



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

13th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 2 Headteacher Update

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your patience and understanding during what has been a very cold and disrupted first week back to school. Closing the school is never a decision taken lightly, and I appreciate your support as we prioritised the safety of our children and staff. It is worth noting that the last time St James' closed (outside of the Covid period) was back in January 2019, so this is certainly a rare and infrequent event. We look forward to getting back to routine, and I am grateful for your cooperation in ensuring that learning continues smoothly despite these challenges.

Our Year 9 Parents' Evening took place on Thursday last week with strong attendance at this virtual event. As always, thank you to all Year 9 parents who attended and submitted their feedback to the parental voice questionnaire that was sent out by Mr Maidment. In the coming weeks, this information will be published on our website at the usual address: <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/parental-voice/>.

This week marks an important milestone for some of our Year 11 children as they sit their ICT BTEC external examinations. These assessments are a crucial component of their final qualification and directly contribute to the overall grade they will receive. The external exams are taken under formal examination conditions and provide an opportunity for children to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have been developing throughout the course. It is vital that all children take these exams seriously, prepare thoroughly, and approach them with focus and determination. We wish them every success and appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring children are well-prepared, punctual, and ready to perform at their best.

On Tuesday, a number of our children will have the exciting opportunity to attend a theatre trip, organised by our Drama Department, to see *An Inspector Calls*. This powerful and thought-provoking play is a staple of English literature and drama studies, offering a unique blend of mystery and social commentary. The experience will not only enhance their understanding of key themes and characters but also provide a rich cultural experience, exposing them to live theatre and the artistry involved in stage production. We are confident that this trip will broaden their perspectives and deepen their appreciation of literature and performance, enriching their educational journey.

This week, we reflect on the Baptism of the Lord, as recounted in the Gospel of Luke: *"When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened."* This moment marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and reminds us of the importance of prayer, reflection, and our relationship with God. At St James', we strive to live out these values in our daily lives by nurturing a family rooted in faith, learning, and service. Just as Jesus' baptism was a moment of affirmation and purpose, we encourage our children to recognise their unique gifts and the potential they have to make a positive difference. Together, we grow in faith and understanding, supporting one another on our shared journey of learning and discipleship.

Have a wonderful week as the mornings slowly begin to get lighter and the days get longer. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

