

# Mount St Joseph Catholic School

*A Community of Learners, Believers and  
Friends*



Autumn Term Newsletter | 2020-2021

## Mr Sanders — Head of Year 8

Merry Christmas to everyone in year 8!

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your cooperation and excellent hard work since arriving back in September. You have still not completed a full year in school, which is strange and there have been difficulties along the way. Nonetheless, you have shown resilience, respect and responsibility in your learning and risen to the challenge.

When I found out I was going to lead this year group I was very excited and ready for a new challenge. I feel that you have grown as a community and pushed each other in a positive direction. I have enjoyed working with you and I look forward to the New Year as we continue to collaborate and learn together.

So far this year we have been involved in many things, including the BBC careers event – looking at science and technology in broadcasting. We have celebrated mass together virtually with a fantastic Q&A session with Father Andrew. We pioneered the virtual parents’ evening and have been absolutely excellent during the tin appeal, bringing in an enormous amount of food to help the Destitution Project, providing food for those in need. We have also been running a TOP 3 competition in lessons, where teachers vote for the top three students in each lesson. It has been great to see such a variety and consistency of votes for many different students. Congratulations to Sam John who won the £20 Amazon voucher last half term! Who will win it this time?

Looking forward to the New Year, we have a number of big decisions to make. Year 8 are going to choose their options, these are the subjects that you will be taking for your GCSE’s so make sure you are ready!

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful and safe Christmas. Merry Christmas to you and your families, enjoy your break and I’ll see you in the new year!

## Achievements

Top Y8 class: 8A1

The Y8 student with the most Premium Banking Points is: **Amy Aw**

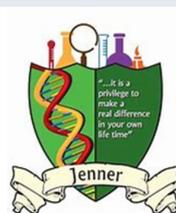
Congratulations also to: **Sam J** for winning the £20 gift voucher!

## Year 8 finishing time

From 4th January 2021 please remember year 8 students will finish school at 2.50pm.

## Free school meals

Over Christmas the government has agreed to facilitate all free school meals. If you are entitled to free school meals, this week you will receive an email from Bolton MBC through a company called WONDE who will arrange a £40 voucher to cover meals over Christmas.



## Year 8 Remote Learning

**Show my Homework** and 'live' lessons delivered through **Office 365 Teams** have been used to great effect this term. Students have been asked to follow their normal school timetable on SMH and attend 'live' lessons when specified. Our **updated website** includes a 'remote learning' tab, for more information. Should you have any difficulty, please see the **frequently asked questions** tabs to the left of the remote learning page.

If you are unsure about remote learning and require further information, or your child does not have a computer, laptop or iPad to take part in live lessons please email [homestudy@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:homestudy@msj.bolton.sch.uk) and we will be more than happy to support you with this.



## Whole School Events

There have been many events that have involved the whole school, not just year 8. Some of the highlights have been our Odd Socks Day in support of Anti-Bullying Week, our Hello Yellow Day in support of mental wellbeing, and our fundraising efforts for MacMillan Cancer Care and the Destitution Project. Well done, year 8, for your part in all of these events!



## Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening

With the recent restrictions we have been unable to hold parents' evenings in the conventional way. Nonetheless, our virtual parents' evening was fantastic. It was lovely to see all our parents and a real pleasure to discuss your children's achievements, especially as our year group was unable to have a parents' evening last year. Thank you all for making this event such a success.

## Spring Term—Year 8 Key Dates

- Monday 12th-14th January 2021 — World Religion Day
- Wednesday 10th February—Reports emailed to parents
- Thursday 11th February 2021—Careers Day
- Monday 15th —Friday 19th February 2021—Half Term
- Monday 22nd February 2021 All students return to school
- Thursday 1st April 2021—Last day of Spring Term

## SIMS Parent App

If you haven't already, please download our new **MSJ SIMS Parent App**. This is an excellent way for us to keep you informed of your child's progress on a daily basis. Please Open the invitation email that was sent from [noreply@sims.co.uk](mailto:noreply@sims.co.uk), which has been sent to the email address you have provided us. Check your junk mail if it has not arrived in your Inbox. If there is no sign of this email, please contact the school so that we can update our records.



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