



# St Joseph's College

Mathematics and Computing Specialist College  
Confucius Classroom

Acting Headteacher: Mr S Miller

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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have all had a good summer break and I offer my best wishes to you all for the coming academic year. I particularly extend a warm welcome to those of you joining us for the first time. I wanted to draw your attention to some very important issues regarding safety and security at the College. In response to the national concern over student and staff safety in schools and following advice from the College's liaison Police Officer, I will be continuing measures to safeguard our College Community.

The College is committed to safeguarding its students, staff and the wider community, and as such we will be continuing measures introduced last year which include:

- Staff and 6<sup>th</sup> Form ID badges must be worn around the school site
- Temporary and unannounced use of a police security arch with random year groups
- The use of portable metal detectors by senior staff
- Regular locker sweeps
- Frequent bag searches where it is deemed appropriate
- Students and staff must use the pedestrian paths as indicated.

When a student leaves St Joseph's College permanently during the course of the academic year, we are required to seek confirmation about their next educational institution. If this is in a different country we will still require the name and contacts of the school to confirm the student is continuing their education.

**It is important for you to note** that any student found to have brought an offensive weapon into school faces the likelihood of being **permanently excluded** from the College, with the Local Authority notified in accordance with statutory exclusion guidance. Furthermore, the police will be called to the school and they will expect to meet with you and your son/daughter. The police will also be notified if any student is found to possess drugs, no matter how small a quantity. In both cases, the student in question may face the possibility of being arrested. Alongside these measures, there will be increased input from both the police and pastoral staff to further educate students about issues such as knives, drugs and gangs. Our Schools Officer will be making regular visits to the school and will be attending a number of parents' evenings so that parents/carers may meet her and raise any issues or concerns with her. If you have concerns in general about these issues in the community, the NSPCC has a helpline for anyone worried about a young person involved in, or at risk from, gangs:

<http://goo.gl/T8Gyro>

Further information can be found on the NSPCC website or you can contact their 24 hour helpline anonymously on 0808 800 5000 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk). These measures will ensure that your children feel even safer and more secure while they are at school, allowing them to focus on their learning.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Miller

Acting Headteacher

