



30th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 4 Headteacher Update

Following my letter which I sent to you on 24th January I can confirm that school **will be open on Wednesday 1st February for Year 7 & 11 only**. I, alongside other relevant members of staff, have conducted a risk assessment in relation to the strike action. This risk assessment has been used to determine the contingency measures that need to be implemented during the strike. A reminder that the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions and the general underfunding of schools. I will be treating each strike day as a separate event, and therefore may have different arrangements on 28th February, 15th March and 16th March.

The Year 11 and 7 children will follow their normal timetable but do be aware they may not have their normal class teacher. The school will operate a small provision for vulnerable children in Years 10, 9 and 8. If your child is vulnerable please email vulnerablechildren@stjamescheadle.co.uk to request a place stating how your child qualifies as vulnerable. Please be aware this will be supervision of independent study rather than taught curriculum lessons. All children in Year 10, 9 and 8 who normally receive a benefits-related Free School Meal should speak to their Form Tutor or member of the canteen staff who will ensure that a lunch is given to them before they go home on Tuesday for them to eat on Wednesday. For children in Year 10, 9 and 8, there will be links to online learning, through Satchel One, for children to complete during the day they are not in school. Please do be aware this is not remote teaching and will instead be signposting to resources for independent study.

Year 9 took part in a retreat facilitated by Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team last week and this was well received by our children who responded well and enjoyed the experience. You may have seen our Twitter account with pictures of their experience, it really was a worthwhile day and one which allowed them to develop our school value of Faith. These days are such an important part of "educating and developing global Catholic citizens" and we would encourage you to talk to your child about these experiences and take time to pray together, you may find this simple prayer helpful "Walk beside me, as I endure the challenges of today. Give me the strength I need to challenge the week ahead. May I walk in faith and in your strength. Send your angels to guard over me throughout this week, as You me into my divine purpose. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen".

This week our Year 11 Parents' Evening takes place via School Cloud. If you have not already made an appointment, I would encourage you to do this as a matter of urgency. You will receive your child's termly data today and I would suggest that you read it before the Parents' Evening on Thursday to aid your discussions with class teachers. Please pay particular attention to your child's Current Working Grade, Attitude to Learning and their current attendance. Dr Guscott has already written to Parents of Year 11 about the forthcoming mock examinations in March. As always, we ask for your continued support in encouraging your child to prepare thoroughly for these assessments and please do encourage them to attend the catch-up sessions.

I would like to make parents/carers aware that there are proposals to develop a McDonald's very close to St James'. Parents/carers have raised concerns with school around additional traffic due to these proposals. There is a consultation which is currently running, and I would ask you as parents/carers to respond. The consultation link is available [here](#).





ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26