



## Well done and thanks to our amazing students!

As we approach the end of the academic year, we take time to ponder on the amazing achievements of our young people. We are proud of the work of the newly formed team of Student Voice Ambassadors, who have worked with Mellors to share the ideas from the student body, improving provision including a pre-order facility, the introduction of Carrs pasties, a breakfast provision to mention a few. The Student Voice Ambassadors have also been looking at our school uniform and our curriculum and voicing the views of their peers.



We are delighted to have supported so many charities this year including raising £1753.84. for St Joseph's penny, over £2000 for cancer charities and over £700 for the Mizen appeal. Our SVP group have also done an amazing job, working quietly behind the scenes with their random acts of kindness campaign, visiting local residential homes and inviting the elderly in for their annual Christmas party. Our new Chaplaincy (GIFT) team have been leading others as we 'grow in faith together' and provided powerful role models for our community. The EPIC adventure retreat to Savio House in April paved the way for a brilliant piece of work renewing our mission as a catholic school. We thank the community for their input as we proudly launch our new mission depicted in the statement below. You may have found yourself involved in discussions about a search for a baby Kangaroo after the recent wanted posters! The reality is that a 'Joey' can be found all around our school in parents, carers, staff and students. A 'Joey' is someone who lives by our family values...

## New Mission Statement...Our Family Values...

Jesus Christ is our family role model.

Opening our hearts and minds to dream the impossible and achieve beyond our wildest imagination.

Everybody is valued, nurtured and respected.

Young and old will journey together to build God's Kingdom.

Striving for academic excellence and celebrating success in all we do.

You are warmly invited to our...



End of School Year Celebration of Mass on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July

This is an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings we have received this year, to pray for refreshing rest over the summer and look forward to how we will live our new mission next academic year. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Year 7 Mass 9:30am  
Year 8 and 9 Mass 11:30am  
Year 10 will have their liturgy in the afternoon on return from their Thornleigh taster day.



Our Chaplaincy team would like to invite you to join us at our end of term Celebration Masses on Tuesday 17 July. The first will take place at 9:15am and the second will take place at 11:30am in the School Hall. We also look forward to celebrating our new mission with a special celebration day next half term.

## Goodbyes

As we say goodbye to one academic year and prepare for another, we also say goodbye to some amazing members of staff who have given so much of their lives to the school community and made a difference to the lives of students past and present. We say goodbye and thanks to Mrs Sudell who has given 27 years of her life serving young people in our Admin team, Mrs K Walsh our Assistant

Headteacher, Mr Trist, Mrs Boardman, Miss Bleasdale, Mrs E Walsh, Miss D Matthews, Mrs Hon and Miss Monk.



## Facebook – keep in touch...

We are indebted to Mrs Flanagan who has kept you all informed of all our school achievements through our Facebook page. It has been especially pleasing to see so many people sharing their out of school achievements, so we can delight in achievements as a family. Well done to the Language Department for such a successful Spanish exchange trip. We are looking forward to the exciting foreign trips that are being planned moving forward. It was great to see such energy in our Dance Show and such flair in our recent production of a Mid-Summer Night's Dream. It was also inspiring to see all the sporting achievements and those showing real resilience starting the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme. Well done to you all!

## Thanks for the feedback....



We are committed to listening to our community as we plan for next year. Over the Summer, we will be improving the wet weather provision by constructing dining canopies over the benches near the dining pod. We are having significant damp removal and drains works and in September, students will come back to a new welcoming refurbished main corridor.

Whilst we have had many successes this year, we also acknowledge the difficulty we have had in recruiting specialist teachers to Maths and Science, when some staff left us early on in the year. We have addressed this by securing good staff for September, earlier on in the year. We have recruited additional teachers in science to help us address the balance and give more curriculum time in the three year KS4. We have also listened to parents/carers and students and recruited additional staff to enable us to have a more sophisticated grouping system for Yr 7 & 8. To add to this, we have employed an additional member of staff to the Maths Department and will be recruiting to English in September. These roles will be to pick up any students who have been left behind and intervene to fill knowledge gaps. These members of staff will also be able to provide short term cover in these departments, so that students will not be disadvantaged in case of teacher illness. We are now fully staffed for September and do not envisage the need for any long term supply staff.

Our £2-3 million building works will begin in the Autumn and will be ready to use by September 2019. These improvements will have a really positive effect on our young people, but the work will be managed so that it does not impact on our school business over the next year.

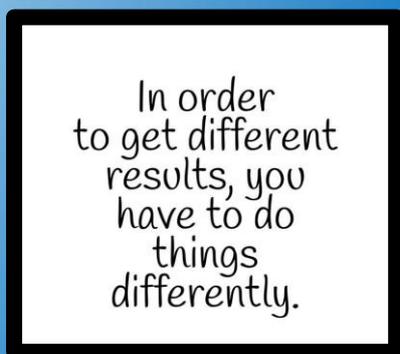
Many thanks to you all for contributing to our consultations on Mission, uniform and the curriculum. We also value the constructive feedback that we receive from many of you in our regular communications. Although we cannot ever please everyone, we do listen and this helps us to design better systems to improve the services we offer young people.

**Bucket list – 100 things to do before you leave St Joseph's** We are delighted to announce our new extracurricular 'bucket list' offer to come into place in September 2018. We know that the things young people remember when they become adults is the way we made them feel and the experiences that helped shape who they were to become. To this end, we set the challenge for our students to achieve at least 100 bucket list experiences before they leave St Joseph's. These might range from playing sport for a school team, performing on a stage in front of an audience or completing a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. For Year 11, we will provide a series of booster sessions to support their revision throughout the whole of Yr 11 to avoid the need for any last minute cramming. For Yr 7 we will be running some catch-up sessions, so that those leaving primary school with skill deficits can catch up quickly with our dedicated Literacy and Numeracy specialists and make great progress at St Joseph's.



**A new curriculum and a new way of learning** After a lengthy consultation with a meeting with parents in November 2017 and an online survey for parents, staff and students, we have worked with all our bus company providers to adjust our school day. This ties in with our new 3 year KS4 and is to enable us to give a deeper learning experience as part of the curriculum. Lessons will now be termed 'Learning episodes.' There will be 5 a day and they will be an hour long. This enables enough time for students to improve their previous work, responding to teacher marking, addressing any misconceptions, activate new learning and show real resilience by completing a piece of work of GCSE challenge. It also provides time to set quality home learning.

Here is a reminder of the timings of the new school day (previously communicated on 24 May):



8.25 am	Warning Bell
8.30 am	Registration
8.45 am	Period 1
9.45 am	Period 2
10.45 am	Break
11.00 am	Period 3
12.00 pm	Period 4
1.00 pm	Lunch
1.45 pm	Period 5
2.45 pm	End of the School Day/Beginning of Extracurricular bucket list activities and bespoke intervention.

Our KS3 curriculum in Y7 and 8 will be about filling any skill deficits from primary school and then create a secure, firm knowledge and skill base on which to build GCSEs. At the end of Year 8, students will choose their 'specialist' subjects and then will spend the following three years studying for their GCSEs. We will be using progression scales to design our lessons and report progress. More information about this and how we can work together to support our young people, will be given at our 'Getting the most out of' evenings. These are really important for your young people and dates will be announced in September.

Our Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 25 September (Please feel free to come along yourselves and encourage any primary school friends to come along and experience our school).



### Uniform

The uniform shopping trip is no doubt somewhere on your list of 'holiday things to do'. Please see our school website for our uniform list and suppliers (PDF also attached to this mail.) It is worth noting that once again, we have tried to take a 'reasonable approach to uniform' this year in the hope that parents will find it easier to support us in insisting that all students comply. We recognise that some students may not be fortunate enough to have separate shoes for the weekend and there are 'hybrid' shoes available from Clarkes and some other retailers. To include these, we are defining a black shoe as something that black polish can be applied to, does not have any coloured or white logos, does not have any canvas on it and does not cover the ankle bone. A small black logo on the heel or sole of the shoe is acceptable. I hope that this will help make it easier to find footwear that is comfortable, affordable and smart. Please see attached PDF to avoid common uniform errors.

The following things are worth bearing in mind and will help us to avoid confrontation and support your child rather than challenge them. Earrings cannot be allowed for safety reasons, so please do not let your child have piercings just before they return. Skinny 'jean cut' black trousers should not be worn. To preserve personal dignity, please ensure that your daughters wear trousers or their skirts to the knee and remove nail varnish and makeup. Ask your children to save hoodies/tracksuit tops for 'weekend wear' and have a **plain** coat suitable for school. Following our consultation our uniform will be adjusted for September 2019 to include one uniform from Yrs 7-10, with a distinguished tie for each year group. There will be a longer pleated, adjustable waist skirt and Year 11 will choose as a year group from a choice of coloured V-neck jumpers. Our consultation showed that there is a lot of strong feeling towards uniform, but, we also recognise that we cannot grant everybody's wishes. Our solution is based on keeping costs low, ensuring skirts can be worn with dignity and making our young people look smart and feel comfortable. To this end our new Year 9 may, if they wish, continue to wear their blazers, shirts and ties, rather than buy a sweatshirt for one year.



activity.

**Be safe...**Over the last few months, we have had special dramas and presentations in school relating to safety of our young people. Recent local news articles show that many people lose their lives because of poor choices. We do not want anyone at St Joseph's to join the statistics. Please reiterate these messages and remind our young people not to swim in unsupervised open water, to avoid getting into a car with anyone who they suspect may not be responsible to drive safely, to have a zero tolerance to anyone who offers anything that may be a drug and keep vigilant checking your child's online

Finally, many thanks for all your ongoing support. Whatever you are doing this Summer, whether you are enjoying time with loved ones at home or journeying afar, I pray that God's blessing will be upon you and refresh you all. I look forward to welcoming you all back at 8:25am on Tuesday 4 September.

Lord

We thank you for a fantastic year at St Josephs. We pray that you will protect all members of our community over this Summer period. We pray that when the time comes, we will be able to relax with our loved ones and recharge our batteries, ready for a new academic year in September.

Stay with us Lord on our journey.

Amen