

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are hoping to launch our new website this week, You may remember me asking parents last year for comments about our website, asking what improvements you think we could make and what purpose you think a website should serve. The responses we received were very positive, and we think we have addressed some of your concerns, particularly about the ease of navigation and the 'user-friendly' nature of the site.

We are hoping for the site to go 'live' by Thursday, in time for the **KS3 Curriculum Evening**, as it will be one of the areas we will be looking at, as well as trying to help Year 7 parents understand what to expect with regard to home/school communication and progress reports. The evening will begin with refreshments at **6.30pm**, followed by a presentation at **7.00pm**. I am delighted to say that our new Year 7 pupils have settled in really well, and their retreat days to Linnet Clough were a huge success.

Thank you to those parents and students who came to our Careers Convention last Thursday. Thank you also to the representatives from the different Colleges and Apprentice providers who were there to provide information and answer questions. There was a real 'buzz' in the School Hall, and it certainly was a very informative evening.

Another reminder that it is our **Open Evening on Thursday 2nd October**. To enable us to prepare the school for prospective parents and pupils, we shall be closing early at 1.15pm. If you know of anyone who would be interested in attending Open Evening, or would like to make an appointment at any other time to come and visit the school, then please encourage them to do so. One of the main reasons St James' is so popular with new prospective parents is because of 'word of mouth'. Your endorsement is the best form of publicity for the school and it is very much appreciated.

As always, thank you for your continued support and if you ever wish to contact me about any issue, please do not hesitate to email me at headteacher@st-jamescatholic.stockport.sch.uk.

Tim Beesley, Headteacher

PRAYER

Lord, grant that we may
Hear the voices crying out for justice,
Engage in developing better understanding,
Act to bring about change,
Lead and inspire others by our example.
Amen

ADVANCE NOTICE

MAIN EVENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR

Open Evening Thursday 2nd October 7pm

Year 7 welcome mass Thursday 16th October 7pm

Presentation Evening at Stockport Town Hall Thursday 6th November 7pm

Careers Cafe – Thursday 27th November 7 – 8:30pm

Christmas Showcase Tuesday 16th December (time to be advised)

Christmas Mass – Thursday 18th December 1:30pm

School Production "Grease" – Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th February

Year 11 Mass of celebration – Thursday 30th April 7pm

Lower School Presentation Evening – Thursday 24th June 7pm

Intake Evening – Wednesday 1st July 7pm

YEAR 10 BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

Sunday 2nd November to Wednesday 5th November 2014

For any pupil going on the history trip it is vital that they hold a current UK passport and EH1C card (please check the date is current)

Mrs Birch – Head of History and trip leader

NB: Parents meeting Tuesday 14th October at 6:30pm in the assembly hall

GIRLS' PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

Week Commencing Monday 22nd September

Monday (lunch)	All years girl's football practice 1.15pm on astro only trainers and shorts needed
Monday (after- school)	Years 7 & 8 Hockey practice
Tuesday (lunch)	Years 9, 10 & 11 netball practice 1.15pm in the sports hall only trainers needed
Tuesday (after-school)	Years 8, 9 & 11 Netball match at home vs Kingsway
Tuesday (after-school)	Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 Gymnastics club 3.00-4.15pm
Tuesday (after-school)	Years 7 netball practice 3.00-4.00pm
Wednesday (lunch)	Years 7 & 8 netball practice 1.15pm in the sports hall only trainers needed
Wednesday (after-school)	Years 7 & 8 (U13) 9 & 10 (U15) Girls Football Tournament at home
Thursday (after-school)	Year 11 Netball Stockport School's Tournament at Stockport Grammar. Please bring £1 for the coach.

Girls' PE

BOYS' PE EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

Week Commencing Monday 22nd September

Monday	Badminton at Lunch
Tuesday	Yr 11 Inter-form Football at lunch. Football Yr 9 (a) v Bramhall meet 3pm return 5.15pm
Wednesday	Football Yr 7 (h) v Woods Lane Meet 3pm Finish 4.45pm Yr 8 (a) v Kingsway meet 3pm return 5pm
Thursday	Badminton at lunch Football Yr10 (a) v Bramhall Meet 3pm Return 5.30pm
Friday	Badminton at lunch Yr 7 Football lunch Yr 7 Football Practice 3pm - 4.30pm

Boys' PE

SHOW MY HOMEWORK

Homework is an essential part of becoming an independent learner and for making progress. All staff are now setting homework on Show My Homework, our online homework system. All Year 7 pupils have been issued this week with a sheet that has personal logins for both the pupil and parents. By logging in using the username and password provided, you will be able to view the homework calendar that is personalised for you and your child. All pupils should be recording homework in their planner and using SMHW to ensure they keep organised and on top of their work.

To access Show My Homework:

Either:

1. Go to the school website (www.stjamescatholichighschool.org.uk) and then click on the Show My Homework icon at the bottom of the page. You or your child will then be able to filter the calendar for homework, with details on what is expected and the due date.

Or:

2. Type in <https://stjamescatholiccollege.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar> and then check the calendar or login for your child's homework.

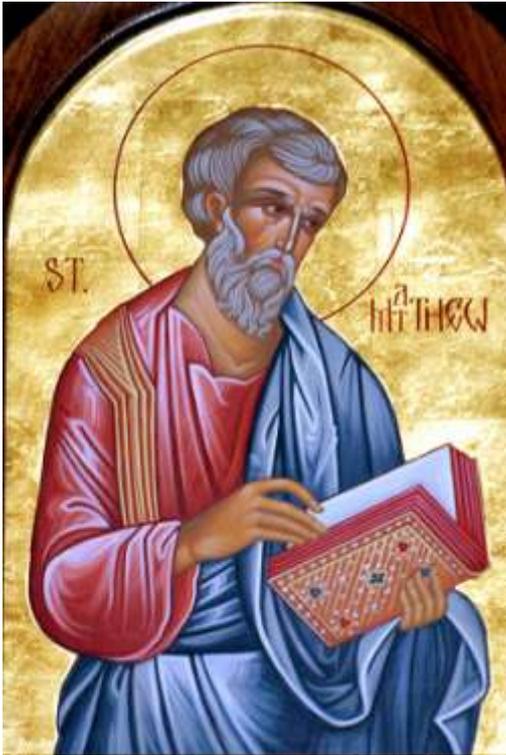
Remember that the calendar can be filtered by subject, class, member of staff and year group. If you have any problems with Show My Homework, please email me at St. James' and we will do our best to resolve the issue.

HOMEWORK TIMETABLES

The homework timetables for all years are available from the website www.stjamescatholichighschool.org.uk under "Academic & Pastoral"

Dr Guscott
Assistant Head Teaching & Learning

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



SAINT OF THE WEEK – ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

St Matthew was a Jewish man who worked as a tax collector for the Romans. This was a job for the brave, as those who did it were despised and outcasts from Jewish society. Tax collectors were paid by taking a cut of the taxes they collected – they were effectively free to set their own salary!

Yet, Jesus called Matthew personally to be one of the twelve apostles, much to the dismay of the Pharisees, who asked why he spent time with tax collectors and sinners (who were seen to be one and the same!). However, Jesus replied that doctors do not look after the healthy, but those in need; Jesus came to save the sinners, those in need.

After he became an apostle, Matthew gave up everything he had – giving his possessions to others in need. He went on to be a devoted follower of Christ, going on to travel and spread the Gospel, as far as Syria, Persia and Ethiopia, where he was probably martyred.

Many thought Matthew wasn't holy enough to be as close to Jesus as he was. But Jesus saw something in Matthew that others didn't, and he didn't hold past mistakes against him.

What can we learn from this?

YOUTH SVP

The first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 30th at lunch time in the Chapel, however meetings will normally be Blue *Thursdays* at lunch time. Youth SVP is open to any students in Years 8 and 9 who are interested in volunteering to go out into our local community to work with primary school children, the elderly, and more as we develop our work.

If you are interested, speak to Mrs Bennett.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Parishes of **St Peter's** (Hazel Grove), **St Philip's** (Offerton), **St Ambrose** (Adswold) or **St Vincent's** (Bramhall), there is a come and see meeting on *Sunday 28th September* for young people (and parents) in Year 8 and above, in the Parish Centre, 4.45pm – 5.45pm.



The **Christ Church** programme has an initial meeting for young people and parents on *Tuesday 23rd September*, in the church hall at 7.30pm. This is for those in Year 9 and above.

Students in the other Cheadle parishes; St. Chad's and St. Ann's – young people are confirmed in Year 9 or above. More information will follow when I get it.

Students in parishes of Our Lady's and the Apostles (Shaw Heath), St. Josephs (Stockport) and St. Bernadette's (Brinnington) – information will be given when I get it. The priests are meeting to discuss this year's programme. It usually starts after Christmas, and plenty of warning and information will be given.



HOMEWORK CLUB

For those Year 8s who are struggling with their homework, pop in to Room 45 every Monday lunchtime to get some extra help or a quiet place to focus on homework. One person who doesn't need that at the moment is Paige Sherratt, who has collected ten achievement points already. Well done Paige!!

Mr Cawley

Morrisons Let's Grow vouchers – if you get any, we'd love to have them! We hope to get as much basic kitchen equipment for Food Technology as we possibly can! Collecting point in LRC and at Reception.

From our campaign to collect **Sainsbury's Active Kids** vouchers last year, we are currently awaiting delivery of sports bibs for PE, and Food are having a bonanza of tea towels, sandwich tins, cooling trays, paring knives, kitchen scissors, frying pans and a juice squeezer! Thank you for helping us!

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

YEAR SEVEN

It has been great to have so many Year 7 pupils dropping in to the LRC already so early in the year. Those who haven't, why not?! You are all already members of the library, and we also have a really brilliant choice of books.

To remind too- the LRC is where you can buy all the cheap stationery and the book backing sticky stuff. Yes, really cheap stationery- ballpoint pens 2p! so you will never have a reason to be unprepared for lessons!

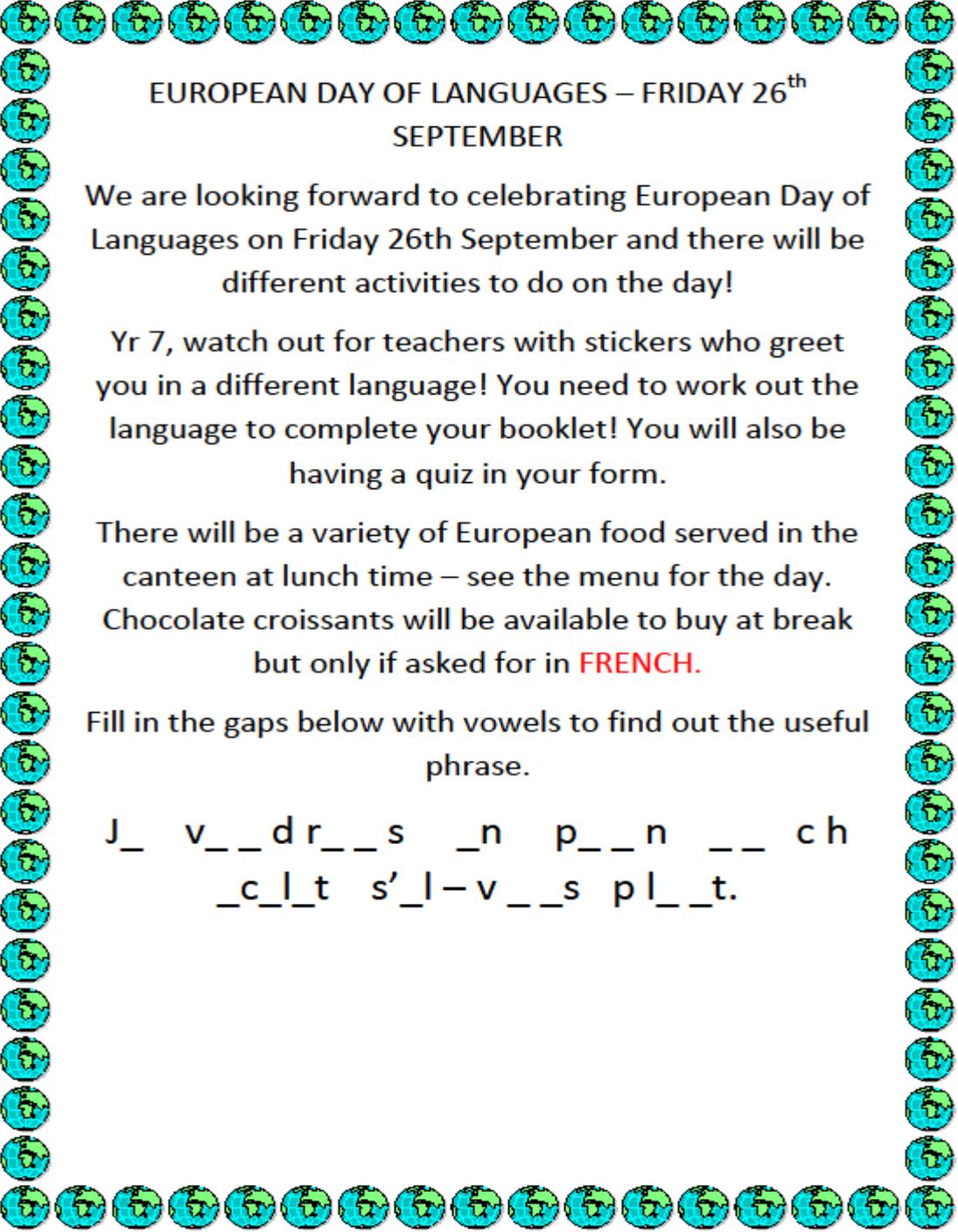
The LRC is open from 8.15am until 4pm, so students can come in at those times to use the library facilities- do some work, use the computers, get stuff printed, or just have a quiet read.

And your librarians are:-
Mrs Smith and Mrs Morrin



Mrs Morrin

Mrs Smith



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES – FRIDAY 26th
SEPTEMBER

We are looking forward to celebrating European Day of Languages on Friday 26th September and there will be different activities to do on the day!

Yr 7, watch out for teachers with stickers who greet you in a different language! You need to work out the language to complete your booklet! You will also be having a quiz in your form.

There will be a variety of European food served in the canteen at lunch time – see the menu for the day. Chocolate croissants will be available to buy at break but only if asked for in **FRENCH**.

Fill in the gaps below with vowels to find out the useful phrase.

J_ v__ d r__ s _n p__ n __ ch
_c_l_t s'_l-v__s pl__t.

AUSGEZEICHNET! WUNDERBAR! TOLL! FANTASTISCH!

What more can we say? Huge Congratulations to those students in Year 9 who took German GCSE early entry. You achieved fantastic results and we are very proud of you. We know how hard you worked and you deserve your amazing grades – very well done!

We would like to wish you every success with your French GCSE!

Ihr seid die Beste!

Frau Barnett und Frau Saunders

THE REWARDS SYSTEM 2014 2015

The Rewards Policy at St James' is clear. Our aims are to:

- Move classroom 'behaviour for learning' at St James' to outstanding
- Further improve pupil progress by recognising and rewarding achievements more consistently throughout Years 7-11.

To do this, we want to:

- Reward those pupils who always try hard and behave well
- Recognise and reward progress, attitude to learning, achievement and presentation regularly in Years 7-11
- Support teachers to ensure that effective teaching and learning is taking place

Pupils can be rewarded in four ways:

1. Subject Awards

Towards the end of each term, all staff nominate pupils for subject awards for Achievement, Attitude to Learning, Presentation and Progress. Pupils receive a certificate and an invitation to the ever popular pizza lunches.

2. The 123 Club - Attitude to Learning (ATL)

Every 10 weeks, pupils receive a level and an ATL score from 1 (Outstanding) to 6 (Poor) for their attitude to learning in each subject. This is based upon the quality of class work, homework and behaviour over time in each lesson. Pupils who get all 1s, 2s and 3s are in the 123 Club, and receive awards throughout the year, with extra awards given to those who have only 1s or 1s/2s on their report. Pupils who are in the 123 Club for three quarters are invited each year to our Rewards Trip / Event.

3. Rewards within departments

Many faculties also run their own internal rewards systems.

4. The Ready To Learn system (or RTL)

RTL is only focused on whether pupils are prepared for lessons and ready to learn. RTL only applies to lessons, including entry and exit. It focuses on the following four criteria - homework being handed in; punctuality; bringing in the right equipment and following the uniform policy.

The system will work like this:

Each pupil will start with 10 points per half term. Pupils will have a point taken off by their class teachers (or form tutors where appropriate) if

- (a) They are late to school or lessons (*without good reason**)
- (b) They do not bring their homework in (*without good reason**)
- (c) They fail to bring the right equipment to a lesson (*without good reason**)
- (d) They fail to follow the school uniform policy (*without good reason**)
- Pupils who keep their 10 points will receive stars to celebrate how well they are doing.
- There will be two prize draws for each year group at the end of each half term - one for pupils who have kept all 10 points and one for those with between 6-10 points.
- **Pupils who have kept all 10 points will go into both draws.**
- At the end of each half term, all pupils will go back to 10 points and RTL starts again. Pupils who still have all 10 points at the end of the year will be entered for the Grand Prize Draw! Last year we were delighted to give out 4 iPads to the lucky winners!

**A good reason would include a letter from home, note in planner, medical condition, etc.*



Well done to all the pupils who kept all their RTL points for the whole of the last academic year, these are the four lucky pupils who were drawn out in July to be given an iPad!!

I am speaking to all pupils this week in assembly about the RTL and ATL systems. RTL is a challenge! However, we have the highest expectations both for our pupils and for our school. To prepare for the new year, please talk to your child about our expectations with them and the importance of:

Completing homework to the best of their ability

- Punctuality at all times
- Bringing the right equipment to school on the right days
- Following the school uniform policy correct

Here are the 4 lucky iPad winners: *Katie McMenamin 8E, Niamh Sanquest Jones 9A, Charlotte Laing 10E & Charlotte King 11M*

Thank you for your support, and if you would like to contact me about the new policy at any time, please do not hesitate to do so!

Dr S Guscott – Assistant Head Teaching & Learning

YEAR 9 CAREERS CAFE

Volunteers Needed!

Thursday 27th November is the date for our annual Careers Café. This is an opportunity for Year 9 pupils and parents to speak to people from a range of different professions and jobs and to gain an insight into their work and career paths. This is an informal evening where small groups can listen to our guest speakers and ask questions that may help them in their own decision making when thinking about their option subjects or education and employment after St James'.

Can you help?

Would you be willing to be a guest speaker on the night? We would love to hear from anyone who would be willing to talk about their job, any professions welcome. If you are interested in taking part in what is always a busy but enjoyable night then please contact Miss Brooks or Mrs Rarity as soon as possible. Many thanks in advance of your support.

Mrs Rarity and Miss Brooks

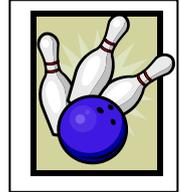
dominique.rarity@st-jamescatholic.stockport.sch.uk

helen.brooks@st-jamescatholic.stockport.sch.uk

YEAR 10 NEWS

Congratulations to Ruby Kenyon for writing a beautiful prayer to reflect our theme of appreciation this year. We will use this prayer together throughout the year and all Year 10 will receive a copy next week.

We are delighted to give you advance notice that the Year 10 Christmas Activity of bowling has now been booked for Wed 17th Dec. A letter will go out once costs have been finalised.



Charity Reps will be collecting tins and packets over the next few weeks for our Harvest collection. Any tinned or packet food will be much appreciated. Our collection will join that of Cheadle Catholic Juniors and will go to the Chelmwood Foodbank.

Many thanks Ms Woods (Head of Year 10)

Year 10 Prayer

The Year of Appreciation

Dear Lord,

*This year help us to appreciate not only the things we have
but the things we are able to do.*

Help us to appreciate what others do for us.

Help us to appreciate our safety and comfort

St James Pray for us.

Ruby Kenyon 10M

