



St. Joseph's RC High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

17th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Arrangements for the start of the new term

This morning, following a meeting with Newport local authority, I have been informed that there will be no face to face teaching for the first week of term, Monday 4th January to Friday 8th January. All teaching will be delivered online through Google Classroom. It is hoped that face to face teaching will resume Monday 11th January.

Newport local authority have provided the following key messages:

“There is a recognition that levels of Covid transmission are currently increasing within communities, and that this may impact on a school’s capacity to provide face to face learning for all pupils on their return to school. In agreement with Welsh Government, local authorities can consider allowing schools to move to blended learning for a phased return.

Newport primary and secondary schools will operate blended learning during the first week of term (January 4th-8th) with an intent of face to face teaching resuming on Monday January 11th. On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January, schools will assess staffing levels and review risk assessments. It is possible that schools will have limited staffing capacity on the return to school. This may prevent schools from providing opportunities for live learning over the course of the week. However, all schools will do their best to provide a range of high quality blended learning with the staffing available.”

I fully appreciate that this decision will be upsetting. However, please be assured that we will do our best to continue to provide high quality learning experiences for your child through our online platform Google Classroom from Monday 4th January. Our intention, depending on staffing, will be to resume live lessons from Wednesday 6th January. We will use Monday 4th January to review our staffing and notify you on Tuesday 5th January to confirm distance learning arrangements for the rest of that week.

In line with Welsh Government guidance, primary and secondary schools are required to make provisions for the children of critical workers on Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January. On Monday 4th January, if you are a critical worker who has no other options and urgently requires childcare for these dates, please contact your child’s Head of Year to discuss the possibility of provision at St Joseph’s RC High School:

Year 7 ojames@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

Year 8 swebster@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

‘Serving God Through Learning Together’

‘Yn gwasanaethu Duw trwy ddysgu gyda’n gilydd’

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As we approach the Christmas holidays, this was not the letter I was hoping to write. However, despite this rather surreal world we are living in, what I can say is how overwhelmed I have been with how hard students and staff have worked this term and how supportive you as parents and carers have been of your children's education. Despite all the disruption Covid has brought, every day I continue to be inspired by our students and my colleagues and all that they do together to make St Joseph's RC High School such a magical place. I am constantly reminded of what a wonderful Catholic community this is, and of the wonderful things our children are capable of achieving. As always, thank you for your great support, it is very much appreciated.

It is our Catholic traditions and values that are the glue of our school, which bind us together as one family during this special time of Advent. It is my wish that over the holidays, you can carry out your own family traditions, spending time together and creating happy memories. Our world moves at a tremendously fast pace and it is important to take time to slow down and simply enjoy the company of yourself and others; the Christmas holiday is the ideal opportunity to do this. I know that, during the Christmas holidays, we shall all find new ways of passing on the gift of peace that comes at Christmas through the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

On behalf of all at St Joseph's RC High School High, we wish each and every family a merry Christmas and hope for a blessed New Year to come.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jarrett

Headteacher

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