



# ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

A SCIENCE SPECIALIST COLLEGE

HEADTEACHER: MS MELISSA L ROBERTS, BA (HONS), MA, NPQH

MLR/hr/Christmas  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we reach the end of a challenging but enriching term, I want to pay tribute to our incredible students and the strength of our community. We were so excited to see students coming back to school in September, but we are also aware that they have faced a term of high levels of challenge and uncertainty and they have done so with determination, resilience and impressive good cheer. Their positivity, their hard work, their exemplary behaviour in class and their willingness to look to the future have kept our spirits buoyant and allowed us to remain full of confidence for 2021.

Year 11 and Y13 should be commended on their dedication to their studies during mock exams. Both sets of results indicate that if they put in consistent effort with classwork and keep up with their revision we can expect fantastic outcomes this summer. They definitely deserve a break over their holiday.

All our year groups have been busy fundraising for local charities and making sure that the joy of Christmas is shared by those not as lucky as we are. I applaud them for the great generosity they have shown collecting toys, food items and money to support people in need in our own communities.

We say goodbye to Mrs Claire Rooney at Christmas as she leaves St Joseph's College to take up an Assistant Head post. She has been an exceptional Head of Year and a wonderful colleague and, whilst her promotion is richly deserved, we will miss her dedication and her talent. We wish her well. Dr Sarah Hadfield and our own Mrs Rebecca Gradwell will be taking over her teaching in the RE department. We also say goodbye to Mrs Bharti Sharma, one of our science technicians, who is leaving the UK to return to her native Poland. Bharti is a very able and committed colleague and we wish her every happiness back with her family. We will appoint her replacement in the New Year.

This has been perhaps the most challenging term we have known and the staff, both teaching and support staff, have worked incredibly hard to go above and beyond in keeping our students safe and well-supported. Thank you so much for the many messages of support, good wishes and cards and gifts that you have sent in for the staff; they are greatly appreciated by everyone and staff are immensely touched to know that parents and students appreciate their hard work so much.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and holy Christmas and much-treasured time with friends and family, which will be even more special this year. Stay well and stay safe. We look forward to working with you again in the New Year and throughout 2021.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Roberts  
**Headteacher**

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