

# Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear parents & carers,

As we approach the end of term tomorrow for the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our students, parents and carers for your continued support over what has been a challenging school term. Since I last wrote to you, our students have successfully returned to school and settled back quickly into school routines and face to face learning with their peers and staff.

## Testing for Students

I was extremely impressed with the mature approach our students demonstrated to the COVID testing in school when they first returned following the lockdown. School has been informed that home testing will still be required to take place twice a week during the school holidays. Students have been issued enough tests for over the Easter period; additional kits will be distributed again following the Easter break. Please ensure your child continues to test themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart, ideally every Thursday morning and Sunday evening**.

Please note that this does not replace testing for those with COVID symptoms. If your child displays any symptoms, they must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test at a COVID testing centre and follow national guidelines.

**Reporting results-** It is really important that results of tests are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) Please ensure that positive results are reported also to school using: [reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk)

## Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, carers, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread of COVID.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests)
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

## Year 11

We emailed a letter to Year 11 parents and carers on Monday outlining the arrangements for the summer 2021 grades and the dates of the booster sessions we

are offering to all our Year 11s over Easter and up to the May half term to support students. On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March, Ofqual published further guidance regarding the GCSEs for summer 2021- please see link: [JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#) We will continue to keep Year 11 students, parents and carers updated following the Easter break. In the meantime, please refer to the school website on our Year 11 page [Mount St Joseph - Year 11 \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](#) where all Year 11 information and updated information will be posted. You can also follow the Year 11 Twitter page: **@StMount**

### **Free School Meals over the Easter break**

The free school meals vouchers will continue over the Easter period for those that are eligible. A company called WONDE will communicate this to parents and carers via email.

### **School Uniform**

We would like to offer thanks for your support in ensuring that students return to school in appropriate uniform following the Easter break, reflecting the high standards that we expect here at Mount St Joseph. It is our intention by working together, to continue to raise standards in every area, helping all students to achieve their full potential. We would like all students to wear their uniform with pride at all times, both in school and on the journey to and from school. The full uniform policy and details of our expectations linked to shoes, jewellery and hair can be accessed on the school website: [Mount St Joseph - Uniform, Jewellery & Hairstyles \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](#)

### **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. All students were presented with a lanyard in September, please ensure your child has their lanyard with them when they return as this will be needed to purchase lunch. If your child requires a replacement lanyard, please contact: [reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk) as soon as possible to order a replacement.

### **SIMS Parent App**

Every two weeks we have been sending parents and carers a link to upload the SIMS Parent App. The email comes from **noreply@sims**. The app lets you view your child's school report, attendance, timetable, behaviour marks, your contact details and event dates. From September 2021, school lunches will also be added to SIMS Parent App.

We will sending our biweekly newsletter out tomorrow to celebrate our students' successes over the last term and inform parents and carers of some of the many fantastic events that have been happening in our MSJ community.

We hope that you and your family have a safe, enjoyable and peaceful Easter. We look forward to welcoming our students back on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30am** via their usual year group entrance.

Take care

Yours sincerely

A Devany  
Headteacher