



2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 1 Headteacher Update**

Firstly, I hope that you have had a wonderful summer holiday and had the opportunity to spend time with friends and family. On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September we welcome the newest members of our St James' family to school, our new Year 7s. A reminder that school is open for all other Year groups on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of the children back to school ready to recommence the normal routines and rhythms of school life. Within our lessons we will continue to follow our broad, balanced and diverse curriculum in order to educate and develop our children to become global Catholic citizens.

We are looking forward to another incredible and productive school year. Our competent and dedicated staff are completing two days of INSET this week which will be spent planning and preparing for your child.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August our class of 2024 came into school for their results. It was a fantastic morning and an absolute privilege to see the happy faces of our young people as they collected their results. The gallery of pictures can be seen [here](#). The dedication and hard work came to fruition as 77% of our young people achieved a grade 9-4 in English and Maths and 59% of children achieved a grade 9-5 in English and Maths. These results are one of the best sets in the school's history and a large increase on the strong results last year. The results are a true testament to the efforts of children and staff, and we sincerely congratulate them.

Each year brings positive change. There have been a few additions to our staffing team, as well as continued development and updating of the school site. This has included updated iconography; painting of corridors and classrooms and new screens continue to be installed. Our site and ICT teams have worked incredibly hard for the children over the summer period.

As we commence the new school year, the Gospel of Mark from the weekend, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, offers a poignant reminder: "You put aside the commandment of God, to cling to human traditions." This passage challenges us to reflect on the values and priorities we uphold. As we step into the fresh academic year, it is essential to focus on what truly matters; our commitment to fostering a school family rooted in compassion, integrity, and respect. While routines and traditions play a vital role in our school culture, we must ensure they serve our greater purpose of nurturing the spiritual and intellectual growth of our children. Let us begin this year with a renewed dedication to these core values cultivating a learning environment where every individual is respected and valued.

At the start the new academic year please keep all our children and staff, but especially our new Year 7s, in your thoughts and prayers. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher