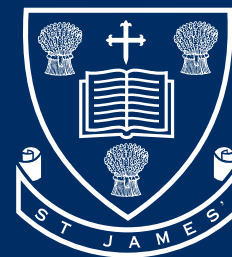


School Newsletter

Summer 2024



As we reflect on the academic year 2023-2024, it is astounding how quickly time has flown by. This year has been a whirlwind of fantastic opportunities and enriching experiences, where our children have truly embodied our core values of Family, Faith, and Excellence.

Our mission to “educate and develop global Catholic citizens” continues to thrive, and as this message reaches you, many of our children have returned from an incredible trip to Germany, with a deeper cultural understanding and with some children having developed their linguistic skills. We also have had many of our children return from the Expressive Arts trip to London and we have just wished farewell to a group of children and two staff who have gone to Borneo for the next four weeks. Your children are indeed a testament to the values and support you provide as parents and carers.

Curriculum Excellence Week

This year's Curriculum Excellence Week was filled with a plethora of wonderful opportunities. We are immensely proud to offer our students numerous enrichment activities, including exciting trips and educational visits. In preparation for their future careers, our Year 10 students completed their Work Experience placements, while Years 7 to 9 participated in a dedicated Careers Day. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many children expressing how much they have enjoyed and benefited from these experiences.

Celebrating Year 11

The departure of our Year 11 students a few weeks ago was marked by heartfelt celebrations. Their Leavers' Assembly, the Leavers' Mass at Christ Church with Fr. Tony, and the Prom were both truly memorable events. Our Year 11 students have shown remarkable resilience and maturity throughout their time at St. James', especially during their GCSEs. I am incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to celebrating their results at our Results Day on Thursday 22nd August.

Achievements and Extracurricular Activities

This year has been marked by outstanding achievements across various areas of school life. We have celebrated phenomenal sporting successes. Our commitment to the Arts remains strong as we celebrated our school production of “Annie.” Our children have participated in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award at both Bronze and Silver level, STEM Club, IT Club, and Dungeons and Dragons Club, among others. These successes are a testament to the dedication of our staff and the commitment of our children.

Prefects and Leadership

Our new Year 10 Prefects have made an impressive start to their roles, aligning with our school values of Family, Faith, and Excellence. Proudly wearing their badges, they have been exemplary ambassadors for our school, especially during the Transition Day for our new Year 7 students. I eagerly anticipate seeing our Faith Prefects

lead each Year group in the end-of-year reflection. Providing these leadership roles is a joy, and I hope they inspire many younger students to aspire to become Prefects when they reach Year 10.

Charitable Contributions

This year, we have supported Cafod as our chosen school charity, and I am delighted to announce that we have raised over £2000, with more donations still being counted. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our school family for their continued generosity. Contributions can still be made via ParentPay. I look forward to discussing with our Faith Prefects the charity we will support next year and sharing our plans with you.

Farewell to Departing Staff

We bid farewell to several staff members this year including Mrs Pickles, Mr Hill, Miss Hewson, Mrs Clark, Miss Allen, Mr Preciado Urbano, Miss Delohery, Miss Dorrington-Ward and Mr Douglas. I am sure you will join me in expressing our gratitude for their hard work and dedication, and we wish them well in their future endeavours. We look forward to welcoming new staff to St James' in September, alongside our new Year 7 cohort.

Stay Connected

To stay updated with all school events, I encourage you to follow us on Twitter @ StJamesCheadle and visit our website www.stjamescheadle.co.uk, which is full of useful information and the latest news updates. Our school term will end on Friday, 19th July at 12:15pm, with an end-of-year reflection and assembly planned for the final day. We will return to school on Wednesday, 4th September for Year 7 only, and on Thursday, 5th September for Years 8 to 11.

Wishing you all a most enjoyable summer, and I look forward to welcoming our staff and children back to school in September.

Warm regards,

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

The Catholic life of our school underpins everything we do and is Christ centred with our school purpose being "To educate and develop global Catholic citizens."

This half term we have continued our fundraising for CAFOD and it has been wonderful to see our children living out our school Values as well as the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching in their fundraising efforts. I look forward to sharing the grand total we have raised once all monies have been added up but we know it is over £2000. It is still possible to donate via ParentPay if you wish.

The tenure of our Year 11 Prefects has now finished. Our new Y10 Prefects have assumed their new roles and the Faith Prefects are currently working on a service of thanksgiving as part of the end of year celebrations that will take place on our final day of the term. I have been very impressed with the start they have made, they have been proactive and engaged and have led by example. Two weeks ago they participated in a lunchtime Mass celebrated by Fr Peter Sharrocks from St Peter's Hazel Grove, this was a lovely opportunity to gather as a Prefect team and Fr Peter's support is much appreciated.

Some of our Year 8 children participated in Mini DASH over in Chester, they had a wonderful time and were presented with certificates recognising their engagement this year. They are fantastic ambassadors for our school and have engaged with our value of Faith throughout the year.

Every day we pause in prayer as a school family at the beginning of the day, before lunch and at the end of our day. It is wonderful to see the children engaging with this and I hope you have enjoyed seeing the prayers we are praying each month in our weekly Celebration of the Word letter.

As I will be leaving St James' at the end of this academic year, I would like to let you know that Miss Purkiss, our Director of Faculty for RE will be leading on Catholic Life of the School. I wish her well in this venture.

You may wish to share this prayer with your family, as we begin our summer break:

We put ourselves into Your hands, and pray that You will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer. May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summertime. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable summer.

Mrs Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher





YEAR 7

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of Year 7. The time has passed so quickly and children have achieved so much. We are really proud of the fantastic Year group they have become. The highlight of this term was definitely celebrating with Year 7 families at Excellence Evening. Those children who received awards were truly deserving of them. However, there are so many additional children who could also have been rewarded for their excellent effort, attitude and contributions to school life. Luckily we had the opportunity to do this in our film and pizza afternoons as well as in the rewards breakfasts.

The values of Faith and Family have been clearly on display this term with several of our Forms undertaking their fundraising events for CAFOD. 7J's football shoot out proved a great success as did 7A and 7C's cake sales. This term children in 7M led our Pentecost assembly, 7A shared a lovely assembly on Dignity and 7C made sure that we remembered Father's Day after their assembly. All Year 7 girls have taken part in a Girls on Board session this term where they embraced the ideas and offered insightful contributions. This initiative will hopefully provide life skills to help children navigate relationships and friendships more independently in the future.

On the 5th June the whole school took part in World Environment Day. Year 7 children displayed their usual enthusiasm by taking part in lunchtime activities in the library upcycling old books by making bookmarks, bunting and origami crafts. Clean Air Day on 19th June gave children another opportunity to contribute to a whole school event and 93 children walked or cycled to school in support of this. Some children also took part in a lunchtime activity observing lichen as a bio-indicator.

Applications for the position of Reading Ambassador were submitted by a large number of children and our congratulations go to Eryn W, Amelia W, Devina J, Nicole A, Samuel W, Catalina B, Sophie T and Holly P who were selected for this role.

The final termly data reflects all the hard work and dedication of Year 7 with an impressive 149 children earning either an Attitude to Learning grade 1 or 2 and 8 children missing their place in the 1,2 Club due to just one subject. A special mention must go to Ethan C, Max C, Faith L, April G, Lena L, Isabella Mc, and Una M. These children received an ATL grade 1 for their classwork in every subject. This is an incredible achievement, and the Year 7 data really reflects our value of Excellence.

Sporting excellence continued to be celebrated this term in the many extra-curricular events. Just some of the successes this year include dodgeball, basketball, badminton, athletics, football, rounders and netball. Sophia F, Niamh S and Grace C came second in their event at the Year 7 Championship Athletics, helping the girls team secure the team bronze medal. In the rounders tournament the girls came third in Stockport.

The summer term is well known for all of the exciting CEW trips and activities. A great time was had by those who went to London, Germany, Chester Zoo and Blackpool Pleasure Beach in addition to Sports Day and curriculum activity days.

As we end this year we say goodbye to 7E's Form tutor, Miss Allen and we all wish her every success and happiness. Miss Hewson also leaves us and will be a huge loss to St James' but a fabulous addition to her new school.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all Year 7 Form Tutors and Pastoral staff for their hard work and support this year. They have been integral to creating the value of Family within Year 7. Finally thank you to children for their enthusiasm and effort and families for your support. It has genuinely been a pleasure to have been able to be part of this Year group's St James' journey and we know they will continue to be a fantastic Year group under the guidance of Miss Cheshire.

Ms Woods & Miss Hewson
Heads of Year 7





YEAR 8

As we approach the end of the year, I want to begin with thanks for our amazing parents, carers and children. Sincerely, I thank you for all the support and understanding that I have been shown whilst caring for your children. Year 8 has been a year of growth, there is a real sense of maturity within the Year group that will be needed before decisions are made on future studies in Year 9.

Behaviour is superb for the vast majority of our Year group with 57 children (35%) receiving zero behaviour points and 84 children (52%) receiving less than 1 behaviour point this term. This year an incredible 35 students (21%) have received zero behaviour points and 53 (32%) have received less than one behaviour point all year. What an incredible achievement. It is testament to your support at home as well as the aspiration and dedication of your sons and daughters in school. I am just as proud of them as you are.

Year 8's approach to lessons is on the whole mature and sensible, and they fully immerse themselves with all aspects of extra curricular life. This year an amazing 67 children (40%) have represented St James' school teams at a competitive sporting fixture. This is the most from any Year group in the school. They are extremely talented in all aspects outside of the classroom with incredible achievements in football, netball and athletics and brilliant participation in the Year group retreat days. In doing so, it has been really evident that Year 8 has been following our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence.

Family

Year 8 fully immerse themselves in the life of the school, attendance at clubs has been brilliant with many Year 8s enjoying activities such as STEM club, Drama club, Art club, Choir and obviously the sports that Year 8s excel at.

Both the girls and boys were runners up in Stockport Schools Athletics Championships, we had several individual winners. I hold high hopes for future years that the boys and girls can build on this year's success.

The careers talks specifically tailored to the interests of the children have finished, every student in Year 8 has been invited to a careers talk at some point in the year. We have had brilliant talks from a Policewoman, a Lawyer, a Coach at Stockport County and the Headteacher. The children get to hear first hand experience from jobs that they have shown an interest in and it will hopefully inspire them to consider what they would like to do once they have left school and help them with option choices next year.

Faith

Every Form has now completed a charity event for the schools designated charity. As a Year group we have raised close to £300 to help vulnerable members of our community feel our love and support. We have also been serving our community as toilet stewards, helping peers recognise the importance of respecting our own environment and taking responsibility for our own area of the school.

Year 8s have again attended school Mass in greater numbers than other Year groups, they will grow to share their faith with others and I am really proud of them.

Excellence

In the recent termly data, a fantastic 121 children (74%) from Year 8 made it into the 1, 2 club for Attitude to Learning. An amazing 11 of those students received a 1 in every single subject; a terrific achievement. Those students were:

- Daniela B
- Ysee R
- Charlotte L
- Fin P
- Ruby R
- Seth C
- Lana C
- Katie B
- Jaxon W
- Hermione R
- JJ B

An incredible 37 (23%) students had less than 2 ATL 2 grades and the rest 1s.

Possessing an excellent Attitude to Learning is so important because it enables a greater understanding of the content of lessons and allows students to reach their potential. It has been great, therefore, to see lots of teachers praise students for their excellent work.

Your children show good humour, politeness and the diligence I expect from St James' students and I am sure that they will continue next year and beyond. Our attendance of 95.2% is good, it is the second highest Year attendance in school and 3.6% above national average. Attendance is so crucial to a child's understanding of topics and to their enjoyment of the social aspect of school. If any students are worried about catching up on work missed or any other obstacles that may impede their enjoyment of school, Miss Ellison, Miss Stewart, Mr Barnes and Miss Gavin are in Emmaus and always available for a conversation as I am myself. Homework club is available every day after school in ORI.

Thank you for all your support in ensuring that our students reach these high demands. I would like to express my thanks for the hard work and care shown by our Form Tutors Mrs Bradford, Mrs Williams, Mr Hill, Miss Adams, Miss Delohery, Mrs Edwards. Year 8 is so lucky to have such wonderful Tutors and I hope you can join me in wishing our best wishes to Mr Hill and Miss Delohery who move onto pastures new this summer.

I hope you and your family have a restful and peaceful summer break. It has been a pleasure to build so many wonderful relationships with you and your children this year, and serve them as best I could, they are a credit to you all. Thank you.

Mr Gallagher
Head of Year 8





YEAR 9

"Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire" – This is a favourite quote of mine from Catherine of Siena and I feel that it is one that can easily resonate with the children. If you do what God has asked of you, you can achieve anything.

During Excellence Evening on the 20th June one of the things that I told the children and their families was this: Year 9 is a pivotal time in your educational journey. It is a year that demands hard work, big choices, resilience to overcome the challenges faced and a commitment to pushing boundaries and coming out of your comfort zone. You have risen to the occasion magnificently. Your excellence in your subjects is a testament to your dedication and pursuit of knowledge.

I have been delighted with the dedication and commitment shown amongst the Year 9 children during this year. In a year where they have had to make some important choices about their futures in terms of what GCSE subjects they want to study, they have approached it with maturity and with some real thought about where they want their education journey to go.

Since we returned from the Easter break, Year 9 have been involved in lots of different areas of school life, as a Year group, as a Form group and individually. We recently spent the day on our annual retreat where the theme of the day was "Set in Stone" and the children were asked to consider what their foundations were and what or who it was that helped them to grow. It was a very reflective day and allowed the children some time away from the classroom.

During my very first assembly back in September, I spoke about taking opportunities when they were presented and I am so pleased that that has happened. There are so many Year 9 children involved in different things around the school and I want to say a really big well done to those children. We have book club, ECO club, STEM Club, Drama club, Music, Art Club, School Council, Lingua Franca, Sports Leadership, Football, Netball, Rounders, Badminton amongst others and a big well done to the following children who

have given their time to take up these opportunities: Joe L, Alvin T, Gabe K, Yuri J, May C, Elizabeth A, Katie M, Ava K, Evelyn W, Ru M, Livvy B, Mavis H, Isabel W, Mai D, Olivia H, Oliver S, Ella R, Tasha H, Finley W, Ashton K, Millie K, Ellie K, Sadie C, Connie G, Eve M, Sophie O, Issy B, Eva Mc, Issy F, Ellie P, Florence P, Celeste F, Aine C, Ellie L, Abi Q, Sadie M, Harlow W, Tilly T, Ben B, Joe D, Theo B, Conal B, Harrison B, Harlem M, Connor B, Oliver H, Eghosa J, Zach P, Ollie L, Adam W, Shay K, Miller O, Javier K, Ethan T, Luco B, Lucia B, Eddie T, Miriam and Lena W.

It is so good to see so many names of children who use their own time to commit to extra curricular activities and I am hoping that continues into Year 10.

I would also like to say a big well done to the children that contributed to Clean Air Day by walking or cycling to school. Finley C was the winner of the Amazon voucher, so well done to him.

The recent termly data is a real cause for celebration with 16 children scoring all grade 1s in their ATLs and a further 31 children scoring 2 or less grade 2s and the rest grade 1s. 107 children in the Year group scored all 1s and 2s which is really good to see. A big well done to Livvy B, Mavis H, Natalia J, Miriam A, Lena W, Elizabeth A, Harrison B, Kit C-A, Luke H, Isaac K, Ethan T, Bradley J, Oliver S, Joe L, Alvin T, and Yuri J who achieved all 1s.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to the amazing team of Year 9 Form Tutors who have worked tirelessly throughout the year with all the children in their Forms. Mrs Brown, Mr Nokes, Mr Cawley, Mrs Bray, Mrs O'Shea, Mrs Clark and Mr Fanning. I am very much looking forward to working closely with them as we head into Year 10. I would like to wish all of Year 9 and their families a restful summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Mrs Linford
Head of Year 9





YEAR 10

As we approach the end of another very successful academic year it is with great pride that I announce the appointments of our Head Boy/Girl and Deputy Head Boy/Girl for the 24/25 academic year. Having received a number of outstanding applications for both roles along with a number of outstanding Prefect applications Job C has been appointed as our Head Boy and Olivia P has been appointed as Head Girl. John Paul K has been appointed as Deputy Head Boy and Mya R has been appointed as Deputy Head Girl. I am extremely proud that the 24/25 academic year will see St James' have such a strong Prefect body with our team of Prefects working under their respective values of Family, Faith and Excellence.

Already our Prefect team has made a huge contribution to school life in their short time as Prefects in the organisation and leading of the Y5 Taster days. It has been amazing to witness the way in which they have conducted themselves during these days and they have been a true testament to us as a school and yourselves as parents and carers.

Throughout the course of the year our Y10 cohort has made an excellent start to their GCSEs. As a reward for their efforts certain pupils had the opportunity to celebrate their hard work this year at the end of year pizza rewards. This half term's pizza rewards were awarded for the children in the Year group who have achieved the most value points across the course of the year; Aliah G, Logan H, Josh T, Lucas H, Filip P, Ethan M, Charlie D, Lillie D, Mya R, Anna D, Emily C and Olivia P are our highest achievers in relation to the number of value points for this academic year. Well done to all.

In a continued effort to broaden our Y10s experience beyond the curriculum we visited Salford Watersports Centre which was an extremely beneficial experience for our Y10 Cambridge National pupils as they developed their knowledge and understanding of Outdoor Adventurous Activities. Our GCSE PE pupils also completed part of their practical exam on a 3 day rock climbing course which again saw our pupils excel and challenge themselves in order to complete some really difficult climbs.

Prior to the start of the Curriculum Excellence Week many of our Y10 pupils had the opportunity to attend Alton Towers Resort as a reward for their commitment and hard work during this academic year. It was an excellent day and it was great to see so many pupils celebrating what has been such a fantastic year for them. Friday 12th July will see our Y10 pupils embark on their work experience placements and I am extremely confident that our Y10s will make an extremely positive contribution in whichever workplace they have chosen to attend.

Finally, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer, thank you for your continued support throughout this vital stage of your child's journey with us at St James' and I look forward to welcoming them back into school on Thursday 5th September.

Best wishes

Mr Reid
Head of Year 10





YEAR 11



The exam season is finally over and I have been really impressed by how well the Year group prepared for this stressful period. There was excellent attendance to revision classes and a really calm atmosphere going into the exams. I am sure that all the hard work will pay off in August.

I had the pleasure of delivering the Leavers' assembly before the children went off on study leave. They really enjoyed reading the teachers' messages and looking at the photos, especially the change from Year 7 to Year 11 and it was certainly quite emotional. It was lovely to see them coming together after the assembly signing shirts in the rare bit of sunshine!

Well done and thanks to all the children who have contributed in some way to the life of the school over the years, through not only academic achievement but also extra-curricular activities such as STEM, European Day of Languages Bake off, Music and Drama performances, taking part in assemblies and Masses, Duke of Edinburgh and sport. They have really demonstrated our values of Family, Faith and Excellence. By developing their whole self, this will prepare them well for their future endeavours.

Thanks also to the Prefects, Head Boy, Head Girl and the Deputies for doing a fantastic job. They carried out any task asked of them and did themselves and their families proud. They set an excellent example to the lower Years and the Year 10s have now taken over the mantle.

The Leavers' Mass was lovely and a fitting way for the cohort to finish. Thanks very much to all the families who attended and to Kay and Matthew for reading.

The Prom the following evening was a real highlight. Everyone looked so grown up and so glamorous. The dance floor was packed from start to finish, with some of them taking a short breather to eat, then they were back on the dance floor again! The table plans were almost unnecessary. It was so lovely to see them come together as a Year group. A real sense of community. One of my favourite events of the Year.

Thanks to the Year 11 team, Miss Brett, Mr Baggaley, Miss Mylott, Miss Toner, Ms Trainor and Mrs Healey, also Mr Reid, Ms Ellison and Ms Bickerton for the support and guidance they have given to the Year group over the years.

I send my best wishes to all the Year 11 children for the future. Thanks to you as parents for supporting them and working with us to get the best out of them.

God Bless

Ms Cheshire
Head of Year 11



ATTENDANCE

I would like to express our thanks for your unwavering commitment to your child's education and regular school attendance.

We are thrilled to share that our school has achieved the top position on the leaderboard for attendance within our Local Authority. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and support of our parents and carers, as well as the hard work and determination of our children. Your commitment to ensuring that your child attends school regularly has been pivotal in achieving this milestone.

Consistent attendance not only enhances learning opportunities but also helps in fostering a sense of responsibility and discipline in students, setting a strong foundation for their future endeavours. We understand that achieving regular attendance can sometimes be challenging due to various circumstances. However, your continued efforts to prioritise education and overcome these obstacles are deeply appreciated.

I hope you all enjoy a relaxing and hopefully sunny Summer holiday.

Mrs Taylor
Attendance and Family Liaison Manager

 Follow us on X:
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St James' Catholic High School
St James' Way, Cheadle Hulme
Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 6PZ

0161 482 6900
www.stjamescheadle.co.uk

With God all things are possible

Matthew 19:26

