

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

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

Telephone: 0191 428 2700



Email: Office@stjosephs.uk.net

Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell

Web: www.stjosephs.uk.net

Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour

Fax: 0191 428 4053

January 05 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, last night there was an updated government announcement around national lockdown and the impact of this on schools. Below is the text from the official announcement by the DfE:

“Colleges, primary (reception onwards) and secondary schools will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will learn remotely until February half term.

In the circumstances, we do not think it is possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. We will accordingly be working with Ofqual to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.

Public exams and vocational assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned.”

To summarise what this means for us:

1. At the moment, students in all year groups will not return to school until Monday 22nd of February (end of February half term holiday). Vulnerable children and children of critical workers can still come to school over this period.
2. There will be forthcoming changes to the summer exams which will impact on this year's exam students (mostly in 11 and 13) but these changes are in consultation. This does not mean that summer exams are cancelled so all students are expected to continue to prepare for potential future assessments. Unfortunately, we do not have any more information at the moment other than that.
3. January BTEC exams, including the exams this week, will still go ahead as planned.
4. We have no further information about Covid testing at the present time but we will update you when we have any updates on this.



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Remote Learning

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 today, Tuesday 5th. Work will be delivered using either Google Classroom or live lessons on Microsoft Teams. More information about Microsoft Teams was updated on the school website yesterday and can be found by following this link: [Guidance on Meetings via Teams - St. Joseph's Catholic Academy](#)

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 daily by 8.45am. 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.

Support with Remote Learning

If your child has any problems accessing the remote learning platform or Teams live lessons, please contact support@stjosephs.uk.net for further guidance. For specific help regarding home study tasks please contact homestudyhelp@stjosephs.uk.net.

Year 7 Timetables

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.

Safeguarding

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 over this period then 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.

Free School Meals

Free school meals are continuing for students who are eligible via a voucher scheme. This will be the same as the voucher scheme used over the Christmas break. Vouchers should be issued by the end of this week.



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

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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