



23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Spring Term Week 3 Headteacher Update**

On Wednesday last week we received national recognition for our school attendance from the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) for the Autumn Term 2022. This is awarded to schools whose Autumn Term 2022 secondary attendance was in the top 10% of all FFT secondary schools. This is a fantastic achievement for the whole school community. Research is clear on the link between good attendance at school and future career prospects. I would like to thank you as parents/carers for ensuring that your child has good attendance. Last Thursday we also received confirmation that we have been awarded The Quality in Careers Standard Award. This is recognition of our excellent careers education, information, advice and guidance provision incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks. This award is the acknowledgement of three years of hard work and intensive drive to improve our careers provision across the school. A huge congratulations goes to all members of staff who have been involved, but a special thanks to Mrs Rarity who leads our careers provision. I am sure you will join with me in offering congratulations.

As I stated earlier in the academic year, we were awarded a gold STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Club Quality Mark. The STEM Club Quality Mark is in recognition of the exceptional provision our school offers to young people by enriching the STEM curriculum. Our STEM Club is a gateway to building enthusiasm for STEM subjects, increasing attainment and greater awareness of real-world context. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff, in particular Mrs Cooper, as well as our children. The award finally arrived in school last week and as you can see below, our letterhead has been updated in recognition of this award. There is also a picture of the children who participated on our Twitter feed.

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 Dr Guscott. In the coming weeks this information will be published on our website at the usual address <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/parental-voice/>. As part of our continued commitment to our Faith, our Year 9 children will be taking part in their Retreat on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week depending on their Form group. All information has been previously sent by Mr Cawley and is available [here](#). In a similar way to the readings that we heard yesterday, which focused on the call to ministry and the importance of scripture, our students will be focusing on their call to ministry as followers of Jesus.

This week our staff are finalising the termly data two and reports for our Year 11 children. The termly data and their reports, as always, will contain information on your child's Current Working Grade, Attitude to Learning, current attendance and areas for them to work on as we enter the crucial months ahead of their final external examinations. We have deliberately sent this data report before the Year 11 Parents' Evening which takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to aid discussions. If you have any concerns about any data within the report that you would like to discuss with teachers before the Parents' Evening, please do contact the individual teachers directly who will be more than happy to assist. All staff contact details are available on the school website.

A reminder that our Parent Forum takes place this evening, Monday, at 6pm in school. All information has previously been sent by Dr Guscott and is available [here](#). In a similar way, a reminder that on Thursday we have our Work Experience evening for our Year 10 children, again all information has previously been sent by





# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs Rarity and is available [here](#). It is crucial that you and your child attend the evening to gather as much information as possible before Work Experience in the Summer Term.

Finally, after school on Tuesday last week at around 3.30pm, unfortunately two children, not from our school, entered our bike shed which is unlocked after school. There were two bikes left in the shed, one was locked up whereas one was not. The two children have stolen the bike which was not locked. Please can you re-emphasise the importance of ensuring that your child locks their bike up if they choose to ride to school. Unfortunately, as previously communicated, bikes are left at the owner's risk and the school cannot accept responsibility for any damage or theft.

Have a fantastic week and if you need anything or have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch at [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher

