



# ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

A SCIENCE SPECIALIST COLLEGE

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

MLR/hr/parentsletter  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

First of all I would like to commend your children on the superb way they are responding to the challenges of Lockdown and remote learning. Staff are reporting outstanding examples of engagement, effort and creativity from students. I particularly applaud Y8 who are coping with doing tests week remotely, a first for students and staff alike. Teaching staff are meeting (remotely) to share ideas, plan learning and discuss progress and we are all learning new skills and exploring new ways to deliver content and are delighted with how the students are responding. Thank you for the support you are giving to your children to help to keep them attentive and on task. Thank you also for the lovely messages that have come into school in recent weeks about their experiences – it has been a joy to pass these on to staff in our remote briefings.

## **Laptops:**

Of course, undertaking remote learning means that there has been a huge need for laptops and devices to allow students to access classes. As a school we were allocated only 8 laptops by the government and we have also lent out all the laptops from our study rooms – this is still not enough. If you are aware of any companies or employers who have replaced computers and have old laptops they are willing to donate – or even individuals who have upgraded and now have a laptop they no longer need, please get in touch with us. We will collect them and prepare them and send them out to students with no remote access.

## **Confirmed Cases:**

Even though they are learning at home, can I ask that if your child tests positive for COVID-19 please let us know on [covid19@stjosephsmail.com](mailto:covid19@stjosephsmail.com). We are asked to send updated information to the Department for Education every day. We are seeing more and more children with marginal symptoms testing positive so it is worth getting a test to protect the rest of the family.

## **Y11 and Y13:**

You may have read in the press that Ofqual and the DfE are considering staging mini-exams at the end of the year to assist with the awarding of Teacher Assessed Grades for Y11 and Y13 students. At the moment the proposal is subject to consultation and details are scarce but as soon as we have more details we will share them with students and parents. What is clear is that Y11 and Y13 need to continue working hard in lessons, continuously revising content and putting in maximum effort. They have been exceptional thus far and they need to keep going to make sure that when we reach the end point we have ample evidence of their achievements to inform our grades.

## **Form time:**

Please can you make sure your children log into form every morning. This is our best opportunity to offer pastoral support - checking that students are well, keeping them focused and ensuring that they are prepared for each day.

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## **Communication:**

We will continue to send out regular letters to parents to update you and to contact students on Microsoft Teams. Older students, and especially 6th form students, may also be contacted by email and should check emails regularly. I will post updates on Twitter at SJC Headteacher and I will also post links to assemblies and information videos and letters. Parents can contact school by phone in school hours and by email on [sjcollege@stjosephsmail.com](mailto:sjcollege@stjosephsmail.com) - these emails will be forwarded directly to the relevant staff.

We might be operating a skeleton staff on site, but school is not closed and we are working hard to make sure that our students feel connected to their teachers and to one another. Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or worries at all or if you want to tell us about something that is working well.

Yours sincerely,



Ms M Roberts  
**Headteacher**

