

# Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 8

## Re: Year 8 students returning to school: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 8.30am

I hope you and your families are all keeping well. Over the last three weeks, all our students have settled in exceptionally well to the new school routines, including the different entrances/exits, start and finish times and hygiene routines. Please could I thank you for your continued support ensuring your child arrives on time each day and is equipped to engage fully in lessons.

As you are aware, we have asked Year 8 students to self-isolate at home following confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Year 8 bubble. Year 8 are due back in school this Thursday (24<sup>th</sup> September). Please note that Year 8 and Year 10 started the term with a staggered start time of 9.20am; we are now in a position to welcome back both year groups at the normal school time of 8.30am. Therefore, Year 8 students will be expected to arrive in school **this Thursday no later than 8.30am entering via main reception.**

Whilst I hope that there will no further cases at Mount St Joseph, I would like to outline the process the school would be instructed to follow in the case of other confirmed cases of COVID-19. The school immediately contacts and is advised by Public Health England and the Local Authority. At this stage should we be required to send home a class or year group bubble, we will inform you immediately via text and email. This will inform you that your child has been sent home from school that they are required to self-isolate and the number of days and their return to school date. Parents of students in unaffected classes and year groups will also be informed and will continue their schooling as normal.

Should you feel that your child, in the event of a year group/class closure, would be at risk if travelling or walking home alone, please complete the form on the school website <http://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk/form/?pid=51&form=19> Please ensure you complete our online form by **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**. Students in this category will wait with a member of the Senior Leadership Team in an area of school until collected. In these circumstances to ensure that we keep everyone within school safe, you would be expected to collect them as soon as possible.

Students who are required to self-isolate are encouraged to continue following their school timetable for lessons throughout this period. Teachers will publish all work to be completed on Show My Homework; staff will also be using Microsoft Team to support students working from home. Students will be familiar with this system and how to access Show My Homework from their recent Information Technology lessons. If your child has difficulty accessing Show My Homework, please contact school or email [reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk) and we will direct your enquiry accordingly.

## Reminders for parents/carers

The Government have advised that in areas of local intervention such as Bolton, face coverings should be worn by adults and students in secondary schools when moving around, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. As our students will only be moving around the building in a very limited way, this will mean that they will only need to wear their

face covering for a short amount of time. We will ask the students to remove their face covering when in class, before they sanitise their hands. Please could we ask that parents/ carers provide a face covering for their child and a plastic bag to keep their face covering in when they're not using it.

### **Illness**

The government is ensuring that schools are vigilant in spotting symptoms of Covid 19. These include: a new continuous cough, a high temperature, and or a loss, or change, to senses of smell or taste. We ask for your help in supporting the school; therefore, if your child is displaying symptoms, please keep your child at home and arrange a test. Likewise, if any student demonstrates symptoms during the school day, parents/carers will need to collect their child immediately, they will then need to arrange for their child to have a Covid 19 test. The student will not be allowed to return back to school until the results of the test are known. If the test result is negative, the student will be able to return to school the following day. If the test is positive, the parent/carer will need to inform school straight away and the student will need to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

I would once again like to thank all parents, carers and students for their continued support over this time. Please be reassured, the health, safety and wellbeing of all our community is paramount and we will continue to follow the guidance issued by the DfE and the Local Authority. We ask that all our community continues to work together to enable the school to reopen fully to all our students and staff in a safe, controlled manner.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: [reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk) or on 01204 391800.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Devany

Headteacher