



23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 4 Headteacher Update**

As we begin week four, I cannot believe how fast this half term is going. Having delivered assemblies to all Year groups it has been fantastic to see how the children have settled so quickly into the normal routines and rhythms of school life this academic year.

Last week was a great week at St James'; we had our Open Evening on 19<sup>th</sup> September with so many children helping out in one way or another. It was an extremely busy Open Evening and our children were fantastic ambassadors and extremely proud to show off their school and Faculty areas. A sincere thanks from me to all parents/carers for arranging to collect their child at 8pm.

As we live out our value of Faith, our retreats at Savio House start this week for our Year 7 children. This is an opportunity to take time out of school with their Form group to reflect on their faith, why they attend a Catholic High School and what makes it so special. This is always a fantastic opportunity and one that is remembered by all children for the duration of their time at St James'. All information was sent to parents/carers on the 4<sup>th</sup> September by Ms Woods and Mr Baggaley, the letter can be accessed [here](#). During the retreat the children will also continue their preparations to give thanks at our Year 7 Welcome Mass. A reminder it will take place at 6pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Our Lady's Edgeley. **It is really important that all children and parents/carers attend this celebration**, as all Form groups are playing an active role within the Mass.

As always, we have **lots** taking place this week:

- Monday: some of our children will be going to view and honour the Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis; our Chromebook launch for Year 7 takes place at either 3.30pm or 6.00pm (all details have previously been sent by Mrs Moss)
- Wednesday: we have our Key Stage Three Recycling Eco trip where children will continue to live out the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Stewardship
- Thursday: it is European Day of Languages and children who have baked cakes will sell the cakes after they have been judged with all proceeds going to our Macmillan Cancer support; please ensure your child comes with cash in order to purchase some fantastic cakes! In the evening we have our Work Experience Evening for all of our Year 10 children, all information has already been sent by Mrs Rarity.
- Friday: our staff will be holding their annual coffee morning, will all proceeds going to Macmillan

In this week's Gospel from St Mark, Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me." These words remind us of the importance of creating an environment where every child feels welcomed, valued, and cared for. At our school, this message speaks to the heart of our mission. Every child, regardless of background, ability, or circumstance, is deserving of our support and compassion. By fostering a family rooted in kindness and understanding, we not only help our children grow academically but also spiritually and emotionally. As we work together; staff, students, and families, let us ensure that our school is a place where each young person feels seen, respected, and embraced, knowing that in doing so, we are welcoming Christ Himself.



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher



With God  
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26