

# Mount St. Joseph

*"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"*

8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear parent and carers,

As we approach the end of what has been a very busy term for many, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and patience throughout this term.

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 students have enjoyed the many extra-curricular activities, school visits, educational trips and inspirational talks from guest speakers. 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.

## End of term arrangements – Friday 22 December 2023

We would like to advise all parents that the school will close **on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**. 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 at 12.15pm
- Years 7, 8 and 9 at 12.30pm

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

## 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 – Farnworth & Kearsley Food Bank. 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

Greenland Road • Farnworth  
Bolton • BL4 0HT  
Tel: 01204 391800  
Fax: 01204 389575

Website: [www.msj.bolton.sch.uk](http://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk)  
e-mail: [reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



**Friday 22nd December 2023;** 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 **Friday 22nd 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.

### **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 are encouraged to bring a coat to school. Please note that hooded tops 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 1st February 2024. Further information about this evening to follow in the new year.

### **End of term data reports for Year 7-10**

End of term data reports will be sent via the SIMS app and email for years 7-10 in the final week of term.

### **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 2024 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](#)

For news and updates on the school, events and activities please visit the school website at: [www.msj.bolton.sch.uk](http://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk). The holiday pattern for 2024-2025 is now on the school website [Term Dates](#) and attached to this email.

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