

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

Year 7-11 – Welcome new term letter

08 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the autumn term and new school year. Over the last few days, all our students have settled in exceptionally well to the new school routines. Thank you for your continued support ensuring your child arrives on time each day and is equipped to engage fully in lessons.

We would like to warmly welcome our new Year 7 students to our community; we hope that they will soon feel settled at Mount St Joseph School. We have been joined by a number of new staff across several department areas. We wish them every success in their work with our students and other staff and we are delighted that they have chosen to join our community.

Bolton local lockdown contingency

As many of you may already be aware, the government have sent all schools contingency plans for local and national lockdowns. These detail a four tier system. In Bolton, schools are currently in tier 1 of the system. Should the local authority direct school to move into tier 2, if it deemed necessary by government, schools will need to restrict the number of days each year group attends school by implementing a rota. If this happens, I will notify all parents and carers immediately. It would also be necessary to facilitate education in school for certain groups of students including 'key worker' families. If you are a key worker who is critical to the COVID response please notify school as soon as possible by emailing reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk and we will register your details in case this happens.

Bad weather

As you will no doubt have noticed, unfortunately the weather has become cooler and wet over the last few days, please could I ask that you remind your child to bring a coat or umbrella into school each day. We are encouraging all students to have an outdoor break each day and have noticed some students without coats.

Attendance and punctuality

As part of our drive to continue to raise standards, we would like to request your full support to continue in ensuring that your child attends school punctually every day, and that they are fully equipped and prepared for school. This is particularly essential to facilitate the staggered start times of the school day.

'Show My Homework'

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



It is essential that students are fully prepared for their studies each day. As parents we would like to encourage you to check your child's homework each day. Here at Mount St Joseph we use a website / App called Show My Homework where teachers post timetables, homework, and details regarding completion. For more information regarding this you may also wish to view the school website. I have included the school's Acceptable Usage - IT Policy – please go through this with your child – it is important that all students use IT appropriately and are familiar with Show My Homework and Office 365, as both systems will be used in the event of further remote learning.

Parent Mail and contact

Thank you to all those parents who have now registered for Parentmail to make payments through the website for school lunches. This week it has helped ease those first day nerves back to school for many of our students. If you haven't yet registered please follow the link that was emailed and texted out earlier this week or call into main reception to request the link to be resent.

Transport

The Government are encouraging, where possible that all students walk or cycle to school. If your child is bringing a bike to school, they must bring a lock and secure their bike in the **designated area**. If a student is late to school and cannot access the bike shed, they must ensure that they inform a member of staff. School cannot be responsible for bikes left outside of the bike shed. Students travelling on public transport must ensure that they follow the Government's guidance about wearing a face mask whilst using public transport. We have also posted further information on buses, to our website:

<http://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk/page/?title=Bus+Timetable&pid=101>

and to our Twitter page @MSJBolton. If you intend to drop your child off at school, please note that you need to do so away from the school entrance- there will no vehicle access to the school site at the start and end of the school day. Please could I also ask parents/carers to be mindful of where they wait for their child in vehicles; please ensure that you do not park on yellow lines outside of the gates to ensure that all our students and staff are safe.

Communication with parents/carers

We will endeavour to keep you informed of all the information that you will need to be aware of during this time. All letters and correspondence will be emailed directly to parents and carers, with this in mind please ensure you provide an up-to-date **email address** to avoid a delay in receiving information. If you think this may need updating please call student reception who will update these details for you on 01204 391800. We will also continue with a parent/carer newsletter to keep everyone updated with what is happening and to celebrate and reward the achievements in the MSJ community.

We believe that keeping the lines of communication open is essential to the progress your child makes and encourage parents to check the [website](http://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk) regularly for key dates, bulletins and newsletters to ensure you are aware of events and updated information: www.msj.bolton.sch.uk or Twitter @MSJBolton

We greatly value the support of our parents and carers and I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead. In the meantime, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your children the very best for a successful year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Devany
Headteacher