



Mount St Joseph Catholic School

A Community of Learners, Believers and Friends



Autumn Term Newsletter | 2020-2021

Miss Snape—Head of Year 9

Year 9 have had an incredibly successful term, despite the new challenges and restrictions. They have worked together as a community and supported each other in their new classes and forms.

Regardless of the new circumstances we have many accolades to celebrate. Swimmer, Lisa B, who is in the national training squad, was awarded the gold award from Salford 100s competition. We are very proud of Lisa and her achievements and look forward to watching her swimming career develop in the future. Furthermore, every week a class is nominated 'class of the week' recognizing their engagement in learning and support for one another. Alongside this, staff have also recognised individuals for 'star of the week'. This nomination can be based on a variety of factors including improvement to learning and progress, resilience, consistently engaging positively in lessons and outstanding academic attainment. I am pleased to report that numerous classes have been nominated, and so many individuals are consistently meeting our high expectations that some weeks we have felt compelled to nominate two 'stars of the week'.

This term, Year 9 have been involved in a great deal. They have had their vaccination injections, had a virtual parents' evening, and taken part in various inter house competitions including the 'Land's End to John o' Groats' challenge, which really required them to demonstrate grit, determination and resilience in somewhat challenging weather conditions. I was really proud to watch how Year 9 students rose to this challenge with good humour and effort. Tomorrow year 9 will be taking part in our drop-down day 'It's OK to NOT be OK', engaging in various sessions aimed at supporting our students to lead healthy lives emotionally, mentally and physically. With the challenges the students have faced over the last few months, I have been particularly proud of how the students engaged throughout the term and look forward to looking at some practical strategies to use in the coming months.

Looking forward to next term, Year 9 has a particularly engaging careers day ahead of them alongside other school events. I am very pleased with how Year 9 have engaged this term and I would like to wish them all, and you, a restful and peaceful holiday.

Achievements

Top Y9 class: 9A2

The Y9 student with the most Premium Banking Points is: **Nevin S of 9A2 with 307**

Congratulations also to:
Lisa B of 9A2, whose gold award in the Salford 100s swimming event made us all super proud.



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 9 Virtual Parents' Evening

This year we organised a virtual parents' evening. For Year 9 The video-calling and booking software worked amazingly well, with the majority of Y9 parents enjoying a full rundown on their child's achievements and areas to develop.

Year 9 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 and we will be more than happy to support you with this.



Year 9 Mass

On the 17th of December we are live-streaming a mass to our year 9 classes. This is something we are looking forward to and welcome the opportunity to reflect on the year.



Spring Term—Year 9 Key Dates

Monday 12th-14th January 2021 — World Religion Day
 Wednesday 10th February—Reports emailed to parents
 Thursday 11th February 2021—Careers Day
 Thursday 11th February 2021—Year 9 Options evening
 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

Whole School Events

There have been many events that have involved the whole school, not just year 9. 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 9, for your part in all of these events!



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, 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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