



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

16 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: End of Year Message

As we approach the end of term, I wanted to write to you with some reflections and to begin to explain our plans for opening in September.

Firstly, I must tell you how impressed I have been with the way our students have adapted to their in-school lessons blended alongside their distance learning at home. It has been a joy for teachers and support staff to be able to work face to face with your children again! Thank you for your trust and support in our new procedures; our students' attendance and punctuality have been exceptional and their behaviour and engagement with their learning has been exemplary. They have been incredibly responsible regarding maintaining social distancing and hygiene control measures and I am really looking forward to seeing them become superb role models in September.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to you for the support you are providing as part of the delivery of our distance learning. I know it could not be as successful as it has been without your help. Thank you for your feedback in our recent surveys. We have learnt a great deal from it. Our use of pre-recorded lessons and more recently our trial of live lessons has been incredibly successful. We are now looking to see how these tools can support our new way of working from September. Also following your feedback, staff have been committed to developing their own skills and have identified a range of digital tools that will help to enhance the feedback and support that they are able to provide remotely to your child.

Planning for full reopening September

In line with Welsh Government guidance, it is our intention that all students, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term, on a phased basis.

Tuesday 1 September	Teacher training to ensure there is a secure understanding of our safety measures in place Some Year 12 students will be personally invited in to confirm pathway choices
Wednesday 2 September	Welcome and induction for new Year 7 students only Some Year 12 students will be personally invited in to confirm pathway choices
Thursday 3 September	Day 2 for Year 7 Induction day for Year 11 and Year 13 (Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 at home)
Friday 4 September	Induction day for Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 (Year 7, Year 11 and Year 13 at home)
Monday 7 September	Normal timetabled lessons for all students

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Uniform expectations

In September, we will revert to our standard uniform. I would ask that all families take time to [review our uniform expectations guide](#) in advance of purchasing any items. In particular, please be mindful that students are expected to wear formal school shoes. This will help avoid any unnecessary spend and awkwardness between the school and families at the start of term.

Recovery phase for students and staff

During the first term, we will be implementing a recovery phase for all students and staff. The most important aspect of this will be to resume face to face teaching and learning and for students to engage with teachers and peers to re-establish routines, structure and a feeling of return to regular, normal life, learning and work. During the first term of provision, we will establish progression, potential deficits in learning and wellbeing for all students and will promptly plan any interventions which need to be prioritised to support individuals and groups of students. Over the school year, we will continue to develop our Blended and Distance Learning policy. We believe this will enhance the school day provision and we will aim to provide a range of online resources to assist pupils with any learning deficits into the foreseeable and medium term future.

Transport

Regarding transport, the local authority is working to secure safe pupil transport for September and will notify schools and parents when there is more information. In the meantime, if you have any queries or want to raise any issues, the transport team can be contacted at Passenger.Transport@newport.gov.uk

Risk assessment

There are a number of key considerations that have led to the decision to increase operations within school settings at this time. These include the severity of disease in children – there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus (COVID-19); the age of children – there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus (COVID-19); and measuring these risks against the negative health impact of being absent from school for a sustained period, reinforces the need for a return to school in the autumn term. However, please be assured that we will continue to act with caution in order to safeguard all members of the community, while increasing operations, in line with national guidance. Please see links below:

Operational guidance:

En – <https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-autumn-term-covid-19>

Cy – <https://llyw.cymru/canllawiau-gweithredol-ar-gyfer-ysgolion-lleoliadau-o-dymor-yr-hydref-covid-19>

Learning guidance:

En – <https://gov.wales/guidance-learning-schools-and-settings-autumn-term-covid-19>

Cy – <https://llyw.cymru/canllawiau-ar-ddysgu-mewn-ysgolion-lleoliadau-o-dymor-yr-hydref-covid-19>

[The Welsh Government Technical Advisory Group report on the decision to recommend that schools in Wales return to 100% capacity in autumn term.](#)

Before the end of the summer holidays, I will send you detailed guidance explaining how we are making the school safe for your child and your family.

Staff moving on

We are sorry to say farewell to a number of colleagues who have been promoted to other schools or moving on to new adventures.

In the RE department Miss Clarke and Mrs O'Donoghue leave us to take up similar roles in Pen Y Dre and St Richard Gwyn; Mrs Brunnock is leaving our Inclusion department to join the Teaching Assistant team at Llanwern; Also leaving our Inclusion department, is Mrs Thomas. In the 16 years of service she has given to our community she has forged strong relationships with staff, pupils, parents and carers. She is one of the nicest people you could meet. She has shown great kindness, empathy and understanding towards the young people in her charge.

Finally, we wish Mrs Davies, Mrs Carey and Mr Seymour a very happy retirement. Mrs Davies has dedicated 23 years of her teaching life to St Joseph's. She is a passionate teacher and leader whose vocation to teaching has driven her to being relentless in her mission to ensure pupils flourish not just in Technology but in all aspects of their life. Under Mrs Davies's excellent leadership, the Technology department has grown and flourished. Mrs Davies will be much missed. But we wish her great health and happiness as she embarks on her next adventure in life.

Mrs Carey began her teaching career at St Joseph's in January 1981 when she took up the post of Home Economics teacher. Mrs Carey's 39 years of dedication has been marked by her commitment and unfailing understanding of the

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need to never give up on a child. She has selflessly dedicated her time to ensuring that the needs of every child, member of staff, the school are met. We all wish Mrs Carey great happiness and good health in the next chapter of her life.

Mr Seymour joined St Joseph's as Head of History 24 years ago. His entire, very successful career, has been based on being the best History teacher and the best Head of Department he can be. He has an unfaltering passion for what he does. He loves History and he loves sharing his knowledge and making our young people realise that history helps to shape their views of the world and understand how the past contributes to the present and helps shape their future. Building a hugely successful department and forging brilliant relationships with pupils, staff, parents and carers has made Mr Seymour one of the most well respected and loved teachers at St Joseph's. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all our departing staff for their commitment and dedication to the school and, most importantly, our students. They will be greatly missed.

Examination Results in 2020

A letter from Mrs Morgan, Deputy Headteacher, has been sent to all families with children due to pick up results this summer. Unfortunately, owing to the restrictions in place regarding large groups, we will be providing these results electronically using the secure emails (ie. school email account). Please take time to read this as it contains instructions on how results will be distributed and what support will be available.

On behalf of everyone here at St Joseph's RC High School, I would like to thank you for all you do as parents/carers and friends of the school. Your support, encouragement and kind words have been greatly appreciated during these challenging few months. I wish you and your families a very enjoyable and safe summer.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jarrett
Headteacher

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