



16th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 3 Headteacher Update

On Friday, we had our first whole school Mass of the academic year, and it was a phenomenal celebration to mark the beginning of our journey together. Fr Rafferty delivered an inspiring message about the importance of our children supporting and helping one another, which truly resonates with the core values of our school; Family, Faith and Excellence. His words reminded us all of the strong family spirit that defines our school and set a beautiful tone for the year ahead. I felt incredibly proud of our children, who were exemplary during the Mass, demonstrating their commitment to life at St James'.

A reminder that we have our Open Evening taking place on 19th September, Thursday this week, and as such, school will close at 1.15pm for our children. The school buses have been arranged to arrive at this earlier time. If your child is supporting either as a guide or within a Faculty area, please ensure that you have completed the consent link and that you have arranged to collect them from school no later than 8pm.

Please can I ask that parents/carers consider our neighbours and park courteously when dropping off and picking up children. We have launched a "park and stride" initiative and there are now designated drop-off spots at the Pointing Dog car park and also Grove Lane Baptist Church. I would encourage you to make use of these and walk the last part of the journey to school wherever possible. This will help to ease congestion and parking issues on the surrounding residential roads as well as reducing emissions and improving air quality. Also, for safety reasons cars are not allowed on school grounds at the beginning and end of the day.

In reflecting on the Gospel of St Mark where Jesus says, "The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously," we are reminded of the inevitability of challenges and hardships in life. In the context of our school family, this message offers a profound lesson. Just as Jesus faced suffering as part of His journey, our children, too, may encounter struggles; whether academic, social, or personal. It is through these challenges that true growth and resilience are built. As a school, we are here to support and guide our children through difficult times, helping them to learn from setbacks and emerge stronger. This support is offered through your child's Form Tutor, our Emmaus Suite, our Nazareth Suite (formerly our SEND department) or our Mental Health Co-ordinator, Miss Gavin. If you feel your child would benefit from any additional support please do not hesitate to contact school. Let us encourage one another to face these moments with courage and faith, trusting that through perseverance, we can transform obstacles into opportunities for development and success.

This week we have our first trip taking place this academic year with our Year 11 Geographers visiting Salford Quays on either Wednesday or Friday. The children are visiting the quays in order to complete their Geography field work as part of their GCSE examination. Please keep all our children and staff in your thoughts and prayers.

I would like to signpost you to a letter which Miss Bowers sent last week entitled "Key Events for Half Term 1". Hopefully this will act as an aid as you plan for all the events taking place this half term. It can be found [here](#).

Have a brilliant week and if you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out at:
headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26