



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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Registered Charity Number: 1075795 | **Facebook/Twitter:** StJosephsRCHS

September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As the 2016 Autumn Term begins there is once again much to celebrate and much to look forward to in the year ahead.

We offer congratulations to our Year 11 pupils from 2015-16 who secured yet another set of superb GCSE qualifications here at St Joseph's. The dedication of staff, parents and of course the pupils themselves has enabled them to progress smoothly on to further education, employment and training: 70% of pupils achieving an A*-C in both English & Maths, 80% of our pupils achieved an A*-C in RE, 71% of our pupils achieved an A*-C in English, 84% of our pupils achieved an A*-C in English Literature and 74% of our pupils achieved an A*-C in Maths.

These results continue to place St Joseph's well above national averages and demonstrate our continued improvements as we journey towards outstanding in all that we do.

We of course welcome our Year 7 students to the St Joseph's family. After many weeks of waiting, their first day at St Joseph's finally arrived last Wednesday and I am glad to say that the newest members of our community have already settled in to their new form classes and have made an excellent start to their first year at the school.

I am also delighted to welcome some new members of staff who have joined us this year including Mrs Harrison who joins us as teacher of Science and Miss Smethurst as teacher of Food and Nutrition. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Ball, Mrs Corr and Miss Grady as members of the SEN Department and Miss Rammage as Cover Supervisor.

I would like to offer thanks for your tremendous support in ensuring that pupils returned for the new school year in appropriate uniform reflecting the high standards that we expect here at St Joseph's and as we begin another term together, I would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to some important issues for the year ahead.

Following consultation with parents and the School Council last year, our new school 'App' will soon be going live to complement our current website which includes e-access to your child's Learning Plan in every subject here at school - you can follow their learning journey and homework at every stage through half-termly learning objectives, detailed weekly schedules of classwork learning activities and homework set.





In consultation with pupils last term, we have also launched our new whole school rewards system this academic year. The new 'e-praise' software allows students to collect reward points for a whole host of things every day which can then be 'cashed-in' via the online shop. As parents and carers you will be able view your child's rewards via a personal online account - further details to follow in the next few weeks via our school newsletter.

Last week also saw our new catering providers 'Mellors' begin serving their new daily menus from the servery and the initial feedback from students and staff has been universally positive. This year we will be uploading weekly menus onto our website and hopefully you will soon be able to access an individual online account to monitor payments –further details to come. In the meantime *please ensure that all cheques are made payable to Mellors Catering Services.*

Following the success of our parental clinics last year, we will this year also be offering termly 'Drop In Days' for you to discuss aspects of school life with members of the Leadership Team. Further details and dates to follow. Each week we will continue to issue our regular newsletter keeping you up to date with everything that is happening here at St Joseph's. There will also soon be an online Parent Calendar for you to easily note the many enrichment opportunities that are on offer here at the school.

Evidence continues to show that attendance at school is clearly one of the most important factors in ensuring that pupils excel academically, socially and spiritually. I would once again like to remind you of our policy surrounding term time absences, and ask that medical & dental appointments are taken outside of school hours where possible. A reminder too that we require a phone call from a parent/carer to confirm if a pupil is to make their own way to an off-site medical appointment alone during school hours. Without this, pupils will not be allowed to leave the school premises.

We look forward to another successful year ahead, and I thank you as always for the support you offer to the St Joseph's community.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher