

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



22 March 2024

Dear parents & carers,

Re: Exams and year 11 celebrations

As we approach the end of term for the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our students, parents and carers for your continued support over this term. It has been especially good to see you at our consultation evenings to discuss your child's progress and the support we can all give them.

Next week marks the start of Holy Week where we remember the last week of Jesus' life. starting with Palm Sunday, leading to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday on which we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus. There will be Easter liturgy for year 11 students on Wednesday morning.

At present our Year 11 students are working incredibly hard both in school and at home to prepare for their final GCSE examinations; the first of which is on the **2nd May**, the last exam being on the **19th June**, however, all students must be available for exams until the contingency date of **26th June 2024** under exam regulations set out by Ofqual (the exams regulator). We have already sent out the examination dates, please click the link for a reminder of the full GCSE timetable, weekend intervention dates and how to order revision guides for each subject: [Mount St Joseph - Year 11 Summer Exam Timetable \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](http://Mount St Joseph - Year 11 Summer Exam Timetable (msj.bolton.sch.uk)) I am sure with all the support provided at home and the excellent teaching and interventions that are put in place in school, each student will achieve their potential.

We have now formally entered all students into their relevant exams and with the correct exam board. It is important to note that school has to pay for every exam your child sits. With this in mind it is imperative that you discuss with your child the importance of attending every exam, on time and also their conduct whilst in exams. Any student who misses an exam or is removed from an exam due to their conduct, will be required to pay for that examination.

We will write to you again after the Easter break with more information on the leavers' mass, leavers' prom, revision sessions, weekend dates and all other intervention that we offer to support all year 11 students, however to help with any questions around exams our students, parents and carers we have published an exam handbook. This can be found at [Mount St Joseph - JQC Information for Candidates \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](http://Mount St Joseph - JQC Information for Candidates (msj.bolton.sch.uk))

Parents and carers will receive progress reports for year 11 students next week. Please contact your child's head of year if you have any questions regarding the reports:

Head of Year 11 - Mr Drummond: drummondp@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Year 11 celebrations

To recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication the students have shown over their five years at Mount St Joseph and in particular over this year we will be celebrating with a leavers' mass on **24th May 2024** at 11am.

Full details of all events will be published following the Easter break. The school prom will be held on **Friday 5th July** however students will only receive an invitation if they meet the following criteria:

- Have good attendance to school including to period 7 (Tuesday- Friday 3pm to 3.50pm)
- Have a good punctuality record to school in the morning and to lessons throughout the day
- Have good attendance to weekend and holiday intervention
- Have a good attitude to learning
- Have a good level of behaviour and respect.

Many students have already received their prom invites and more will receive theirs over the upcoming half term providing they meet the above standards and continue to ensure they meet the expectations above.

Attendance and punctuality

As part of our drive to continue to raise standards, we would like to request your full support to continue in ensuring that your child attends school punctually every day, and that they are fully equipped and prepared for school. It is essential that students attend school fully and engage in all the opportunities school life brings. Students that miss just 10 minutes each day, miss an incredible 30 hours of teaching and learning across the year! Additionally, holidays during term time cannot be approved. This is in line with the government's guidance to schools. Parents who choose to take holidays will receive a penalty notice from Bolton MBC.

Free School Meals over the Easter break

Bolton Local Authority have confirmed that those entitled to free school meals will receive vouchers over the Easter period. A company called WONDE will communicate this to parents and carers via email.

School Uniform

We would like to offer thanks for your support in ensuring that students return to school in appropriate uniform following the Easter break, reflecting the high standards that we expect here at Mount St Joseph. It is our intention by working together, to continue to raise standards in every area, helping all students to achieve their full potential. We would like all students to wear their uniform with pride at all times, both in school and on the journey to and from school. The full uniform policy and details of our

expectations linked to shoes, jewellery and hair can be accessed on the school website: [Mount St Joseph - Uniform, Jewellery & Hairstyles \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](http://msj.bolton.sch.uk)

The head of year will also be sending you the year group newsletter to celebrate our students' successes over the last term and inform parents and carers of some of the many fantastic events that have been happening in our MSJ community.

We hope that you and your family have a Holy, safe, enjoyable and peaceful Easter.

We look forward to welcoming our students back **on Monday 15th April at 8.25am** via the Year 11 entrance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Devany
Headteacher