

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

Greenland Road • Farnworth

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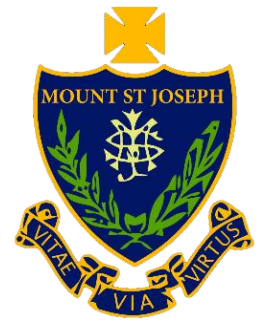
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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



27 March 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Year 7 - 11

As we approach the end of term and the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our students, parents, and carers for your continued support throughout this term.

Next week marks the beginning of Holy Week, when we remember the final days of Jesus' life. This begins with Palm Sunday and leads through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, culminating in Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. There will be an Easter Mass and liturgies for students on Wednesday morning.

Term two has been filled with a wide range of activities, events, and trips. It has been fantastic to see so many students taking part in educational visits, both within our local community and beyond. We hope you have enjoyed reading our MSJ bi-weekly newsletter, which celebrates the many achievements of our students.

We were also proud to celebrate St Joseph's Day, the patron saint of our school. On this occasion, we attended Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, and the whole school community took part in a mission day. Students have had many opportunities to broaden their experiences, including visits to theatres in Bolton and Manchester, participation in sporting activities, trips to universities and museums, visits to feeder primary schools, and involvement in the Festival of Joy celebration with our Trust schools.

In addition, we hosted Careers Week for Year 9, which included a marketplace careers fair where students engaged with a range of employers and education providers. This was followed by an informative Options Evening, supporting our Year 9 students in making well-informed decisions about their subject choices.

Many of our Year 10 students also took part in work experience, supported by a range of local businesses and schools. Placements included Warburtons, Bolton Council, Widdows Pilling, and St Peter and St Paul's Primary School, to name just a few. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who supported these arrangements. Work experience is always a highlight for our Year 10 students, providing invaluable insight into the working environment and inspiring many to pursue further education and future career pathways.

Year 11 students are currently preparing for their GCSE examinations and have been working extremely hard both in lessons and through additional revision sessions. This is a crucial time for them, and we are very proud of their resilience and dedication. We will continue to support them as they approach their exams, and a further letter will be sent to Year 11 parents and carers next week with additional information.



I would also like to thank the students and staff who participated in and supported the MSJam event last night. It was a fantastic evening, showcasing the musical talents of our students and enjoyed by many parents and carers. You can read more about this and other events in the Head of Year newsletter, which will be shared next week.

Attendance and punctuality

As part of our drive to continue raising standards, we request your full support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives punctually. Good attendance and punctuality are essential for success and have a direct impact on academic achievement, confidence and future life chances.

Students who attend school regularly are far more likely to achieve strong qualifications and access further education, employment or training. Even short periods of absence result in missed learning that is difficult to recover. Lateness also disrupts learning and negatively affects routines and attitudes to school.

We ask that you:

- Avoid holidays during term time
- Arrange medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time each day- before 8.30am, fully prepared and equipped

Attendance and punctuality are closely monitored, and we will continue to work closely with families if concerns arise. You can monitor your child's attendance on the Arbor app; school will also continue to keep you informed on your child's attendance via emails and phone calls.

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 thank you for your continued support in ensuring that students return to school after the Easter break in full and correct uniform, reflecting the high standards we expect at Mount St Joseph.

By working together, we aim to continue raising standards in all areas, enabling every student to achieve their full potential. We encourage all students to wear their uniform with pride at all times, both in school and on their journey to and from school.

Full details of our uniform policy, including expectations regarding shoes, jewellery, and hair, can be found on the school website.: [Mount St Joseph - Uniform, Jewellery & Hairstyles \(msj.bolton.sch.uk\)](https://www.msj.bolton.sch.uk)

Electrical devices

To support student progress and minimise distractions during learning time, mobile phones and all electronic devices must be switched off and kept out of sight for the duration of the school day, including during break and lunch periods.

Any student found using a mobile phone or electronic device during the school day will have the item confiscated until the end of the school day.

Parents and carers are requested not to contact students directly during the school day. Should you need to communicate with your child, please do so via the school reception, and the message will be conveyed accordingly.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child.

End of term reports;

Year 11 parents and carers will also have received the end of term progress reports this week. Years 7-10 progress reports will be sent out early next week. Please contact your child's head of year if you have any questions regarding the reports:

Head of Year 7 - Mrs Smith msmith@msj.stoccat.org.uk

Head of Year 8- Miss Snape csnape@msj.stoccat.org.uk

Head of Year 9- Miss Steadman esteadman@msj.stoccat.org.uk

Head of Year 10: Mr Drummond: pdrummond@msj.stoccat.org.uk

Head of Year 11 - Miss Dale- FDale@msj.stoccat.org.uk

The heads of year will also be sending you their year group newsletters next week 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 20th April 2026 at 8.20am** via their usual year group entrance.

Yours sincerely

A Devany
Headteacher