



St. Joseph's RC High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

Pencarn Way, Tredegar Park, Newport, S. Wales, NP10 8XH
Ffordd Pencarn, Parc Tredegar, Casnewydd, De Cymru, NP10 8XH
Tel/Ffôn: (01633) 653110
E-mail/E-bost: sjhs@newport.gov.uk www.sjhs.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport twitter.com/sjhsnewport
Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

Dear parent/carer,

As we start the new academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to share our vision of blended learning with you. As always teaching and learning is at the heart of everything we do at St Joseph's RC High School and we want to assure you that your child/children will be provided with the best learning opportunities possible.

Last term we embarked on our blended learning journey where pupils had a mix of face to face teaching, online teaching and online resources. Even though we have returned to school, this approach to teaching and learning will continue to play a very significant part in your child's progress for the next academic year and onwards throughout their education.

At St. Joseph's RC High School we use Google Classroom as our online learning platform. Google Classroom is a free web service, developed by Google for schools, that aims to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments in a paperless way.

The main features for our students are:

- **Assignments:** this allows students to HAND IN work and for teachers to Comment, Mark and Return.
- **Material:** this allows students to access a range of material to include Google Docs, Google Sheets, all Microsoft documents, pdfs, You Tube, videos, etc.
- **Question:** students can reply to each other or the teacher.
- **Quiz:** students can answer and submit.

Every teacher has created a Google Classroom for their subject. Your son/daughter has been or will be provided with a **one time class code** to join each class. Codes are currently being distributed during lessons. A list of all codes will also be sent home next week to ensure your child is enrolled in all classes on their timetable.

In the meantime, the link below will provide you access to a [Parent/Carer Google Classroom Guide](#). You may wish to work through this with your child once they have joined a classroom.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM WILL LARGELY BE USED FOR SUBMITTING EVIDENCE OF HOMEWORK. IN ORDER TO SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR CHILD, WE WILL PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS ON A FORTNIGHTLY BASIS. THIS WILL TAKE THE FORM OF OUR FORTNIGHT LEARNING PLAN. THE FORTNIGHT LEARNING PLAN HAS BEEN CREATED TO:

- Support pupils to manage their time to achieve a balance between learning and activities which promote their **wellbeing. Wellbeing and Health Activities**
- Provide families with a clear overview of **homework** set per subject.
- Encouraging pupils to be **independent** and take responsibility for organising their own learning.

The first Year 7 Fortnight Learning Plan will be published on **Monday 21st September**. In the meantime, until the 21st September, departments may be setting homework with no expectation that it is uploaded onto Google Classroom. The **Fortnight Learning Plan** will be available on our school website each fortnight on the Monday afternoon on the link below:

<https://www.sjhs.org.uk/page/?title=Distance+Learning&pid=103>

'Serving God Through Learning Together'

'Yn gwasanaethu Duw trwy ddysgu gyda'n gilydd'

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Please encourage your child to ask their subject teacher any questions they have related to the homework tasks set during lessons. From the 21st September pupils can also post direct comments on Google Classroom to their subject teacher if needed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to point you in the direction of our online safety advice for families on our [school website](#). In particular, two useful documents '[Digital Parenting](#)' and '[Digital Parenting Version 5](#)' by Vodafone and parentzone. These documents provide advice on issues such as digital-life balance, setting the right boundaries and safe use of social media.

If you encounter any technical issues when logging into SJHS Google Classroom, please contact IT Support in the first instance: techsupport@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

J Moriarty
Distance Learning Lead

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