



13th February 2023

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 seems to have raced by.

If you are a parent of a child in Year 9, please can I remind you of our Options Evening which takes place this Thursday. All information has been sent by Dr Guscott and can be found [here](#). During this evening you will be able 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

The next date of planned industrial action, carried out by the NEU, is scheduled to take place on 28th February 2023. As I have said in my previous letters, each day of industrial action will be treated individually. In order to allow families to plan in advance, I can confirm that **school will be open, as normal, to all Year groups**. Please ensure your child attends as normal.

Advanced notice that on Thursday 2nd March, the first week back after half term, we have our Year 8 Parents' Evening taking place via School Cloud. If you have not already made appointments with members of staff, I would encourage you to do this as a matter of urgency. Dr Guscott has already written to you if you have a child in Year 8 with full details on how to book appointments in advance of this evening.

After half term, our second round of mocks begin for Year 11. We are now entering the final phase of their education at St James' and the final examinations are a matter of weeks away. It is imperative that these mocks are revised for, to allow for teachers to intervene accordingly. Teachers will work with children following these examinations to identify gaps in knowledge and deploy therapy accordingly to fill these gaps.

The Gospel yesterday cuts to the heart of Jesus' message and offers to us a different but complementary challenge. We are called not simply to keep the rules and obey the law, but to live and to act with respect for the dignity, equality, and well-being of every person. Throughout our lives, we are asked to follow rules, this is especially the case in a school setting. Religion has laws and rules too and this was as true at the time of Jesus, as it is today. Jesus tells us that to draw closer to God, we must go above and beyond the minimum requirements of the law. At St James', we want our children to go beyond the minimum requirements of following the rules, we want them to be constantly looking out for, and supporting, their fellow members within our St James' family.

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 27th February, if you need anything in these final five days, please contact headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher