

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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17 July 2020

Dear Year 9,

Re: End of year 9

We do hope you are all safe and well. As a school, we have faced disruption and challenge resulting in enormous changes to our daily lives but through this adversity, we are pleased to hear that you have managed to find some positives such as spending more good quality time with your families, getting out for long walks and developing a love of exercise, not to mention all the new skills that have been developed such as cooking, baking, DIY or arts and craft.

We want to say thank you and well done to all of you for working hard to keep some normality and routine in your lives by embracing the school curriculum from home, your teachers speak very highly of the work being produced on SMH and we are equally pleased with the adaptability of those who have faced difficulty accessing the technology and found other ways to learn. Well done to you all – your hard work will pay off.

We have really enjoyed looking through your work each week, having your teachers nominate their chosen stars of the week. Some of you will have received awards and certificates in recognition of the fantastic work you have completed all year round and to recognize the wider skills you have developed that have a positive impact on our communities. These awards are true recognition of the students who achieve highly and represent our school in the community. Congratulations to all those winners. Make sure you have checked your emails to see if you were a winner!

As we move into the summer holidays (starting on the 17th July) and the work on SMH ceases, it is important you maintain these good habits; try to include some exercise and well-being activities, but also enjoy reading a book. Why don't you try 'The Art of Being a Brilliant Teenager' by Andy Cope or 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' by Kiran Millwood, two highly recommended reads. Did you know that reading for fun and enjoyment means you are more likely to do well in your GCSE exams.

At school, we are currently preparing for September when we hope to be back to some normality. We hope that you enjoyed the form well-being session in school that set out to reassure you of what to expect in September, and a great opportunity to catch up with friends and see your form teachers again. It is important that we are prepared and ready as Year 10 is obviously the start of your GCSEs. You will be picking up those option subjects that you chose back in February so this provides exciting times ahead. Year 10 requires a step up in levels of maturity, focus and independence some of the skills you have been developing whilst working from home and you have also showed self-discipline and resolve. Take pride in these attributes because they will define who you are in the future.

Year 9 was all about looking to your future. Choosing your options and exploring career choices, do you remember that wonderful, inspiring Careers Day we had in February? Spend some time this summer reflecting upon that; what are your dreams and ambitions? The answer to this question will allow you to understand the relevance and importance of achieving your very best in Year 10 and beyond.

We want to end by telling you how proud and pleased we are of our year group. We think we make a great team. Each and every one of you has made huge progress in a range of areas this year, whether that is in your subject achievements, your behaviour and attitude to learning, your community spirit or your friendships and relationships. We believe this progress has come as a result of the commitment, trust and loyalty we all contribute to the year group. We really do look forward to watching your continued growth and sharing in your success next year as we move into Year 10 together.

Enjoy your summer but stay safe Year 9 – we will see you again in September.

Best wishes

Mrs Morris
Head of Year 9

Mrs Wolstencroft.
Pastoral Care Officer