



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

16th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 15 Headteacher Update

Firstly, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your unwavering support of St James' throughout this first term. It has been a particularly long term, but one that seems to have flown by. Reflecting on the past 15 weeks has been a joy, as once again the St. James' family has exemplified our core values. Later this week, our Autumn Term newsletter will be sent out, and I encourage you to take a moment to read it, especially the sections relevant to your child's year group. It truly highlights the incredible school community we share, as well as the dedication of our children and staff.

Last Thursday, our Expressive Arts faculty hosted the annual *Carols for Caritas* concert. The event was an outstanding success, raising over £800 for Caritas, and showcased the exceptional talents within our Catholic school. I want to extend my gratitude to all families and friends who supported the concert, as well as to our staff and children for their phenomenal performances. A special thank you goes to our suppliers for their generous raffle prize donations, and congratulations to all the lucky winners. The evening was a shining example of the creativity, generosity, and community spirit that define St James'.

Please look out for a letter from Mrs Dooley, which will provide further details on important updates to our bus services. Additional information will also be sent out via the school app, and I'm pleased to confirm that the new timetables are already available on our website. The only major change to note is that the 757 service will now be referred to as the 812.

Yesterday, we celebrated the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. This special day reminds us of the joy and hope we feel as we await the birth of Christ. The pink candle lit on the Advent wreath symbolises rejoicing, a sentiment that resonates deeply within our school family. At this busy time of year, it is important to pause and reflect on the joy that surrounds us—whether through the accomplishments of our children, the dedication of our staff, or the kindness we share with one another. Let us draw inspiration from Advent as we continue to nurture a school family rooted in faith, love, and service.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to remind you that school will finish at 12:15 pm on Friday, and buses have been arranged for this time. Throughout the week, children will take part in Advent reflections each morning, led by their Head of Year and Faith Prefects, to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. We will finish the term on a high note with our much-anticipated annual Christmas quiz on the final day.

I hope you have a fantastic Holy Christmas and a very happy New Year when it comes. Our staff will also be taking a well-deserved break over Christmas period, spending time with their families, and as such will be unavailable via email, thank you in advance for not contacting them. A reminder school re-opens on 6th January, if you need anything in these final three days, please contact headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

