

# St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

Mill Lane, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2ET

Telephone: 0191 428 2700



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Fax: 0191 428 4053

Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell

Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour

January 03 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, there has been an updated government announcement around a staggered return to school for the Spring Term. You will also be aware that schools are now being asked to carry out large scale testing of staff and pupils from the return to school in January.

The following outlines the key dates in the upcoming weeks.

**Monday 4th January** INSET day - no work set and no students on site.

**Tuesday 5th January.** Pupils who are vulnerable or those who are the children of critical workers will be able to return to school on January 5th. We have already made contact with these families, if you believe your child falls into this category and you have not been contacted can you please inform your child's Head of House immediately. For safeguarding purposes, we must know who will be returning to school to make secure provision.

**Monday 11th January.** In accordance with government guidance all pupils in Years 11 and 13 will return to school for face to face teaching on Monday the 11th of January 2021 in preparation for their preliminary examinations later in the month.

**Monday 18th January.** Students in all other year groups (7,8,9,10,12) will return for face to face teaching on Monday 18th January 2021.

We do have a small group of pupils in KS4 and KS5 who are scheduled to sit BTEC examinations on site in the week beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>. Classroom teachers will contact examination students via the online learning platform to arrange revision sessions in school prior to these exams taking place.

Whilst pupils are not on site for face to face teaching, they will be following their normal lesson timetable which will be a Week 1 from Tuesday 5th. Work will be delivered using either Google Classroom or live lessons on Microsoft Teams. More information about Microsoft Teams can be found by following this link: <http://www.stjosephs.uk.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Meeting-via-Teamsinformation-for-parents.pdf>.

Students will receive updates on new Google Classroom assignments or invites to live Teams lessons in their school email account which can be accessed via the school website link. The school email system will be a crucial means of communicating work to students, so students should check this



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daily. Students are expected to complete work set to the best of their ability, and attend and take part as appropriate in live lessons as directed by their classroom teachers.

Year 7 pupils will remain in their current teaching groups until their face-to-face return to school when they will meet their new subject teachers in person. If your child has any problems accessing the remote learning platform, please contact [support@stjosephs.uk.net](mailto:support@stjosephs.uk.net) for further guidance. For specific help regarding home study tasks please contact [homestudyhelp@stjosephs.uk.net](mailto:homestudyhelp@stjosephs.uk.net).

At St Joseph's we are committed to safeguarding. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Hammill will be starting her maternity leave this week. Should you be concerned about any safeguarding issues during this week for remote learners please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads Mr Price (maternity cover for Mrs Hammill), Mrs Lewis-Dale or your child's Head of House for support and guidance. Mrs Ritchie, Deputy Headteacher, Teaching and Learning, will also be leaving this week. Mrs Lewis-Dale will be Acting Deputy Headteacher, Teaching and Learning from January 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We understand that this late Government decision will also place additional pressures on your families until we can welcome all year groups back from the 18th of January.

We will, of course, also contact you if any further changes or developments are announced by the DfE.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Mitchell

Headteacher



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