



15th July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 13 Headteacher Update

As we enter the final week of the academic year, I wish to thank you as parents and carers for giving your child and our school your full support throughout the year. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure your child receives the very best education and opportunities.

You may note our new letterhead which includes our new School Games PLATINUM Mark Award for the 2023/24 and the 2024/25 academic year. The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme which is facilitated by the Youth Sports Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. We are delighted to have been recognised for our success. We are extremely proud of our children and staff for their hard work and dedication.

Today our Year 7 and 8 children visit Chester Zoo. I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy the experience and really value the opportunity to make memories with their peers taking in all that the zoo has to offer. Our trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach takes place on Thursday. I am sure this will be a lovely way to conclude our final full day of the academic year. If your child is participating, please see some further information from Mrs Pickles at the end of the letter.

As previously mentioned, we are launching our new St James' app and this week you will receive an email inviting you to log in to this new communication platform. From September all of our communications will be sent this way and there will be a newsfeed and noticeboard to keep you up to date. Please look out for the joining instructions.

We have been informed by Transport for Greater Manchester about some changes to the school bus timetables in September. Details are on the website [here](#).

A reminder that Friday 19th July is our final day and that school finishes at 12.15pm. The school buses have been ordered and will be onsite at this time ready to take children home for the summer holiday. We return to school on Wednesday 4th September for Year 7 only and all other Year groups return on Thursday 5th September. GCSE results day is 22nd August and children can collect their results from 9.30 am – 11.00am.

As we reflect on the Gospel yesterday of Mark on the 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time, we are inspired by the directive, "Take nothing with you." This passage, where Jesus instructs His disciples to journey with minimal possessions, speaks to the essence of relying on faith and the support of our school family. As our high school prepares to close for the summer holiday, this message resonates strongly. The end of the school year is a time to leave behind the stress and burdens of the academic calendar and embrace a period of rest and renewal. It is an opportunity for our children and staff to shed the weight of their responsibilities, rejuvenate, and return with a fresh perspective. I encourage everyone to take this time to focus on personal growth, family, and the simple joys of life, carrying forward the experiences and lessons learned rather than the material or emotional baggage. Let us all embrace this break, trusting in the strength and resilience we have cultivated, and return ready to embark on a new journey in the upcoming academic year.

Our summer newsletter will be emailed out this week. I would ask that you read all the information it contains, as it really does showcase what has gone on in each Year group and at a whole school level over the summer



term. The newsletter also contains information about our charitable activities which have taken place throughout the year. As a sneak preview we have raised over £2000 for CAFOD, our chosen school charity, this year. A huge congratulations to the children and a thank you to all our parents and carers for your support.

We bid farewell to several staff members this year including Mrs Pickles, Mr Hill, Miss Hewson, Mrs Clark, Miss Allen, Mr Preciado Urbano, Miss Delohery, Miss Dorrington-Ward and Mr Douglas. I am sure you will join me in expressing our gratitude for their hard work and dedication, and we wish them well in their future endeavours. We look forward to welcoming new staff to St James' in September, alongside our new Year 7 cohort.

I hope you have a lovely final week and a great summer spending time with your children, friends and family. Our staff will be doing the same and therefore will not be responding to emails until we return to school in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
15.07	Catholic Social Teaching and Eco Day	Catholic Social Teaching and Eco Day	PE	Work Experience
	MFL Trip	MFL Trip	MFL Trip	MFL Trip
	London Trip	London Trip	London Trip	London Trip
	Chester Zoo	Chester Zoo	Chester Zoo	
			D of E 1	
16.07	Post General Election Day	Humanities	Creative Technology	Work Experience
	MFL Trip	MFL Trip	MFL Trip	MFL Trip
	London Trip	London Trip	London Trip	London Trip
			D of E 1	
17.07	Careers Day	Careers Day	Careers Day	Work Experience
	London Trip	London Trip	London Trip	London Trip
			D of E 2	
18.07	Fun activities in school	Fun activities in school	Fun activities in school	Work Experience
	Blackpool	Blackpool	Blackpool	
			D of E 2	