

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: End of half term

I hope you and your families are all keeping safe and well.

We would like to thank you for your continued support as we approach what would have been the end of half term. There is lots of learning taking place at home and for the children of key workers attending school each week. We have seen some fantastic work and challenges on Show my Homework and Twitter and lots of work emailed to staff over the last seven weeks. We hope that the weekly newsletter has been beneficial in keeping all our community informed. We do miss our community and we miss being altogether here in school, however, the staff at Mount St Joseph are still here to support all our students so please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any support or advice.

Re-opening school

You will have seen in the media the discussion about schools reopening after half term. The government has asked secondary schools to consider 'some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 students'. Unfortunately, there are currently no plans to re-open to other years groups prior to the summer holidays. The senior leadership team are currently working closely with the school governors, Bolton Local Authority and other local secondary schools to ensure we meet the government requirements and are able to re-open to year 10 students in a safe, controlled way.

Year 10

We are currently working on a plan to facilitate the return of year 10 students as suggested by the government, however given the ever changing situation, we are unable to give specific details of when this will be. This will be reliant on scientific tests carried out by the government which will be reviewed on Thursday 28th May. It is likely that we would invite year 10 students into school in small groups for one half day session per week. We will not be inviting any year 10 students into school until at least June 8th.

In light of this, it would be helpful if you could email reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk if your child is in year 10 and you wish to send your child into school when this is possible. Please could I ask that you consider this over the half term and respond by **1st June 2020**. Should you decide not to send your child into school, I can confirm that the Local Authority will not issue penalty fines over this period.

Following the half term- week beginning 1st June, I will be writing to all parents, carers and students to update you on the plans for Year 10 and any further developments.

EHCP and Key Workers

Over the last seven weeks, our school has remained open to the children of key workers and students with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Following consultation with key worker parents, we will be closing the school next week for the half term break. After half term we will continue to remain open for students with an EHCP and for the children of key workers. If your child hasn't attended school this term and has an EHCP or you are a key worker, please contact school and this can be arranged.

Remote Learning

Our staff will continue to support all students with remote learning after half term through Show My Homework, please ensure you check the system regularly. I appreciate the support you have given with home study. To further aid with home study, we will be providing our students with further support on managing the work set by staff and we are currently looking at staff recording lessons and tutorials for students to access over the course of the week in various subjects.

If your child accesses this through their mobile phone please ensure they complete work on paper, please do not feel work has to be completed online. If you have any difficulties please email homestudy@msj.bolton.sch.uk We have had many excellent pieces of work from our students and have shared some of these through Twitter **@MSJBolton** – please continue to send work through as we will try to showcase the work that comes through.

Finally, thank you for your patience over this period and the understanding and support you have shown in recent weeks. If you require any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact me at headteacher@msj.bolton.sch.uk or on the school phone. We ask for the Lord's direction at this time and ask Him to keep all our community safe and well. Please keep in touch with each other and stay safe.

I wish you all a very relaxing and restful half term; I will endeavour to keep you updated of any developments.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Devany

Headteacher