

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

Greenland Road • Farnworth
Bolton • BL4 0HU
Tel: 01204 391800
Fax: 01204 389575

Website: www.msj.bolton.sch.uk
e-mail: headteacher@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



July 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we approach the end of the 2018/19 academic year, we reflect upon the success and achievements of this year and look forward to the opportunities a new academic year has to offer. In the next few weeks of term, there are many events and trips for the students to participate in, including sports day, a respect day on the 16th July, and the end of year rewards trip.

End of year report:

Please find enclosed your child's summer report. Please look at this report with your child and celebrate their achievements as we have celebrated the school's outstanding results throughout the year. This has been achieved through the hard work of all members of our community and with the continued support of you as parents and carers. Your full support is a vital part of the work we do to ensure we provide the best opportunities and outcomes for all our students and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Attendance:

Student attendance has continued to increase this term and we congratulate our students on their attendance. We hope that with your support we can achieve our target in the next school year. The Government are keen to reduce the levels of school absence throughout the country - the Government threshold for persistent absence has changed. If your child's attendance is below 90% (18 days or more absence over the academic year) they will be classed as a persistent absentee. Studies show that students with attendance lower than 90% do less well in their GCSE exams and have reduced employment opportunities. Please ensure that where possible all appointments are made outside of school time and your child is in school, unless their absence is due to genuine illness, to ensure their school attendance is above 96%. **I have enclosed a copy of the holiday pattern for 2019-2020 with this letter and the dates for next year's parents' evenings, please could I ask you to check the term dates before booking any holidays or events.**

Uniform:

Mount St Joseph has an excellent reputation within the community. To maintain this, we need to ensure that uniform is of the highest standard. Please ensure you refer to the **school website** for the full school uniform list. I would like to highlight aspects of uniform around hair and jewellery – students are not permitted to wear any piercings, or have extreme hairstyles and colours.

Could I also remind you that when purchasing school trousers, they must be tailored trousers (not slim fit or jeans). Also, when buying school shoes, please ensure that they are shoes, not trainers as these are not acceptable. I look forward to your support in ensuring these high standards of uniform are adhered to. If you are unsure of any aspects of the school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school before you purchase the items.

Mobile phones:

In order to build on and develop student progress and attainment, we need to focus on all aspects associated with learning, eliminating distractions for students. I would like to request the support of parents/carers in reminding their child about mobile phones and other electrical devices; these should be switched off and kept out of sight during the school day. Students have been informed of

the times and the zones where electrical devices are permitted. Students are also aware of the consequences for using electrical devices in classrooms or on corridors.

School Dinners:

Regularly a number of students come into school without any money on their Parentmail account. Please ensure you top-up your child's account on a regular basis. Please avoid sending cash into school with your child. A number of students spend cash each day at the One Stop shop in the morning leaving themselves no money for lunch. If you have not yet registered with Parentmail, please contact the school reception on 01204 391800 and an email or text will be sent out to enable you to do this.

Heathy Eating

We encourage all of our students to consume healthy food and drinks during the school day. All the meals and food served in the school canteen are all in line with the healthy schools' guidelines and policy. Please could I ask all parents and carers to remind your child that excessive amounts of unhealthy food i.e. large bags of crisps, chocolate and fizzy pop are not permitted in school. Also, energy drinks and drinks in glass bottles are also forbidden. If pupils do not adhere to the healthy eating policy, the items will be confiscated and parents will be invited into collect them.

All the above information and further information can be found on the school website: www.msj.bolton.sch.uk.

The school closes **on Friday, 19th July at 12.30pm**. The new school year begins on **Wednesday, 4th September at 8.30am for all pupils**.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this academic year, I wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful summer and I look forward to working with you next academic year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop that encircles the first few letters of the name 'A Devany'.

A Devany
Headteacher