

# 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: Year 7 - 10

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.

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 mass for students on Wednesday morning.

This term has seen lots of activities, events and trips; it has been fantastic to see many students take part in educational visits outside of school, to local schools and colleges. We have also celebrated St Joseph's Day- the patron saint of our school. Many students have had the opportunity to broaden their experiences and have visited many places including The Lowry theatre, Salford University where they took part in a Media Makeup masterclass and Leigh College where our students learned about Artificial Intelligence. We hope you have enjoyed reading our MSJ bi-weekly newsletter celebrating all our students' achievements. In addition to this, we also hosted careers week for all year groups which included a marketplace careers fayre. Many of our year 10 students had the opportunity to take part in work experience which was supported by many local businesses and schools, placements included Chemists, The Post Office, The Marriott Hotel and St William of York Primary School to name just a few! I would like to thank those who supported with all these arrangements; it is always a highlight for many of our year 10 students, who gain invaluable insight into the working environment and inspire many to pursue further education to enable them to follow their chosen careers.

I would also like to thank the students and staff who participated and showcased their musical talents in the MSJam this week, it was a fantastic evening and well supported by students, parents and carers. You can read more about all these events and many more in the head of year newsletter that you will receive today.

## 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. Each term you will continue to receive a regular update about your child's attendance which is intended to



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support improvements throughout the year. As you will no doubt remember, during the pandemic, whilst online learning was in place for all students, this could not fully substitute face to face learning. It is essential therefore 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 continue to 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 \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](https://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk/mount-st-joseph-uniform-jewellery-hairstyles)

Year 10 parents and carers will also have received the end of term progress reports along with this letter. Years 7,8 and 9 progress reports will be sent on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. Please contact your child's head of year if you have any questions regarding the reports:

Head of Year 7 – Miss Phoenix [phoenixk@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:phoenixk@msj.bolton.sch.uk)

Head of Year 8- Mr Dorsett- [dorsettm@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:dorsettm@msj.bolton.sch.uk)

Head of Year 9- Miss Dale: [dalef@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:dalef@msj.bolton.sch.uk)

Head of Year 10: Miss Snape: [snapec@msj.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:snapec@msj.bolton.sch.uk)

The heads of year will also be sending you their year group newsletters today 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 their usual year group entrance.

Yours sincerely

A Devany  
Headteacher