



HEADTEACHER: CHARLOTTE SLATTERY
LONDON ROAD, TRENT VALE, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST4 5NT

CS/fmu/Parent Letter/Autumn 2024
6 September 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome, from St Joseph's College, to another exciting and action-packed academic year.

I am thrilled to have taken over as Headteacher of our wonderful school. I am also hugely grateful for all the good wishes sent to me from our parent (and student) body; I have been very touched and am determined to repay that faith in my leadership.

For all intents and purposes, it is 'business as usual' at school; whilst there has been some movement around of certain members of staff, our core vision, principles, standards and expectations remain the same. As we embark on this new academic year I wanted to say thank you to you all for ensuring your children have made a great start in this first week. Students look smart, engaged and ready for the challenges ahead. Our Year 7 students have made a magical impression as they navigate their way around the site, with their energy, enthusiasm and infectious smiles. Our Year 12 students, old and new, have already shown a steely determination to start as they mean to go on, seizing every opportunity.

We have been joined by new members of staff to St Joseph's this academic year and I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them to our community.

Queenie Cheng	Examinations Assistant	
Nigel Grund	Geography	Temp Maternity Cover
Victoria Hammond	Admin Assistant (Apprenticeship)	
Carly Hind	SCITT/Teaching School Hub	Temporary for 1 year
Katie Poole	RE	
Chelsea Tunney	Catering Assistant	
Rebecca Wilding	LSP	

As always, there is some practical information I need to share with parents:

Attendance:

The government has issued new attendance guidance which came into effect over the summer. Attached to my letter are some documents from the Local Authority regarding the changes but please be aware that it is now virtually impossible for Headteachers to authorise term time absences, particularly for holidays. We are currently updating the school attendance policy and Mrs Machin who is our Senior Attendance Champion will let you know once this is available. Our attendance at St Joseph's College is a source of

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celebration and that is down to the collaboration between home and school. I would ask that all parents continue to support school in ensuring attendance is a key priority.

Punctuality:

Again, a huge thank you to you all for ensuring your children are in school on time. Just to remind parents that registration begins at 8.40am. Anyone arriving to registration after this time, will be marked as late. We track punctuality in a similar way and as rigorously as attendance, so your cooperation is appreciated.

The school site is open, with supervision for the students, from 8.00am every morning. Please do not drop your child at school before this time as staff are not on duty to supervise.

Uniform:

I am delighted to see students proudly wearing their uniform. If there are any further changes or amendments that parents have been asked to make, I would, as always, appreciate your support and cooperation. Uniform is a significant part of creating the culture and tone we maintain at St Joseph's. We have unapologetically high standards and expectations because your sons and daughters are worth nothing less.

School Priorities:

As with all years, we endeavour to improve on what has gone before: both academically and in the wider life of the school. We will be placing significant importance this year on Catholic Social Teaching, Stewardship and Sustainability. Please watch out for these exciting developments!

CMAT:

Thank you to the parents who attended the consultation for our move to the CMAT, and to those who have sent in questions or queries. Our governing body are meeting on 24 September where this information will be considered. We are now in the process of finalising staff and student questions and once there is a further update, I will let all parents know.

A500 Resurfacing:

Following the ParentMail that was sent to all parents on 5 September, I just wanted to give you another reminder that the northbound entry slip road at the Hanford interchange will be closed from 21.00 – 0600 on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 September. This may cause delays – we will monitor this in terms of student punctuality.

Key Dates for this Half Term

Thursday 19 September	Year 12 information evening
Monday/Tuesday 23/24 September	Year 7 Alton Castle Day Retreats
Thursday 26 September	Whole School Mass of Welcome
Thursday 3 October	Year 7 Transition to Secondary School Evening
Tuesday 8 October	Year 7 Family Mass of Welcome
Thursday 24 October	Dougie Mac Coffee Morning
Friday 25 October	INSET Day and end of half term

I look forward to seeing parents at some of the above events. All members of staff are reinvigorated after the summer break and keen to get the year off to a really positive start. Most of all, however, I look forward to working alongside our students, staff and parents in what promises to be the most inspirational year!

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Slattery (Mrs)
Headteacher