



6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Spring Term Week 8 Headteacher Update**

Last Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, was Secondary School Offer Day where children in Primary schools found out whether or not they had secured a place at their chosen High School. This year was once again the most competitive year I have known at our school with 554 applications for 165 places. This is again a significant increase on the increase we saw last year, again demonstrating how our exceptional school is viewed by the local community. The number of children applying to St James' has nearly doubled since 2019 and hence it is so competitive for places at our great school. We are delighted to be welcoming our September 2023 Year 7 cohort to the St James' family and we are already working closely with Primaries to ensure that their transition is smooth and seamless.

Our Year 8 Parents' Evening took place on Thursday last week with strong attendance again at this virtual event. As always, thank you to all Year 8 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 which can be found [here](#).

This week mock examinations continue for our Year 11 children. Please continue to keep our Year 11 children in your thoughts and prayers. During this period, we have been recruiting for examination invigilators and as with many roles in education, this is becoming more challenging. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in supporting our Year 11 children by becoming an examination invigilator for the summer 2023 series, please do not hesitate to get in contact with our examinations Officer Mrs Millar [k.millar@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:k.millar@stjamesheadle.co.uk).

Thank you for all the donations we have already received for CAFOD Family Fast Day. If you still wish to donate, ParentPay will remain open for this until this Friday.

The Gospel yesterday is one of my favourite passages and one that I can remember studying in significant detail at school. Jesus brings three of his disciples away from the hustle and bustle of the marketplace and takes them up the mountain. While they are on the mountain, something very strange and unusual happens. Jesus is changed in a very dramatic way. He is transformed beyond all recognition and the disciples fall on their faces, overcome with fear. As Jesus continues on his journey towards Jerusalem, he knows what he is facing, he will be betrayed, denied, condemned and crucified. Perhaps sensing the disciples' fear and anxiety he wants to reassure them, so he gives them a glimpse of the shape of things to come; he is revealed to them in all his glory. Just like the disciples, we too sometimes experience fear, doubt and even a lack of faith. Perhaps we also need to be encouraged and strengthened by Jesus, especially as we continue our journey through Lent when we still have a way to go. We need to be reassured that we are heading towards the resurrection and the new life of Easter. So, let us do what the voice of God says to us: "This is my Son, the beloved; Listen to him."

Have a great week and thank you for your continued support. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in contact [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)





**ST JAMES'**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher



With God  
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26