

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



December 2018

Dear parent and carers,

As you will be aware the school has celebrated many excellent achievements during the academic year 2017/2018. We are extremely proud of the many successes of our students in a variety of activities, none more so than the summer GCSE results regarding student progression which we celebrated earlier this term.

We would like to advise all parents that the school will close at **12.30pm** on **Friday, 21st December 2018**. Please ensure your child has made arrangements to make a safe journey home as there will be no school buses at the close of day. The school reopens for the start of the spring term on **Monday 7th January 2019** at **8.30am**.

Christmas events

Leading up to Christmas the school will be involved with the food collections for a local charity organised by our former Headteacher Sister Barbara, we will be collecting tins of food - we are aiming to surpass last year's collection of over 500 tins. If you are able, please send a donation of a tin of food with your child into school by **Friday 21st December**; items will be collected during form time.

We will also be supporting the Christmas jumper appeal on **Friday 21st December**. If your child would like to wear a Christmas jumper, we would ask them to bring in a contribution of tins of food on this day.

Arrangements for adverse weather

As we look to the New Year, it is best to think about our arrangements for adverse weather. We have only closed on two days in the last eight years, so any alteration to normal business would be very rare. However, it is best to be clear about how we will communicate so that everyone is as well informed as possible on what are often stressful mornings. When we need to close a 'weather warning – school closed' will appear on the school website from 7.30am. You can also expect an email and text around 7.30am to confirm the situation.

In any event, do please make safe choices about travel – in most cases of bad weather school gradually fills up during the first part of the morning as students complete their journeys.

Attendance

This is also the time of year when illness is more prevalent. If your child is unwell and will be absent from school please contact school as soon as possible to advise of their absence (**please see the enclosed leaflet on the importance of attendance**)



Uniform

We continue to have very high standards in uniform and if you are purchasing any items this winter, then please check the school's uniform on the school's website where you will find information on uniform and footwear. Please could I remind parents of the importance of wearing school ties; students can purchase their house tie from student reception for £4.50.

During the cold winter season students may wear the grey pullover under the school blazer; the jumper is available from the school uniform suppliers. Students may also wear a black coat to and from school. In the event of snow the pavements are slippery and we would advise students to wear appropriate foot wear to and from school however, please note black school shoes must be worn in the building.

Year 11 exams and reports

Year 11 start their internal exams on **10th December- 20th December 2018**. Please remember that your child should bring their exam results home with them on **Friday 18th January 2019**. There will be an opportunity to discuss these examination results with your child's teachers at the Year 11 Parents' evening on **Thursday 24th January 2019**

End of term reports

You will receive your child's report for term one in the next few weeks; parents of Year 11 pupils will have recently received a full written report from all their subject teachers. There will also be a newsletter enclosed for each of the year groups outlining the events your child's year group will be involved in in the next term.

Important diary dates

Some events for next half term might be useful for your diary. These include: -

Thursday 24th January 2019 -Year 11 Parents' evening

Monday 11th – Friday 15th February 2019 – Year 10 Work Experience

Thursday 14th February 2019 – Year 9 Options Evening

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February 2019 – School closed (Half term)

The holiday pattern for 2019/20 is now on the school website. **There is also copy attached to this letter.** For news and updates on the school, events and activities please visit the school website at: www.msj.bolton.sch.uk.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Devany
Headteacher