



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 14 Headteacher Update**

As mentioned in my letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> November, we were visited by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate, who evaluated our Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education, and Collective Worship. A copy of their report has been emailed to you and is now available on our website, the CES websites and the Diocesan website. This report reflects the incredible dedication and hard work of our staff, and I am sure you will join me in congratulating them on their achievements. The Diocesan Catholic Schools Inspectorate Coordinator highlighted how beautifully faith, family, and excellence are woven into every aspect of life at St James', with students and staff striving to live out the principles of Catholic social teaching, inspired by Christ and sustained by prayer. Thank you once again to all parents/carers for your support during the inspection process.

As the term draws to a close, our school is alive with a host of exciting events and celebrations. This week, we are looking forward to our Carols for Caritas, which will take place at 5.30 pm on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December. If you have not already, I encourage you to purchase raffle tickets via ParentPay—even if you can't attend the event—to support our Caritas at Christmas collection. If you click [here](#) it will take you straight to the parent pay website. Tickets are £5 each, with some fantastic prizes to be won. Following Thursday evening's showcase, we are excited to welcome our local parishioners to a special party on Friday at 11.15 am. This heartwarming event is led by our children and beautifully reflects our school's core value of Family.

Yesterday, on the second Sunday of Advent, the anticipation and spirit of preparation grew stronger as we continued our journey toward Christmas. This moment, highlighted by the lighting of the second candle on the Advent wreath, symbolises peace. For our children, who are navigating their formative and dynamic years, this theme offers an important reminder of the value of seeking peace amidst the busyness of academic life. Advent encourages them to reflect on inner tranquillity, harmonious relationships, and maintaining balance during their busy schedules. As we light the second candle, it becomes an opportunity for them to embrace a peaceful mindset—not only for the holiday season but as a lasting practice for overcoming challenges and fulfilling responsibilities. The symbolism of Advent shines as a guiding light, inspiring our young people to nurture calmness, resilience, and unity within themselves and their school family.

Advanced notice that our Year 9 Parents' Evening is scheduled for Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January (the first week back) from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm and will be held via School Cloud. Mr Maidment will provide full details in a letter to all parents and carers. To make the most of your discussions with class teachers, please review your child's termly data, which has already been shared with you, prior to the evening.

I hope you have a great week, if you need anything please contact [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher

