

St James' Catholic High School
A Specialist Humanities College



Autumn Term Newsletter 2011

**RECORD GCSE RESULTS FOR THE SCHOOL:
74% 5 + A* - C GRADES (INCLUDING ENGLISH AND MATHS)**

WELCOME BACK

We start the new school year celebrating the best ever GCSE results in the school's history: 74% of the cohort achieving 5 or more A*-C grades (including English and Maths) and 86% achieving 5 or more A*-C grades. Well done to everyone.

This month we welcome Miss Bradshaw to the Faculty of Creative Technology, she has taken over from Miss Waggett, Mr Gold to the Science Faculty covering for Mrs Brown's maternity leave; Miss Lyons (an ex pupil) in the Faculty of Creative Technology, covering for Mrs Bickerton's maternity leave, Mrs McGarr, the new Deputy Director of the Religious Education Faculty, Miss Molyneux has joined our PE Faculty and Mrs Whelan who has joined our Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages. Mrs Dardis and Mrs Orr have also joined the school as Pastoral Managers, as have Mrs Brown a new English TA and Mrs Evans, Miss Farrell and Mrs Jones who have joined the SEN team.

RE FACULTY

The RE Faculty welcome all the Year 7s and their parents and carers to St James' and hope you enjoy your time with us.

Parents and carers - can you please ensure that you have signed the yellow letter that is in your child's RE book which outlines all the topics that your child will be studying in Year 7 and also highlights the standard of behaviour we expect from pupils.

Please also ensure that your child knows on which night they get homework and that they always make a note of it in their planner.

REMINDER - the Year 7 Welcome Mass is on Thursday 13th October at 7 .00 p.m in the Sports Hall - everyone welcome!

A big welcome to Mrs McGarr who joins the faculty as our Deputy Director - we wish her every success at St James'.

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

The Creative Technology Faculty would like to welcome Miss Bradshaw our new Textiles teacher and Miss Lyons our Food Technology teacher who is here on a maternity cover. They arrive to the best ever GCSE results from Creative Technology - 94% of pupils passed with an A* - C in either Product Design Resistant Material or Textiles, Food Technology and ICT.

SCHOOL NURSE

Andrea, our school nurse is in school every Monday from 10:00am until 1:30pm

If your child wants to speak to the nurse they can drop in at break or lunchtime or speak to the Key Stage office if they would like a private appointment.

Andrea is based in the office between the History classrooms.

WEBSITE

Please continue to read our St James' school website. This is a valuable resource for parents and carers to keep up to date with what is happening in school. www.stjamescatholichighschool.org.uk.

ATTENDANCE

It is very important for your child to come to school on time every day. If your child has an appointment then please take them out of school for the appointment only and return them afterwards. I appreciate how difficult this is but if at all possible could appointments be made either in the holidays or after school hours?

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school then please let school know. You will be contacted by SMS to your mobile phone or landline if there is no message to explain your child's absence. This is to ensure that your child is safe and to establish why they are not in school.

If this communication service is to work effectively we need up to date contact details, so please let school know if you either, change your address, your telephone number (both mobile and land line) and your e-mail address.

LUNCH TIME ARRANGEMENTS

As you are probably aware the cash machines for the canteen have not been working. Pupils have therefore been bringing in cash to use at break and lunchtime. Unfortunately this is an ongoing situation and the machines will not be brought back into service.

As previously advised, you may send cheques into school in an envelope marked with your child's name and form (cheques to be made payable to "SolutionsSK"), please ask your child to then give this envelope directly to Mrs Thorburn (Kitchen Manager) or place the envelope in the blue finance box in the dining hall. Please note it will take up to 24 hours for this to be processed.

This method of paying for school lunches is preferable as the canteen are then able to monitor individual pupil spending.

We are currently investigating establishing a new electronic "Parentpay" system. We are hoping to have this in place by Christmas, but we will keep you updated.

HOLIDAY REQUESTS

If possible please do not book holidays during term time. Holidays will not be granted during periods when students are either taking or preparing for examinations. As you will be aware attendance is monitored all the time and requests for holidays in term time will not be accepted if your child's attendance is poor. Requests for holidays in term time must be made in writing and handed into the school office.

UNIFORM

Can I thank the vast majority of our parents and carers who fully support our uniform rules. If you are unsure as to whether an item of clothing, footwear or hairstyle is acceptable please consult the uniform page in the school's prospectus, which is on the website. Please be advised that if the item in question is not there then it is safe to say it is not allowed. If you are still in doubt please contact your child's head of year.

We reserve the right to send students home who arrive at school without full uniform. If it is necessary to do this we will expect students to return to school, as soon as possible, wearing full uniform. Parents and carers will be informed if we are placed in the position of having to take this action.

TERM DATES

Term dates can be found on the website. School closes on Friday 21st October for Half Term.

Some key dates are as follows:

OPEN EVENING Tuesday 4th October 2011 starting at 7.00 p.m. School closes early on Tuesday 4th at 1.35 p.m.

YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS Thursday 13th October 2011, in the Sports Hall, at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENTATION EVENING Tuesday 15th November 2011 at Stockport Town Hall starting at 7pm

Mr J Barnes
Acting Headteacher