



Saint Joseph's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Wednesday 24th July 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

" Direct your children onto the right path and when they are older, they will not leave it"

Proverbs 22: 6

As we begin our summer holidays today, on behalf of all our staff and Governors, I wish all our families a very happy and enjoyable summer holiday with time set aside for rest and relaxation. Our students and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved summer holiday.

School finishes today at 12.05 pm and reopens for staff on 2nd and 3rd September for two Teacher Development Days. On Wednesday 4th September, we welcome the Year 7 and Year 11 students followed on Thursday 5th by all remaining year groups.

Term 6 has been a very busy, but enjoyable term with a mixture of study, examinations, trips and enrichment activities. I am pleased to report that the administration of the public examinations ran very smoothly, and I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Victoria Sheffield, our examinations officer, for her calm and effective oversight of the examinations ably assisted by the exam invigilators and the Deputy Head Mr Rooney who takes overall responsibility for the examinations. The Year 11 students returned to school for a Rewards trip to Thorpe Park on 2nd July and had a Leavers Breakfast on Thursday 4th July followed by the Year 11 Prom on Friday 5th July at Antrobus House in Amesbury. We wish them every success and happiness for the future.

Thank you to Mr Rooney, Deputy Headteacher who keeps our school family informed each week in the weekly bulletin of the many varieties of events and activities which take place.

A big thank you to all our teachers and support staff for their hard work and dedication and the many who go above and beyond in their roles not just as educators but as mentors and role models in guiding and shaping the lives of our students. In the words of Bishop Bosco McDonald, our new Bishop of Clifton, " the above verse from Proverbs beautifully encapsulates the critical role teachers and support staff play in guiding and shaping the lives of our young people and instilling in them values that will last a lifetime."

In his letter to Teachers and staff, Bishop Bosco writes" In our Catholic schools we strive to provide an education that nurtures both the mind and the spirit, and you have all been instrumental in creating an environment where faith and learning coexist harmoniously. Through your example our young people learn core values of compassion, integrity and service. You help them to encounter Christ in their daily lives, to grow in relationship with Him. As we look forward to the next academic year, I encourage you to continue to draw strength from our faith and from one another. May we remain united in our mission to provide a holistic education that prepares our students not only for academic success but also for a life of faith and service."

Reflecting on these words of the Bishop on the importance of the role of Catholic education, I know that you will be delighted to welcome the new Headteacher, appointed last week, who will be the leader of St Joseph's



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Catholic School in the new academic year. Mr Higgins is an accomplished and experienced school leader who is excited and eager to commence his Headship in September and looking forward to meeting you all. He will be a great asset to St Joseph's and will strive to ensure that our school continues to progress and deliver a first-class education for all our students. In the new academic year Fr Anthony, Parish Priest at St Osmund's, will endeavour to continue to come in to school on a weekly basis as our School Chaplain to strengthen the link between school and parish, working alongside Mr Inglis who leads the Chaplaincy in St Joseph's.

Along with the appointment of a new Headteacher commencing in the new academic year we also have appointed a new Head of Geography, a new Head of History, a new Head of English as Mrs Maher our former Head of English is changing roles to become the new SENCO. We have also appointed two new Science teachers, a Maths Teacher, an English teacher and two new Cover Supervisors, Mr Joseph and Mr Brown.

We say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Furness, Assistant Head, Mrs Hartsmith, Head of Humanities, Mrs Rooney, Geography teacher, Miss McFarlane, English Teacher, Mr Ollivierre Computer Science teacher, our two cover supervisors Mrs Nex and Mrs Walters and we wish them every success and happiness as they move forward in their future careers.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to the Governors and staff of St Joseph's who invited me out of my retirement and appointed me as the Interim Headteacher of St Joseph's last November. I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting this great school and have worked with wonderful Governors, staff and students. At the request of the Governors, I have agreed to stay on for a short period of time to assist the new Head, Mr Higgins, with the hand over. I will undoubtedly miss the community and camaraderie of staff and students and St Joseph's will always be a part of my fond memories as a Headteacher, Thank you also to our parents / carers who welcomed me and were always supportive as together we worked for the best interests and education of our wonderful students. May God bless you always with His peace joy and love and may you and your families find rest and renewal during the summer holiday.

With best wishes,

John McParland
Interim Headteacher