

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

05 January 2021

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Dear parents and carers

I hope you and your family are keeping well. Please could I thank you all for your support over this difficult time; I am fully aware of how frustrated parents, carers, students and staff are that we have sadly had to close the school for our students.

As you will be aware, the Government announced yesterday that a national lockdown will commence today. As part of this, all schools will be closed until at least February half-term, with an anticipated return date of Monday, 22 February.

Children of key workers and vulnerable children will be able to attend school, if necessary, and they will follow the remote learning online. If you are a key worker or your child has an EHCP and you intend to send them into school, please ensure that you email: reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk to inform us of your intent to send your child into school.

All students will be taught online throughout lockdown, following their normal timetable. We have already seen some fantastic live lessons for Year 7-11 taking place over the last two days. We will endeavour to make as many lessons live on Teams where possible; we will also make learning resources available on Show My Homework to support students and help them to continue with their learning.

Timetables have been published on the school website and on Show My Homework for all students, parents and carers to view. It is important that all students log into Show My Homework and Teams to continue with their learning throughout lockdown. It is extremely important that all students follow the protocols in the remote learning policy and their behaviour and conduct is appropriate as it would be as if they were in school. Should any students fail to adhere to school policy unfortunately, parents will be notified and alternative arrangements may need to be made.

Please ensure that you check our school website for further guidance and support with remote learning. We have a section dedicated to remote learning with tutorials for Teams and Show My Homework, our remote learning policy and the contact list for all our staff who will be more than happy to help you or your child.

If you require any technical support with Microsoft Teams or Show My Homework, please email: homestudy@msj.bolton.sch.uk

The remote learning timetable for Year 11 has been extremely successful so far with many Year 11s logging into live lessons and to Show My Homework to access their work. The Prime Minister announced last night that GCSE examinations, in their usual format, will not take place this year; they are yet to clarify what the process will be for our Year 11 students. It is important that Year 11 students continue to engage fully with their remote learning to ensure that they achieve the best possible outcomes.

For students studying for the OCR Sports examination on Monday 11th January and other vocational exams such as Business, IT and Health and Social, it is vital that

students continue to prepare for the examinations as the Government have stated that these will still go ahead.

Mrs Smith, head of Year 11 has today recorded an assembly for our year 11s to reassure our students and offer further support if necessary. Mrs Smith also sent a letter to the students studying OCR Sports to outline the support available this week in order to prepare for the examination on Monday 11th January. Please ensure that your child has seen this letter and the assembly from Mrs Smith.

We will of course keep you informed with any further announcements regarding the GCSE examinations and the imminent vocational examinations. If your child is entitled to free school meals, we will continue to provide you with food parcels available every Wednesday from the collection point adjacent to the school kitchen to cover the lockdown period. If the Government introduces the voucher scheme again, we will notify you.

Please could I once again thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk or contact 01204 391800 to speak to reception.

Take care and stay safe

Yours faithfully

A Devany
Headteacher