



10th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 6 Headteacher Update

I cannot believe we are entering our final week of our half term; this half term has been extremely short but also extremely busy!

On Monday, 10th March, we will be hosting a careers event for our Year 9 pupils called 'Careers Café.' This event follows a 'speed dating' format, where small groups of pupils engage in short, four-minute conversations with a range of guest speakers to learn about different career paths. We would like to invite you to take part as a volunteer speaker and share insights about your profession. Last year's event received fantastic feedback from pupils. If you are interested in taking part, please let Mrs Rarity know (d.rarity@stjamesheadle.co.uk). The event will take place at St James', with guest arrival at 11:00am, followed by two sessions: Session 1 from 11:15am to 12:15pm and Session 2 from 12:15pm to 1:15pm. Each session will involve approximately 80 pupils, and the event will conclude by 1:15pm. Thank you in advance for your support.

Advanced notice for all parents/carers of Year 9 children that our Options Evening will take place on Thursday 27th February at 6pm in school. This is an important event where you will have the opportunity to discuss Key Stage Four subjects in detail with subject specialists. If you have any questions about the options process, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Guscott via email: s.guscott@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

I would like to wish all staff and pupils heading off on this year's ski trip to Austria a fantastic and memorable experience. Departing on Saturday, 15th February, at the start of half term, the trip promises an exciting week of adventure on the slopes, as well as opportunities to build friendships and create lasting memories. I hope everyone enjoys the skiing, takes in the stunning alpine scenery, and embraces the challenges and fun that come with the experience.

Yesterday, we reflected on a powerful message from Luke's Gospel: *"They left everything and followed Him."* This Gospel reminds us of the courage, faith, and trust required to follow God's calling in our lives. It challenges us to consider what we might need to leave behind—our doubts, fears, or distractions—to fully embrace the path God has set for us. As a school family, we are called to follow Christ's example with open hearts, seeking to serve others and grow in faith. Let us take inspiration from the disciples and strive to live with the same trust and commitment in our daily lives.

I hope you have a lovely half term break when it arrives. Our staff will also be taking a well-deserved break, spending time with their families, and as such will be unavailable via email, thank you in advance for not contacting them. A reminder that school re-opens on 24th February, if you need anything in these final five days, please contact headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher