

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



8th December 2021

Dear parent and carers,

As we approach the end of what has been another very challenging year for many, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and patience throughout this term. We fully appreciate the support you offer, particularly during these uncertain times.

Over the last few months, I have seen some fantastic learning in action; our students returned to school in September with an excellent attitude to learning and we were able to go back to some of our usual routines and practices such as teaching in specialist rooms, extra-curricular activities and some school visits. I would like to thank all our students and all our staff for all their hard work, commitment and support. Towards the end of next week, all parents and carers will receive a newsletter from your child's Head of Year, celebrating the successes of this term and outlining key dates and the events that your child's year group will be involved in in the next term.

COVID protocols

Thank you for all your support with the wearing of face coverings in school. All students and staff have been informed about the importance of face coverings and they are all aware that face coverings must be worn in all communal areas and on the corridors. Please could you continue to support by checking that your child has a face mask and that they bring them to school each day.

I would also like to thank you for your support with the twice weekly home testing arrangements. We have been advised to continue testing until further notice. Should you require any additional test kits please call into Main Reception and these will be provided. The DfE continue to encourage all results, whether negative, positive or void to be reported online at [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result) Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our school COVID safe.

End of term arrangements - Tuesday 21st December 2021:

We would like to advise all parents that the school will close **on Tuesday 21st December 2021**. As in previous years, students will finish school early on the last day of term - around lunch time. In order to ensure that all students leave school



in a safe and controlled manner, we will be staggering the times each year group leaves:

- **Year 10 and 11 will leave at 12.15pm**
- **Years 7, 8 and 9 at 12.30pm.**

Please ensure that your child has made arrangements to make a safe journey home as there will be no school buses at the close of day.

New term- January 2022- change to date due to COVID testing

On **Thursday 6th January 2022** all students will be invited into school to complete a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) at a 'drop-in' session in the school conference suite. Timings of the drop-in are detailed at the end of this letter. **Year 11 students** only, will be expected to return to school on **Thursday 6th January** in preparation for their exams the following week. The school will then reopen fully for all other year groups for the start of the spring term on **Friday 7th January 2022 at 8.30am for all students- via their usual entrances.**

Christmas events and charities:

As part of BOSCEP (Bolton and Wigan Schools Catholic Education Partnership), we have worked with the other two Bolton Catholic secondary schools and eighteen Catholic primaries to raise money for Urban Outreach in Bolton and The Brick in Wigan.

Leading up to Christmas, the school will be involved with the food collections for a local charity that was organised by our former Headteacher Sister Barbara. We will be collecting tins of food and other items - we are aiming to surpass last year's collection of over 2,000 tins. If you are able to, please send a donation of a tin of food with your child into school by **Tuesday 21st December 2021**; items will be collected during form time. Thank you to those who have already supported this charity.

We will also be encouraging students to wear a Christmas jumper on **Tuesday 21st December**. If your child would like to take part, we would ask them to bring in a contribution of tins of food on this day to donate to the destitution project.

Staff changes

At the end of this year, we sadly say goodbye to two members of our community. Miss Shiels, Head of English and Mrs Morris, SENDco, who will both be moving to pastures new after a collective 29 years at Mount St Joseph. We wish Miss Shiels every success as she moves to another school and Mrs Morris who is starting a new adventure with her family in Spain. I'm sure you will join me in thanking them for all their hard work and dedication and wish them both every success in the future.

Arrangements for adverse weather

As we look to the New Year, it is best to think about our arrangements for adverse weather. We have only closed on two days in the last twelve years or so for adverse weather, so any alteration to normal business would be very rare. However, it is best to be clear about how we will communicate so that everyone is as well informed as possible on what are often stressful mornings. When we need to close, a 'weather warning – school closed' will appear on the school website from 7.30am. You can also expect an email and text around 7.30am to confirm the situation.

In any event, do please make safe choices about travel – in most cases of bad weather school gradually fills up during the first part of the morning as students complete their journeys.

During the cold winter season students may wear the grey pullover under the school blazer; the jumper is available from the school uniform suppliers. Students may also wear a black coat to and from school. Please note that hooded tops, non-school jumpers are not permitted in the school building. In the event of snow, the pavements are slippery and we would advise students to wear appropriate foot wear to and from school however, please note black school shoes must be worn in the building. There is a supplementary letter regarding uniform, standards and attendance.

Year 11 exams and reports

Year 11 parents and carers will shortly be receiving their child's full written reports from their subject teachers. There will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment with their teachers at the Year 11 parents' evening on **Thursday 3rd February 2022**. Further information about this evening to follow in the new year.

End of term reports for Year 7-10

End of half term reports have been sent to all year 10 students over the last few weeks via the SIMS app and email. Year 7-9 will receive their end of half term report before the end of term via the SIMS app.

Parent App

Thank you to all parents and carers who are now making use of the school SIMS app. I hope this is proving a useful source of information about your child's progress, attendance, behaviour, and achievements. We have seen a huge increase in the number of parents using this system, however if you are yet to download the App and require support with this please do not hesitate to call into school or contact Main Reception.

Year 11

Yesterday we were pleased to see so many of our year 11 parents, carers and students at the seasonal themed 'Yule Pass' event. The evening was designed to provide information about the 2022 GCSE process and provide reassurance about the arrangements being made in school to ensure all students achieve their best. We also discussed how parents and carers can best support their children when revising from home and provided a revision pack with a variety of resources to help students over the next few months. If you missed this event and require a revision pack, please call into Main Reception and this will be provided; alternatively for further information about year 11, please see our school website: [Mount St Joseph - Year 11 \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](http://msj.bolton.sch.uk)

For news and updates on the school, events and activities please visit the school website at: www.msj.bolton.sch.uk. The holiday pattern for 2022/23 is now on the school website (see also attachment).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school or email reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Devany
Headteacher

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) plan for students – Thursday 6th January 2022

Year group	LFT drop-in time- conference room (near student reception)
11	8.30am (and will be the only year group remaining in school on this day)
7	9.30am - 10.30am (then leave site)
8	11.00am - 12 noon (then leave site)
9	1pm - 2pm (then leave site)
10	2pm - 3pm (then leave site)