Your child’s first year at St. Joseph’s

Parents are encouraged to come to school at any time to discuss any concerns, having telephoned to make an appointment with their Head of House first, however the following times are organised to offer continued support for both students and parents:

**House Information Evening**

is held in early September and highlights essential information such as the pastoral system; school rules; homework routines; records of achievement and assessment procedures.

**A welcome Mass**

for Year 7 students and their parents is held one evening towards the end of September. Families are very welcome to attend.

**Parents Evening**

takes place once a year. Parents will have an opportunity to see all subject teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Day</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>8.45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>11.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch break</td>
<td>12.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 5</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of school</td>
<td>3.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Office Hours**

8.00am – 4.30pm
Telephone: (0191) 428 2700

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. Joseph’s, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child.

Becoming a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Academy marks the start of a relationship which will last for many years. Our aim is to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of each of our students so that they can learn and achieve.

Developing an effective partnership between home and school is key to the success of our students. We look forward to working together in the future to ensure your child reaches their potential.

Our school prayer, written by Year 7 students, sums up much of what St. Joseph’s aims for: “Lord help us to become the people you want us to be. In our school may there be prayer, learning and honour, hard work, faith and friendship. May we respect everyone we meet, use our gifts and encourage each other. Send your angels to guide us and let your peace be with us and our families always. We ask these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

To find out more about St. Joseph’s why not come for a visit or check out our website at: www.stjosephs.uk.net - you are always welcome!

Mr T. B. Tapping
Executive Headteacher

Mrs G. Kilgour
Chair of Governors

Mr P. Mitchell
Head of School
Mission Statement

Inspired by God’s love and aspiration that each member of our school community lives life to the full, we commit ourselves to the following aims:

Prayer, learning and humour...
• We will create opportunities for prayer and spiritual development which are relevant to our community and the world in which we live.
• We will create an inspiring learning environment through which our curriculum will be delivered in exciting and motivating ways.
• We will promote enjoyment and happiness through supportive interpersonal relationships and quality enrichment activities.

Hard work, faith and friendship...
• We will develop positive attitudes to learning so that students are able to meet challenges with resilience and go on to make outstanding progress.
• We will promote opportunities which make connections between faith and life, exploring both the Catholic faith and the diversity of other faiths in our community and the world.
• We will create a supportive and caring community which is attentive and responsive to the needs of all, especially those who are vulnerable.

Respect...
• We will respect one another and uphold the school’s policies and practices which underpin our learning community.

Use our gifts and encourage each other...
• We will nurture the God-given gifts and talents of each person to support them in achieving success both in school and beyond as lifelong learners.
• We will ensure that our school plays its full part in contributing to the many partnerships to which we are committed.

Peace...
• We will create a safe environment where all can grow and develop supported by our commitment to the Gospel values of justice and peace.

Our Values

In pursuing our aims within the Mission Statement, we create an environment in which the intellectual, physical, social, moral and spiritual development of every student is able to flourish.

As a result, students strive for the highest standards in all endeavours, being able to achieve success and prepared to make their own positive contribution to our world.

In continuing to provide this positive learning environment, we commit ourselves:
• To welcome everyone – students and staff, people of all faiths and none.
• To create a community marked by respect, justice, tolerance and care for all its members.
• To support social justice issues.
• To ensure that students make a significant contribution to the life of the whole school community.
• To fundraise for good causes.

The school was inspected in May 2014 by the Diocese. We were judged to be “outstanding” regarding the values that we uphold at St Joseph’s.
Our School

St Joseph’s is a school with a strong sense of community and we value each member of this community as a uniquely created individual with God-given talents and abilities which we strive to nurture so that every person lives their life to the full.

Facilities
St Joseph’s Catholic Academy was part of the South Tyneside & Gateshead ‘Building Schools for the Future’ government initiative. As a result, we benefitted from a multi-million pound re-development of the school site. We have a fantastic new school building with modern classrooms, sports facilities and large indoor spaces for dining and pupil use. We also have a designated sixth form block.

Our Facilities Include:
• Sports Hall
• Gymnasium
• Multi Use Game Area (MUGA)
• Extensive school playing fields
• Main Hall
• Purpose built dining facilities
• ICT Suites
• Science laboratories
• Technology rooms
• Music rooms

Meals
All school meals are freshly prepared on the premises each day. Three meal deals are available daily, offering great value and a balanced nutritious meal as follows:

Best of British:
Any main meal choice plus hot pudding or drink.

Street Food:
Hand-held healthy food plus a drink, cookie or fresh fruit.

Chilled Pick ‘n’ Mix:
Sandwich and drink plus one other item, either yoghurt, cookie, fruit jelly or fresh fruit.

Fresh pasta with a choice of home cooked Italian sauces is served each day from the Viva Pasta Bar and in September 2017, a new ‘juice Bar’ opened, serving exciting refreshments such as ice cream milk shakes, frootie fruit slush and freshly squeezed orange juice.

St. Joseph’s operates a cashless catering system using a biometric (finger scanning) process. This makes lunchtime more efficient and removes the need for students to carry money. Accommodation is also provided for students to bring a packed lunch.
The curriculum is designed, structured and taught so as to achieve the aim stated in our Mission Statement: that each member of our school community lives life to the full.

Through our formal and informal curriculum we aim to:

• Develop in students lively, enquiring minds; to help them enjoy the acquisition of knowledge; promote the ability to question and argue rationally; to better understand technology, science and mathematics; to enhance the use of information technology across the curriculum; to encourage students to apply themselves to a range of tasks and skills which will equip them for their life in a technological future and as Christian adults.

• Enable students to use language and numbers effectively; to appreciate and respond creatively through the variety of learning experiences offered to them by all areas of the curriculum.

• Develop the vocational education of students.

• Foster attitudes and a learning context which will enhance self-esteem and instil self-awareness and self-confidence in all students, creating in them a sense of personal worth and achievement and an ability to appreciate critically all human achievements and endeavours.

• Help students develop personal, social, spiritual and moral values and a tolerance of the way of life and others, so they understand the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations.

In Years 7, 8 and 9, students follow a common curriculum:

Religious Education:
As a Catholic School all RE courses are in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic church.

Core Subjects:
English, Mathematics and Science.

Foundation Subjects:
French; Design and Technology; Food and Textiles; Information Technology; Geography; History; Art; Music; Physical Education. Selected groups of Year 7 pupils will study Mandarin Chinese weekly.

Year 9 students with an aptitude for languages also have the opportunity to begin studying a second foreign language within their allocated language lessons.

In Years 10 and 11, all students study a common core of compulsory subjects: Religious Education; English Language; English Literature; Mathematics; Science and Physical Education. Most students will also study a language and all students will choose a Humanities subject and one other.

What the current Year 7 pupils say:

“I love this school! This is the best school ever!”
Bentley Redshaw

“When I came to this school I was really nervous but all students and teachers were all very welcoming.”
Eleanor Fraser

“We have loved meeting new friends and the teachers are nice. Lessons are really enjoyable and we feel like we are learning so much more.”
Laura Innes and Abigail Liddle

“St Joseph’s is a great school to come to because we all work as one.”
Alexandra Ward

“The school is big but it’s easy to find your way with the help of students and staff, the dinners are delicious too. The school has lots of exciting equipment in science and P.E so lessons are more fun.”
Lucy Walker

Everyone works together.”
Jay Moore

“A perfect school to come to, everybody will help you through your journey.”
Rosie Hall

Albert Papuc
Pastoral

To ensure that each individual student has a sense of being well-known and valued, both the Group Tutor and the Head of House ideally remain with the same group of students from Year 7 to Year 11.

This allows the group tutor to develop a good relationship with each of his/her tutees. Siblings are placed in the same House.

Throughout these five years the students will also experience personal, social and health education each week. These sessions are designed to teach Christian values as well as knowledge and skills. They cover topics such as citizenship, self-awareness, health education, relationships education, environmental issues and careers.

To provide an education which offers students the best opportunity to attain their full potential without being hindered by others, the staff aim to promote, within our students, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility in order to create a disciplined, orderly, respectful community within a loving, caring and forgiving framework. We look for, and welcome, the support of parents in this process. When students do behave in such a way as to offend against the principles of good behaviour then sanctions are applied.

“Do as you are asked the first time that you are asked” is our central school rule. A more detailed list of our expectations and rules is found within the student planners and also on our school website.

We expect all students to strive for 100% attendance with a minimum of 95% attendance in each year. Please keep medical appointments outside of the school day if possible. If this is not possible, please bring a letter into school prior to this to receive a pass from your Head of House.

School starts at 8.40 am - we expect students to be lined up ready for registration / assembly at 8.40 am.

“The behaviour of students is outstanding ... Students’ relationships with staff are excellent. This is a consequence of the high quality care and support that the staff provide. Students are keen and eager to learn.”

Ofsted Report 2015
Inclusion

All children have particular needs which must be met if the goal of developing their full potential is to be achieved. Ideally the education of every child will be individually planned to make this possible. In line with our Mission Statement, we will strive to create an environment where all our children are equally valued and respected.

Students with specific difficulties will be provided with individual programmes of work which may be undertaken with an individual teacher. Specifically, we will ensure that all children with Special Education Needs have access to at least the following:

• As far as possible, access to normal, whole curriculum practices through the school.

• A staff commitment to develop their potential at all times.

• Diagnostic testing (of a clear and specific type) which leads to positive support teaching, realistic target setting and improvement and special individual help where appropriately diagnosed.

• An environment that is warm and welcoming.

• An atmosphere of care and concern, a right to the dignity, respect and equal worth principles according to others.

• Every support to reach at least a basic level of literacy and numeracy to cope with future employment demands.

• A right to examinations and accreditation at 16+ in line with all other students.

• Access to additional adult (teacher, teaching support, parent, sixth-former) support within the normal classroom.

Home School Agreement

St. Joseph’s Catholic Academy School Aims
Our central aim is to create, within the ethos of Gospel values, a safe, secure and happy environment in which we can help all students to develop as individuals who can become citizens of a more complex world.

The aim of the Home School Agreement
St. Joseph’s Catholic Academy is committed to working in partnership with all parents/carers. An honest, trusting partnership with parents/carers will provide the best possible education for each student. The purpose of this Home School Agreement is to support the partnership to the benefit of all students.

We expect the following from our students:

• Attend school on time.

• Follow the school policies on behaviour.

• Follow the Catholic principles.

• Do homework.

As parents/carers, I/we shall try to:

• See that my child goes to school regularly, on time and properly equipped.

• Let the school know about any concerns or problems that might be affecting my child’s work or behaviour.

• Support the Catholic principles and ethos of the school.

• Support my child in homework and other opportunities for home learning.

• Attend parents’ evening and discussions about my child's progress.

• Get to know about my child’s life at school.

The school will:

• Contact parents if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality or equipment.

• Let parents know about any concerns or problems that affect their child’s work or behaviour.

• Send home regular assessments and an annual report on achievement and progress.

• Set, mark and monitor homework and provide facilities for children to do homework in school.

• Arrange parents’ evening during which progress will be discussed.

• Keep parents informed about school activities and special events through regular letters home, email newsletters and the school website.
Extra-curricular

Extra-curricular activities and inter-school sport are an important part of the broader concept of education. They are felt to be of great value, not just for the satisfaction and fulfilment they give but also for the contribution they make to a happy school.

A variety of extra-curricular activities exist in school dependent on student interest and staff availability.

**Sport**
- Basketball
- Cross country running
- Volleyball
- Football
- Hockey
- Cricket
- Netball
- Tennis
- Dance
- Table tennis
- Rugby
- Girls football
- Athletics
- Trampoline

The school prides itself on having success in a range of sporting fixtures and tournaments including County Cup, Athletics and Football.

**Music**
- School choir
- Production of musical show. Recent productions include Hairspray, We Will Rock You, Oliver and Our House.

Peripatetic music tuition is available for students wishing to learn brass, woodwind, strings or percussion instruments including guitar and drums.

Uniform

The school requires high standards of personal appearance and all students should wear school uniform to and from school, during the school day or when participating in school-organised events.

**Uniform (Years 7-11)**
- White school shirt with top button fastened (not a polo shirt).
- Grey or black formal school trousers (denim/jean style trousers prohibited) / Grey knee-length school skirt (Lycra/pull on stretchy material skirts prohibited).
- Black opaque tights or grey knee length socks.
- Optional plain grey jumper with school badge.
- A grey blazer with the St Joseph’s school badge and house ribbon attached.
- A St Joseph’s school tie.
- Plain black formal school shoes.

**PE Kit**

**Girls:** Sky blue polo shirt, navy shorts and navy socks. Navy hooded sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms (outdoors).

**Boys:** Navy polo shirt, navy football shorts and navy socks. Navy reversible long sleeve rugby shirt and tracksuit bottoms (outdoors).

Jewellery (other than a wrist watch) including earrings and charity bands must not be worn. Extreme haircuts (traminles, extreme patterns or unnatural dyed colours) are forbidden. Hair should be no shorter than a number 2. Make-up is not allowed for students in years 7-11.

All students should come to school with a suitable school bag. We define “suitable” as a school bag which can easily contain room for class books, planner, textbooks and a PE kit.

Students must have a planner, pen, pencil, ruler with them at all times. This will be monitored. The planner should be used every lesson to highlight homework and signed once a week by your tutor and at home. This can also be a good method of communicating information to your child’s tutor.

Uniform can be bought from Little Gems in the Galleries, Washington or JK in Jarrow.
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