



## *Saint Joseph's*

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/carer,

I can't believe that we've only got two school weeks left until we break up on Friday 23rd July! This year has certainly had its challenges but it has absolutely flown by! In the last week of term, we'll be hosting the School's Sports Day and House Competition Day as well as virtual awards assemblies and the famous school house quiz!

We're doing all we can to ensure that all members of our staff and student body can remain in school until the end of term and take part in these enrichment activities with regular cleaning of rooms, the use of hand sanitiser and keeping the bubbles as separate as possible. We've also taken the decision this week to revert back to online assemblies as, the last thing we want to have to do, is send a whole year group bubble home.

As you will have seen from earlier correspondence this week, we were instructed to send 40 pupils home to self-isolate for 10 days. Any such decision has to be done in consultation with Public Health England and we are obliged to follow this as part of the Government expectations to seek to reduce and break the chain of transmission, and especially with the new, much more virulent Delta strain.

Please continue to carry out the weekly lateral flow tests and follow the guidance of handwashing and social distancing. We really do hope this is the last time we'll have to do this, but we're only far too aware of the increase in local cases so urge you all to do all you can to keep the virus at bay as restrictions are being relaxed.

We'd also like to remind families that if your child has been asked to self-isolate that you should be following the government guidance and not leaving your house.

### **Year 9 Holocaust Memorial**

On Thursday this week, Year 9 students were off timetable during the morning so that they could engage in learning about the Holocaust. It is a statutory requirement from the Department for Education that all students in England and Wales learn about the Holocaust before the end of Year 9. St Joseph's students usually study it in Year 8, but we felt it was not an appropriate subject matter for remote learning for them last year. All sessions were delivered by qualified History and RE teachers in an engaging and respectful manner and the pupils handled the sensitive nature of the Holocaust very maturely. Many were shocked at the devastation and brutality of Holocaust and also moved by the personal stories they were exposed to.

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## Head Student Speeches

This afternoon we've heard many excellent speeches from our fantastic head student candidates. They all presented eloquently and confidently and had great and inspirational ideas! The vote is open to pupils on Teams and it's certainly going to be a close fought race. It was a real source of pride hearing from our future student leaders!

## St Joseph's Branded Sportswear

St Joseph's is partnering with Bateman's Sports to offer a selection of sports apparel displaying our school logo, including tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirts, and raincoats. Items can be customised with your child's initials. Go to this link to see the full range: <https://sjcs.org.uk/batemans-sports-kit/>

Bateman's clothes **can** be worn as PE kit, but this is **optional**. Please be aware that you are not expected to purchase this as part of your child's mandatory PE kit – we are offering these as an optional extra.

*Please note that polo and rugby tops with the house colours are still mandatory. For information on where to buy mandatory PE kit and school uniform from Price & Buckland (link to uniform orders in the uniform section of this update).*

## Uniform

Uniform standards continue to be excellent – thank you for your support with this. If you are purchasing new uniform for next year, to ensure delivery for the start of term in September, please place your orders with Price & Buckland by 1 August 2021. **Please select home delivery** as there will be no further deliveries into school before the start date. <https://sjcs.org.uk/uniform-orders/>

## School Blog

We've recently started a St Joseph's Catholic School blog. Here you'll find updates from our staff, exciting opportunities, as well as interesting and informative articles about school life, how to get the most out of your learning, pastoral care and mental health, and more.

<https://sjcs.org.uk/blog/>

## Achievement Points

There's a change at the top! Margaret have got a 35–point lead on Teresa!

1st Place:	Margaret with 29,335 points
2nd Place:	Teresa with 29,300 points
3rd Place:	Vincent with 29,078 points
4th Place:	Francis with 27,158 points

## Parent Evenings and Parent Information Evenings

Just a reminder that these are happening next week.

- Monday 12th July: Yr7 Parents' Evening – appointments being made online 4pm–6pm
- Tuesday 13th July: Yr8 Parent Information Evening: 6pm
- Wednesday 14th July: Yr9 Parent Information Evening: 6pm
- Thursday 15th July: Yr10 Parent Information Evening: 6pm

## Virtual Bereavement Support for Young People

Please see the attachment for information on virtual bereavement support for young people. These are summer drop-in sessions for those in Year 7 and above and are run by the charity Grief support for children and young people in Swindon & Wiltshire.

Have a lovely weekend and let's hope it makes it home on Sunday! 😊

Kind regards,

Mr Rooney



**Grief support  
for children  
and young people  
in Swindon & Wiltshire  
Registered Charity Number: 1159719**

## Summer Drop In Sessions (virtual)

### What are they?

- \* Virtual Bereavement Support
- \* For young people in school years 7 — 13 (those in secondary school & further education)
- \* Drop in for every session, or just the sessions you need
- \* Meet others who have also been bereaved
- \* Enjoy games
- \* Find out about thoughts and feelings we have when someone dies and how we can cope with them



### When are they?

Tuesdays 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st August, 6.30—7.30pm

### How to join

A parent or carer needs to complete our consent form found here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QYCQ9QG>

After we receive the form we will send you a MS Teams link—join the sessions on a laptop, phone or tablet

