

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



17 July 2020

Dear Parent/ carer,

As we approach the end of the 2019/20 academic year, we reflect upon the year and the challenges and difficulties that we have all faced. Since lockdown back in September, we have all had to adapt to a rapidly changing society, including home study for the majority of our students and staff. We have missed our community and we have missed being altogether here in school. I am incredibly proud of how creative, determined and committed both our students and staff have been throughout this time. I feel utterly blessed to work alongside such an outstanding, caring, compassionate, dedicated and committed community of learners, believers and friends.

Over the last half term, we have continued to work with our key students each day in school and we have welcomed small groups of our Year 10 students back into school for English, maths and science lessons. Over the last two weeks, we have also invited into school the students in Year 7-9 for a well-being session with their form teacher. I would like to thank all our students, staff, parents and carers for their support in facilitating the sessions; it has been wonderful to see our students back in school.

Thank you to our wonderful students who have shown sheer determination and resilience throughout this time. We are immensely proud of how they have responded to this time and the high standard of work that many of them have produced whilst in lockdown. We look forward to seeing all our students back in school in September and we wish them a happy, safe and relaxing summer.

I would like to thank all our parents and carers for the support you have given to our school over the last four months. I would like to take the opportunity to say what a fantastic job you have all done in supporting your child's wellbeing and learning whilst schools were closed.

Thank you to all those families and students who have shared their work through Twitter, it has been lovely to see the fantastic art work, poetry and culinary skills you have developed over this short period. Each week we have also have 'Fantastic Friday', where students have the opportunity to showcase what they have been working on over the week.

The new academic year

We now look to the new term and the reopening of all schools from September. We sent a letter to all parents and carers last Friday (letter available on website) regarding the plans for all students to return in a safe and controlled manner all in line with the government guidance-copy of the guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>. Please could I ask all parents and carers to ensure that they have read through the letter dated 10th July containing the September start dates for each year group, the timings of the school day and the requirements for all students.



Please be assured that all the decisions that we are making as a school are designed to keep everybody as safe and as well as can be. We have undertaken a detailed risk assessment that has been verified with the Local Authority; we will continue to review the risk assessment during the summer break and ensure all changes or updates to government guidance are included in the risk assessment.

Whilst we have a rigorous plan in place for September, we are aware that over the summer break there may be further government announcements or changes to current advice. We will write to all parents/ carers towards the end of the summer holiday to ensure that you kept well informed before the start of term.

Please note that school will be closed for the summer from Monday 20th July- Monday 17th August to allow time to prepare the building for the new academic year. If you have questions or concerns over the summer break regarding the start of term, please do not hesitate to contact me: headteacher@msj.bolton.sch.uk.

End of year report:

Please find enclosed your child's summer report for students in Year 7-10. Please look at this report with your child and celebrate their achievements. This has been achieved through the hard work of all members of our community and with the continued support of you as parents and carers. Your full support is a vital part of the work we do to ensure we provide the best opportunities and outcomes for all our students. At this time of year, we would have normally held the MSJ Awards evening to recognise all our students' achievements. Please follow this link to access the list of awards and winners <http://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk/page/?title=News&pid=12>. We have also emailed all our winners with a certificate to congratulate them on their fantastic achievements.

Please could take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the following for the new academic year:

Uniform:

Mount St Joseph has an excellent reputation within the community. To maintain this, we need to ensure that uniform is of the highest standard. Please ensure you refer to the **school website** for the full school uniform list. I would like to highlight aspects of uniform around hair and jewellery – students are not permitted to wear any piercings, or have extreme hairstyles and colours.

Could I also remind you that when purchasing school trousers, they must be tailored trousers (not slim fit or jeans). Also, when buying school shoes, please ensure that they are shoes, not trainers as these are not acceptable (please see attached flyer for acceptable footwear). I look forward to your support in ensuring these high standards of uniform are adhered to. If you are unsure of any aspects of the school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school before you purchase the items.

Mobile phones:

In order to build on and develop student progress and attainment, we need to focus on all aspects associated with learning, eliminating distractions for students. I would like to request the support of parents/carers in reminding their child about mobile phones and other electrical devices; these should be switched off and kept out of sight during the school day. Students have been informed of the times and the zones where electrical devices are permitted. Students are also aware of the consequences for using electrical devices in classrooms or on corridors.

School Dinners

Regularly a number of students come into school without any money on their Parentmail account. Please ensure you top-up your child's account on a regular basis. Cash must not be sent into school. If you have not yet registered with Parentmail, please contact the school reception on 01204 391800 and an email or text will be sent out to enable you to do this. New Year 7 students will receive their registration details over the summer break.

Heathy Eating

We encourage all of our students to consume healthy food and drinks during the school day. All the meals and food served in the school canteen are all in line with the healthy schools' guidelines and policy. Please could I ask all parents and carers to remind your child that excessive amounts of unhealthy food i.e. large bags of crisps, chocolate and fizzy pop are not permitted in school. Also, energy drinks and drinks in glass bottles are also forbidden. If pupils do not adhere to the healthy eating policy, the items will be confiscated and parents will be invited into collect them.

All the above information and further information can be found on the school website: www.msj.bolton.sch.uk.

The school closes **on Friday, 17th July for the summer break**. The new school year begins:

Start and finish times are also detailed below:

Year group	Return to school from	Start and finish time	Entrance /Exit
7	Wednesday 2 nd September 2020 onwards	8.30am 2.40pm	student reception
8	Monday 7 th September 2020 onwards	9.20am 3pm	main reception
9	Friday 4 th September 2020 onwards	8.30am 2.50pm	English doors – via PE entrance
10	Thursday 3 rd September 2020 onwards	9.20am 3pm	humanities doors – via bus entrance
11	Wednesday 2 nd September 2020 onwards	8.30am 3.45pm	CAT/ science entrance

May I take this opportunity to thank you once again for all your support this academic year, I wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful summer and I look forward to working with you next academic year.

Yours faithfully

A Devany
Headteacher