



St. Joseph's RC High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Half term

“There is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it, if only we’re brave enough to be it.”

These words from Amanda Gorman, poet for the US Inauguration, reminded me of the importance of being a beacon of light during difficult times. During Covid times, I sometimes feel in a fog. Like a ship in turbulent waters, we need a lighthouse to guide us through to safety. Gorman reminds us to look for the light and to be the light. Our St Joseph's RC High School family continues to provide friendship, maintain relationships, to be a light and embody our sense of a common Catholic purpose. I am so pleased that the work we do in our 'lighthouse' can continue during these uncertain times and that we are part of the next steps for a brighter future for our students.

Distance Learning

We are all incredibly grateful that we live in a time where technology has allowed us to modify and adapt our teaching to enable us to continue to provide the very best lessons for our students. We hope that by having the structure of the school timetable has helped bring a small sense of normality to our students. However, it isn't the most ideal of situations and one must admire our students for their continued ability to engage in online lessons and submit exceptional, high-quality work to their teachers.

Half term

I hope Half term will present a welcome break from the screen for both students and staff alike and that it will provide an opportunity to relax before returning to distance learning after the break. It is important for our students to spend the week away from their screens and to have a break from their learning, therefore there will be no work set during half term.

Thinking and praying for our St Joseph's Family

This week, I asked one of my colleagues, how their week had been, and they replied that they felt it had been tough because they had really “missed” their students. I believe this epitomises the challenges all of us face, as we all have less interaction with those in our lives who make such a difference. Whilst mobile phones, tablets and laptops can give us some comfort, there is no substitute for the real-life interactions that we all crave and took for granted before the pandemic. Being sheltered at home can sometimes make it seem like all the difficulties society is facing is so far away. However, our prayers this week particularly go out to all those families, including staff, who are suffering because of the pandemic, especially those who have lost loved ones in recent weeks. You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

‘Serving God Through Learning Together’

‘Yn gwasanaethu Duw trwy ddysgu gyda'n gilydd’

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Thank you

Before we log off for Half term, I would like to say thank you for your overwhelmingly positive messages of thanks and support. They really do mean a lot to us all.

I would also like to congratulate and say thanks to you, our parents and carers. You are doing a great job of ensuring your child is engaging with their distance learning. I fully appreciate juggling working from home, ensuring your children are working and running a house is no easy task. Well done and thank you for all your support in these trying circumstances.

Take care everyone, and please remember to get in contact with us at sjhs@newport.gov.uk if you are worried or concerned about anything.

Yours sincerely**Mrs Jarrett**

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