

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

15 July 2024

Dear parents and carers of Year 10,

Re: Preparing for year 11

As this academic year draws to an end, we wanted to take this opportunity to outline what you and your child can expect as they move into year 11 and their final year at Mount St Joseph Catholic School. Our aim is to work with students and parents and carers to ensure that our young people achieve, not only academically, but also develop the skills and attributes which are essential to success in later life.

Undoubtedly, year 11 is an important stage in your child's education which will culminate in their external GCSE examinations in May and June 2025, the results of which are a key determinant for their future. Teachers will be working very closely with every year 11 student to ensure they are aware of their strengths and areas for improvement in each subject area. Support with applying for further education in addition to developing study skills and revision techniques will also be provided within our Personal Development Time (PDT) programme. Therefore, good attendance and punctuality is vital throughout year 11.

Year 11 Parental Information Evening

We would like to invite you into school early on in the new school year - on **Thursday, 12th September 2024** - for a Year 11 Parent Information Evening **from 4.30 pm until 6 pm**. The purpose of this evening will be to provide you with guidance as to how you can best support your child during this crucial, final year at Mount St Joseph. The main session will last for around 45 minutes and will involve a presentation delivered by senior staff. Following this, there will be a brief opportunity to discover more information about our mentoring programmes in school, how to support your child's mental health and wellbeing, and how to help them revise.

Year 11 Personal Development Time (PDT)

Meeting important deadlines whilst balancing new learning, personal study, revision and assessments can - at times - be challenging. In addition to your invaluable support at home, year 11 students' emotional wellbeing and resilience continues to be a key priority here at Mount St Joseph and we will work to support students in building their resilience and stress management.

From September, year 11 will be split into twelve PDT groups as opposed to the six they are currently in. Each PDT teacher will be a specialist in English, maths or science. The purpose of year 11 PDT sessions is to support the students with their learning in these core subjects, to equip them with revision and well-being strategies, to develop their understanding of personal development - including Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), and careers sessions. It is vital that your child attends school on time every morning and that they are fully engaged in all the opportunities and events presented

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to them during PDT. All year 11 students must be in the school building by 8.25am so that they are ready to learn from 8.30am.

In the early part of year 11, your child will start considering the direction they wish to follow after year 11. We will be delivering a detailed programme during PDT time to help them understand the strengths and benefits of various pathways in order to support them when they leave school.

Year 11 assessments and mock exams

Assessment and progress measures are carried out regularly in year 11 and there are two key points where students will sit mock examinations, these are in November 2024 and February 2025, with exam timetables to be published for these in the new academic year. We will also host a Year 11 parents' evening in **December** to report on the November mocks with a final parents' consultation evening in **April** to ensure all students are fully prepared for their final exams in May and June.

Year 11 Intervention Sessions – after school / weekends

In order to further support your child to make crucial progress, there will be a range of interventions / revision sessions / extended learning sessions. These will take place after school throughout the year and in terms 2 and 3 at weekends or during holidays to support your child with examination preparation. These dates will be published next academic year. Some of these sessions will be for targeted students and others will be for the whole year group. During these sessions, key knowledge, skills and revision techniques will be developed further. Students are expected to attend the sessions that they are invited to. These intervention sessions are purposefully aimed at helping students to prepare, as early as possible, for the GCSE examinations that take place in the summer term. It is therefore of great importance to us that we have your support with this as parents and carers.

Standards and attendance

Part of the criteria to receive an invite to the end of year leavers' celebration, is that standards are maintained. School uniform rules must be adhered to by all students: these are detailed on the school website. It is really important that learning is not lost trying to resolve uniform and jewellery issues. As the most senior students in school, we look to year 11 to set an example to lower school students.

Good attendance to school is crucial at any time, especially during year 11. Students who miss school clearly miss out on vital learning opportunities and this affects examination results in an adverse way. Even having only a few days off in year 11 can - on average - lead to a drop of one GCSE grade per subject. Therefore, you should not make appointments during the school day or take holidays during this academic year. Furthermore, resilience should be developed and students with minor illness, should be in school.

Parents and carers should be aware that study leave will only commence following the completion of the GCSE examinations and all students will be expected to be in school until after the final examination in June 2025.

Leavers' celebrations 2025

Finally, we will look forward to celebrating all the hard work and successes of the students' time here at Mount St Joseph with a leavers' mass in May and the leavers' celebrations following the examinations. Please note that attendance to the celebrations will be by invite only. Students will receive an invitation if they: work hard; have good attendance and punctuality to school; attend extended after school / weekend sessions and other interventions; and follow school rules regarding behaviour and uniform.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact:

Miss Snape: Head of Year 11- snapec@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Mrs Dalton: Pastoral Care Officer for Year 11- daltonl@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Please can we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy summer holiday and we look forward to working with you and your child in the final year at Mount St Joseph Catholic School.

Yours faithfully,

Miss C Snape
Head of Year 11