

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



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Dear Parents / Carers

Over the last few weeks our students have settled into remote learning extremely well and we have seen many fantastic pieces of work being produced. The key students have also been working well in school accessing their online lessons. This week we started to contact many of our families, this will continue cover the coming weeks. Thank you for the support you have shown as parents but also as members of our school community. We have received some heart-warming comments from many of you over the last few weeks and these have been appreciated by many of our staff.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

This week all key students, in school, were offered the opportunity to access two lateral flow tests. As you may be aware, earlier this week, the government changed the requirements for school testing. This means that the previous plan, to test students who had been in contact with a positive case every day for five days, has now been postponed. Should we receive further information about this, all parents will be notified.

Year 11 Parents' evening

On **Thursday 28th January** all year 11 parents have been invited to a virtual parents' evening through School Cloud. Invitations for this event should now have been received via email. This will provide year 11 parents with the opportunity to discuss the progress students have been making and ask any questions they may have.

It is essential that all year 11 students are encouraged to engage with online learning. Please be aware that over the next few weeks Show My Homework will be phased out for year 11 students. Please could I ask for you to emphasise the importance of using Microsoft teams if your child is in year 11.

Year 7 -10 Parents' Webinar session

For parents of students in years 7 -10; I would like to invite you to an online Webinar on **Tuesday 2nd February from 5pm-6pm**. Invitations to this event will be emailed early next week. This is an opportunity for parents and school to discuss the expectations of remote learning and alleviate any concerns you may have. During the webinar myself, Miss Reynolds, Director of Teaching & Learning and Mr Draper, Deputy Headteacher will address parents, providing them a brief overview of the current



arrangements. Parents will also have the opportunity to send comments and ask questions throughout.

Free school meals

As you may be aware the government have asked that schools return to the online e-voucher system for those eligible for free school meals. Moving forward, Edenred will email all eligible parents, once a week, for a four week period. Earlier this week you will have received an email from school with full details about this, including a user guide for the Edenred system. Should you have any queries, please email reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk

SIMS app

We endeavour to keep our parents as up to date as possible. You should now have received an email inviting you to access the SIMS app. If you have not done so already please could I ask that you download the app soon. This will provide you with the latest information, your child's attendance, behaviour and achievement points and from next week your child's assessment data. We believe that keeping the lines of communication open is essential to the progress your child makes and encourage parents to check the download the SIMS app visit the website regularly www.msj.bolton.sch.uk or Twitter @MSJBolton

We greatly value the support of our parents and carers and I look forward to meeting many of you, albeit virtually, over the coming weeks. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your children the very best.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Devany

Headteacher