

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany

09 February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of this half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support in what has been a challenging, yet productive start to the new year. We have been so impressed with all the hard work, determination and resilience that all our students have demonstrated since remote learning started on January 4th. I would like to thank all our students, staff, parents and carers for supporting one another and working together as a community.

Staff will be continuing this week to make weekly phone calls to all our families to support you in any way we can, we will also continue with this contact following the half term break. We will be sending out a questionnaire to our students to hear their views on remote learning, any concerns they have or any questions they may have when we are able to reopen the school fully.

School will be closed next week for half term; please encourage your child to have a well-deserved break over this period after a challenging six weeks. Unfortunately, school will not be reopening fully after half term on 22nd February; teachers will continue to support remote learning for all students following the home learning timetable and key students will continue to be supported here in school. I will notify all parents and carers as soon as the Government confirm the date for students to return fully. I can assure you that we will support all our students both pastorally and academically when they do return to school fully.

Last week many of you joined our first interactive webinar where we discussed the current remote learning strategies for year 7 – 10 and parents and carers provided feedback on the current provision we are offering for pastoral care, well-being and remote learning. Thank you for submitting your questions and for all your positive feedback – this was most appreciated and has been passed onto the teaching team. We really value feedback from our parents and carers - I do hope we managed to answer the questions you had. It is hoped that we can offer more opportunities like this in the future. In the meantime, if you do have any feedback or questions, please do not hesitate to contact school or email: reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Parents' evening

Parents' evenings provide an opportunity to speak to your child's individual teachers about their progress, engagement and how to enhance their learning further. Parents' evenings will continue as planned albeit virtually through the platform - 'School Cloud'. Year 8, 9 and 11 have already used this system and have provided extremely positive feedback about how easy this system is to use. Prior to parents' evening you will receive a link to book appointments with each of your child's subject teachers. Year 10 parents and carers should have received their link in preparation for **Yr. 10 parents' evening on Thursday 25th February**. We will send the link to our Year 7 parents



and carers following half term in preparation for the **Yr. 7 parents' evening on Thursday 18th March.**

Year 8 and 9 – Options

Please could I remind all parents and cares that this week we are hosting our annual careers week, this also includes a 'Careers and Aspirations Day' on Thursday, 11th February, where students will participate in career-based lessons and activities, rather than their normal curriculum timetable they have been following whilst working at home. Please see link to the school website for more details: [Mount St Joseph - Careers Week 2021 \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](https://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk/careers-week-2021)

Also, this week, Year 8 and 9 students will have the opportunity to opt for the subjects they will be taking in the next academic year. On Thursday 11th from 4pm, a presentation will be available on the school website, to all parents, carers and students which will provide guidance about the content of each subject. This will be followed by an email on Friday 12th with an option form for you and your child to complete. Should you have any questions about options please contact your child's Head of Year who will support you through this process. Please see link to the school website for the presentation available on Thursday: [Mount St Joseph - Year 8/9 Options \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](https://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk/year-8-9-options)

Year 8- Mr Sanders sandersd@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Year 9: Miss Snape- snapec@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Free school meals

Those eligible for free school meals will continue to receive e-vouchers through Edenred during term time. However, during half term you will receive an email from WONDE who provide the COVID Winter Grant Scheme. Please follow the instructions on this email carefully. Should you have any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact school.

Year 11

For our year 11 parents and carers, Mr Munro has prepared a short presentation regarding the current information about this year's GCSE qualifications. This can be found on the school website at: [Mount St Joseph - Year 11 GCSE Changes 2021 \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](https://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk/year-11-gcse-changes-2021)

Communication

Many of you have now downloaded the MSJ SIMS parents app. You can now see your child's attendance, assessments, behaviour and rewards points, reports and school timetable through the app. You are also able to notify school of any changes i.e. contact details, address on the data collection tab. We have also sent the recent academic data for all students through the app. If you haven't yet done so, please could I encourage you to download the app so you have access to this information. Should you require further support with this please do not hesitate to contact school on 01204 391800 or email reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and peaceful half term break. I will write to you again following the half term break, hopefully with an update and more information on the date schools will be reopening fully.

Warm regards,

Mrs A Devany
Headteacher