



HEADTEACHER: MELISSA ROBERTS

LONDON ROAD, TRENT VALE, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST4 5NT

MLR/hr/Parent Letter
18 October 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Whilst it seems like term has only just begun, we are already only a week and a half away from the half-term holiday. I wanted to contact parents to thank you all for supporting the excellent first half-term your children are having.

We have had verification of our progress measures from the summer exams. I am delighted to say that our 2023 GCSE results were the school's best ever with a progress score showing that pupils achieve exceptional outcomes and make outstanding progress. Congratulations to all last year's students, but we are now busy making sure we achieve the same exceptional outcomes for our 2024 cohorts.

Punctuality and uniform standards:

Thank you to everyone for the continued support in ensuring that students are in their form rooms at 8.40am. This is very important as we are tracking punctuality daily and it's great to see parents and students making every effort to be here in good time. The site is open with supervision for the students from 8:00am every morning in the library. Students can also come to the dining room and buy breakfast items including toast and a hot drink for £1.

Students continue to look extremely smart and they have got used to the new orange uniform cards. These are a very good way to give students ownership of their uniform standards. Thank you for your continued support with this. Some parents have asked for a reminder of our expectations and these are attached to this letter. Students have been told that for a tie to be done up properly, it should meet the waistband and the knot should be at the top button. Students have been asked to ensure that coats are not worn in the building and that phones are switched off and in bags rather than in blazer pockets where the temptation to use them is very strong.

Events this month:

As part of marking **Black History Month**, we have had support from staff, parents and students for our curriculum content, our new flag and our suitcase exhibition. We have a photocopy of the boarding pass from the original Windrush voyage to the UK, copies of tickets from India and the Philippines and artefacts from all over the world. Please keep them coming in to Mrs L Hall. We are also glad to see such great support for the Hello Yellow Mental Health awareness day and students

Telephone: 01782 848008, email: sjcollege@stjosephsmail.com www.stjosephstrentvale.com

*St Joseph's College Edmund Rice Academy Trust is a Company Limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales
Registration Number: 07490390 Registered office: London Road, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 5NT VAT Registration Number: 113707834*

reflected on what aspects of their own and others' mental health needed support and where they can access help.

Now attention moves to our **Dougie Mac Coffee Morning** on Thursday 26th October. All students will take part, bringing in cakes for sale and then coming to enjoy their treats and all parents/friends are invited to join us for a lovely morning of community activity and fundraising. Please look out for the letter that will be coming out separately inviting you to the morning and asking for cake donations.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be in school Thursday 9th– Wednesday 15th November. We are blessed to have a fantastic new Librarian, Mrs R Thomas, who is ordering lots of exciting new reading material for students. As you know we have been doing lots of work to extend students' reading within subjects and in encouraging them in the habits of reading for pleasure. This fair is a chance for them to sample and look at beautiful new books and decide what to buy.

After-school waiting:

As the weather gets colder and evenings get darker, it is timely to remind you that no pupil should be waiting on Rowley's view or anywhere on the school site at the end of the day. Sometimes pupils tell us that they are being collected at 5:00pm. We now have more than 90 extra-curricular clubs running, many of which are at the end of the day, so there is a wealth of choice for all pupils. We also run a homework club so that students can work on homework in the library until 6:00pm with a member of staff to support them (£6 charge.) Any student who is going to be collected after 3:45pm needs to be either in an after-school activity or in homework club.

Key dates:

Thursday 26 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Break up for October half-term holiday- Y12 Parents' Evening (face-to-face) 3.45 - 6.45pm
Friday 27 th October Monday 6 th November	INSET days for all staff only (school is closed for all students)
Tuesday 7 th November	School reopens for half-term 2
Thursday 9 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 6th Form Open Evening for prospective Y12 students September 2024- Book Fair in the hall until Wednesday 15th November

Thank you so much for all your support this half term. The partnership between parents and school is part of what makes St Joseph's College such a success.

Yours sincerely,



Ms M Roberts
Headteacher