabe K, Joe L, Abbie M, Katie M, Talia O, Florence P, Ella R, Adam R, Timmy R, AnnaMai R, Isla S, Oliver S, Aleksander S, Ethan T, Steven W & Isobel W, Miriam A, Kit CA, Eva DH, Mai D, Jess J, Ashton K, Rosie P, Adam W, Lena W, and Abi Q. - A fantastic achievement.

The children are continuing to collect value points during their lessons and every week I display a leader board of top 50 children with the highest number of points. A huge well done to the children that are currently sitting in the top 10 position with a great number of value points. Gabriella L, Isobel W, Kira S, Mavis H, Leia H, Aine C, Isaac K, Florence P, Finlay C and Sam M with an impressive 649 value points between them.

As we approach the end of the first term we would like to say a big thank you to all staff who work so hard with the Year 11 children in getting them prepared for the end of the year. Staff have worked tirelessly this first half term and the children have been taking advantage of the revision classes and extra help that has been provided. We would especially like to thank the Year 11 Form Tutors for all that they have done and continue to do to help and support the children. Mrs Brown, Mr Nokes, Mr Cawley, Mrs Bray, Mr Walker, Mr Fanning and Mr Dowisha and to Miss Stewart, our Year 11 Pastoral Manager who works tirelessly to help the children.

We hope that all Year 11 children and their families enjoy the festive break and have a happy and peaceful Christmas, and we look forward to seeing them back on Monday 5th January.

**Mrs Linford & Mr Reid**  
Heads of Year 11



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Celebrating Success Together!

As we move through the colder months, we want to extend a warm thank you to all our parents and carers for helping maintain such strong attendance. We know this time of year brings its fair share of colds and seasonal viruses, but your continued support in keeping routines steady has made a real difference.

Mock exams have gone smoothly, and we're delighted to see overall attendance remaining positive across the school. As always, we encourage every child to aim for 96% attendance or above throughout the year, as this plays a key role in both academic progress and wellbeing.

As we look ahead to the Christmas season, we hope all our families enjoy a peaceful and restorative break. Christmas is a special time

in our Catholic community—a chance to reflect, come together, and celebrate the joy and hope at the heart of the Nativity. We pray that the holiday brings rest, good health, and quality time with loved ones.

If you feel your child needs any additional support with attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or the Pastoral Team—we're here to help.

Thank you once again for your ongoing commitment and partnership. Wishing you a blessed and restful Christmas season.

**Mrs Taylor**

Attendance and Family Liaison Manager



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With God all things are possible

Matthew 19:26

