



22nd April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Summer Term Week 2 Headteacher Update**

Last week was a busy start to our Summer Term with our Year 11 GCSE PE cohort completing their practical examination and our Home Language speaking examinations taking place. This week our Year 11 German and Spanish speaking examinations will take place. We wish all our children all the very best in these examinations. I ask that you continue to keep all our Year 11s in your thoughts and prayers during this key time of their school career.

Yesterday's Gospel from John 10 was about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus' description of the Good Shepherd shows us how He saw His mission in the world, and His mission in each of our lives. He didn't come as a powerhouse, or as a dictator but rather as a shepherd, to care and lead us as a shepherd leads their sheep. We must never forget that Jesus calls each one of us by name, he wants to carry us gently and lead us lovingly so that we may live our lives to the full. Like a shepherd, Jesus is always in our midst even when we don't recognise him. Through this image of the Good Shepherd, may we be reminded that Jesus brings us close to Himself, and may we learn from Him how to come closer together with our fellow sheep, our school family, as members of Jesus' fold.

Our Year 8s participated in their retreat led by the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team last week and they had a wonderful time. They were engaged in the activities and the children I spoke to when I visited said how enjoyable it was and how much they were getting out of it. This supports our value of Faith and gives children the opportunity to take a step away from their everyday lessons and reflect on their own faith journey.

You may be interested in an inclusive Mass that is being held at St Peter's, Hazel Grove, next Sunday at 2.30 pm organised by their Inclusion Advocacy group. It will be a short mass of about 20 minutes with refreshments afterwards. Everyone is welcome, and they are aiming to support people who find a full, more structured Mass difficult. You can find more details on our X (formerly Twitter) post.

Thank you to all Year 8 Parents who attended our Parents' Evening held on School Cloud last Thursday. We value the home school partnership, as we know that this allows our children to thrive when we work together. As always, the responses from the survey will be published [here](#) on our website, there is still time to fill in the Parental Questionnaire if you have not already done so.

Thank you to all those who donated to, or took their chances on, our chocolate tombola which took place before the Easter holidays. The Year 11 Prefects did a fantastic job organising the stall and an incredible £128.90 was raised for Caritas. This will go a long way to supporting families in need within the Diocese of Shrewsbury.



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Kooth is the largest digital provider of mental services for children and young people and is commissioned primarily by the National Health Service. They are offering a webinar for parents/carers to support their child in managing exam stress. If you are interested in this free webinar, you can find the signup details [here](#).

Reading is firmly held as a priority here at St James' and we offer several opportunities and resources to encourage and support our children to engage with reading for pleasure. We are proud of our St James' Literary Canon where all Key Stage 3 children are provided with age-appropriate books every term, to take home, read and enjoy. To continue with the success of this initiative, we need all books from last term to be returned. Please remind your child to return their books to the library at the earliest opportunity. We are excited to begin distributing the Term Three texts this week and next.

Have a great week and if you need anything or have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch at [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Your faithfully

Mrs C Pickles

Senior Deputy Headteacher