

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



2nd April 2026

Dear parents & carers,

Re: GCSE examinations

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 throughout this term. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many of you attend our consultation evenings, where we have been able to discuss your child's progress and how we can continue to work together to support their development. Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the Eggs'am Ready' event last night, we hope you found the information and resources useful to support your child. If you were unable to attend, you will find all the resources on our website under the Year 11 section [Examinations - Mount St Joseph Catholic School](#).

Following the February mock examinations, all students have now received their results, and parents and carers were also sent the Year 11 reports home last week, containing their current working at grades and their predicted grades. Staff have been working closely with Year 11 students to identify both their areas of strength and areas for development, ensuring they are fully prepared for their upcoming GCSE examinations.

At present, our Year 11 students are working incredibly hard both in school and at home as they prepare for their final GCSE examinations. The first written exam will take place on **1st May** (with some practical examinations in drama, music, art and photography occurring beforehand), and the final exam is scheduled for 16th June.

Please note that, in line with regulations set out by Ofqual, all students must remain available for examinations up to and including the contingency date of **24th June 2026**.

We have already sent out the examination dates, please click the link for a reminder of the full GCSE timetable: [Examinations - Mount St Joseph Catholic School](#). You will have also received a copy of your child's individual exam timetable via email yesterday. This timetable is also available on the Arbor app. **Please note that some students will sit practical examinations such as art, photography and music in the first week back after the Easter break.**

We have spoken with all our Year 11 students about their upcoming external examinations, including logistics and regulations. We are aiming to reassure and inform our students as much as possible. School has 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.



To help with any questions around exams our students, parents and carers may have Ofqual have produced a student guide which is full of vital information. [Ofqual student guide to exams and assessments in 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

We kindly ask parents and carers to support their child by ensuring they attend school every day and arrive on time. Each lesson in the lead-up to exams is carefully planned to include vital revision, exam techniques, and targeted support, meaning even a single absence can leave gaps in understanding. Punctuality is equally important, as arriving late can cause students to miss key instructions and disrupt their focus. By maintaining excellent attendance and punctuality, students give themselves the best possible chance of success and reaching their full potential in their exams.

Year 11 revision classes:

Please ensure that your child is creating a revision timetable and using the revision material that staff have provided over the Easter holidays in preparation for the examinations. There are also numerous revision classes to attend over the Easter break with their teachers to support the Yr 11s. Notifications and reminders are sent out to invite specific students to the revision sessions below:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday, 7 th April | Art revision- 9am-12.pm |
| Thursday, 9 th April | History revision - 10am-12pm |
| Tuesday 14 th April | Science revision - 10am-12pm |
| Wednesday 15 th April | Design technology- 10am-2pm |

Please note that there will more revision sessions taking place at weekends and during May half term.

Leavers' celebrations

We would like to invite our parents and carers to join our leavers' mass on Friday 22nd May 2026 at 11am - 12.30pm to celebrate our Year 11s five years at MSJ. We will send a further letter following the Easter break for parents and carers to confirm if they wish to attend. We have also ordered celebratory leavers' hoodies, and we will hold the 'Leavers Prom' on **Friday 10th July 2026** at The Bolton Stadium hotel, Horwich, Bolton. We have sent invites out to our Year 11 students who are eligible at this time to attend the Prom.

Following the Easter break, we will send parents and carers weekly reminders outlining the exams that are due to take place during the following week and scheduled revision opportunities - including weekend and after school sessions - in preparation for the first written GCSE exam on May 1st.

Please continue to check the school website, along with emails and Arbor notifications, for further information to support Year 11- [Examinations - Mount St Joseph Catholic School](#)

If you have any questions, please email the Head of Year 11 Miss Dale: FDale@msj.stoccat.org.uk



The heads of year have also sent out their year group newsletters 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 safe, enjoyable and peaceful Easter. We look forward to welcoming our students back on **Monday 20th April at 8.20am** via the Year 11 entrance.

Yours sincerely

A Devany

Headteacher

F Dale

Head of Yr 11

