

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



6th December 2024

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.

This term has also seen our school officially join the St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust (STOC). Parents were sent a letter also from the Catholic Senior Executive Leader, Mr Foley. This is the start of a new journey for our school, and it is hoped that being part of the STOC family will provide our students and staff with greater opportunities in the future becoming part of a wider organisation that puts Christ at the centre of everything it does.

End of term arrangements

We would like to advise all parents that the school will close **on Friday 20th December**. 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 plan for your child to make a safe journey home as there will be no school buses at the close of day. Please see section below for information on school uniform for the last day of term.

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 charitable works for several local charities, the first charity is the Farnworth and Kearsley foodbank and the Destitution project that both support our local community. We will be collecting tins of food and other food items and 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 **Friday 20th December**; items will be collected during PDT each morning.

The other charity will be supporting is the Toy Appeal, which provides Christmas presents each year to families in need of support in our MSJ community. We will be encouraging students to wear a Christmas jumper or a hoodie along with their school uniform (trousers/skirt and school shoes) on **Friday 20th December** in exchange for a donation of a food item or cash donation which will be sent to The Toy Appeal charity.

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 warm 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 footwear 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 (please below).

School communications – Arbor

As we moved into the St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust, all parents and carers were invited to access their child's information via the Trust wide communication tool – Arbor. This replaces the SIMS App.

If you haven't yet seen this, please check the email address you have registered with the school and follow the instructions provided. If you haven't yet done so, please could I encourage you to download the app as vital information will be posted here including assessments and reports. Arbor can be downloaded from the App store by

searching for 'Arbor Parent App'. Should you need any support with this please do not hesitate to get in touch with reception@msj.stoccat.org.uk

End of term data reports

End of term progress reports will be sent via the Arbor app for years 7-11 in the final week of this term.

Standards at Mount St Joseph

Alongside this letter is a supplementary letter regarding standards at Mount St Joseph, this includes attendance, punctuality, uniform, equipment, mobile phones and electronic devices and social media. Please take time to read this information and share this with your child/dren.

For news and updates on the school, events and activities please visit the new school website at: www.msj.stoccat.org.uk

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

I look forward to seeing our MSJ community back in school on **Tuesday 7th January 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Devany
Headteacher