13th December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that your student has had a very positive start to the term.

During this first term we have carried on our work with the #BeKind campaign which was launched through Good morning Britain. We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on all that we have done so far.

**Activities from this term**

National Anti-Bullying Week

In the last week of November we celebrated the National Anti-Bullying Week in school. Students reflected on hurtful incidents, bullying and the culture of kindness through assemblies and PHSE lessons. The anti-bullying ambassadors created displays and information posters, offering supportive messages and reminding where to get support. Students received compliment slips with their dinner and wrote thank you cards to teacher's who they admired for their kindness. Some students wore odd socks to celebrate diversity. Each student also made a kindness pledge. These pledges are displayed in various places within the school.

Anti-bullying ambassadors and Mental Health Ambassadors

Our year 8 anti-bullying ambassadors have been working to develop kindness throughout the school. They have created literature which is placed in key sites and is available for all students and staff to read and refer to. The students can also offer support through peer mentoring and are identifiable through their pink badges which are worn on their blazers. We have also been able to train over 60 students as Mental Health Ambassadors with Ms Oliver.

Project Based Learning

25 students took part in a Project Based learning week with two other secondary schools in the Northern Saints Alliance Trust. The students worked collaboratively with a design company, looking at how to improve mental health, kindness and community engagement. These projects will be continuing throughout the year.

The anti-bullying parent and community board first meeting

Our parent and community anti-bullying group met in November to review progress towards the Sunderland Charter Mark and to discuss new ideas to promote a culture of kindness within St Joseph's. These ideas and suggestion fed into the anti-bulling week activities. If you would like to be part of the group, please do get in touch with Mrs Fryett.

Staff training

All teaching staff have completed training in restorative conversations and are excited to carry out these conversations, promoting kindness and strong relationships.

Instagram

We have set up a school Instagram account, on which we promote success, kindness and learning. Please do follow us for more information.

**Upcoming events**

Launch of the new anti-bullying policy

We have a new anti-bullying policy which will be launched in January. Keep an eye out for updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages for more information about this launch event.

Diana Award

As a result of our work to promote kindness and tolerance we have been awarded 10 fully funded places for students to take part in the Diana Award. The Diana Award offers training and support to students in KS3 and KS4 who wish to undertake projects to promote kindness in schools. Applications for a space on this programme will open in January. Keep an eye out for updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages for more information about this launch event.

The Sunderland Charter Mark

We are continuing to work towards the Sunderland Charter Mark for anti-bullying and are making good progress towards getting the Mark by the end of this academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Fryett