



# ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE



**ToDream**  
is our way forward!

La Salle 2021-22

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a wonderful start to the academic year and I thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. As I reflect on the half term that has passed, I have been very impressed with how everyone – pupils, parents and staff – have adapted back to the routines of school. Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start: to building new friendships, developing their form group teams, involving themselves in new experiences and clubs and settling into life as secondary school students. Our new Year 12 students have also settled in well, and are enjoying life in the Sixth Form.

Students in all year groups have experienced their first Life Skills day of the academic year. This covered many key areas including, growth mind set and resilience, money matters, team building with the Army, healthy eating and mental health. Sixth Form students also had the opportunity to focus on their post-18 pathways, their university applications and attend an apprenticeship workshop. Furthermore, numerous Year 13 learners also successfully completed their early entry UCAS application, which is required to apply to for all courses at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and for courses in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry. This half term also witnessed our first Careers Fair of the year. Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 had the opportunity to meet and speak to representatives from a wide range of employment sectors to support them in their careers choices. Photos of the event are on our Twitter page and we do encourage you to take a look.

### **Section 48 Inspection:**

Thank you to parents for their invaluable feedback and quick response with the parent surveys for our Section 48 inspection. Furthermore, thank you to the parents who were able to come in on such short notice to meet with the inspectors to provide their personal opinion and feedback on the Catholic character of the school. This was a very important inspection for the College, and your feedback and time was greatly appreciated. We also thank all the students for making our inspectors feel so welcome at the College and for those that spoke to them in lessons and in student interviews. We have not received the outcome of the inspection yet, but we will be sure to keep you informed.

### **Student Vaccinations:**

Thank you to parents who have provided their consent for student Covid-19 vaccinations. I can confirm that this was a smooth process with over 200 students vaccinated. Just a reminder that Covid has not gone away and we still need to be cautious and protect ourselves and others. Please continue to encourage your children to test twice-weekly at home over this period, as well as testing at home the evening before they return. Please see the attached our Covid-19 letter for information and guidelines on how to stay safe.

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## **Year 11 Pre Public Examinations:**

Thank you to all of the parents that attended our live webinar on Thursday evening regarding Year 11 Pre Public Examinations commencing November 02<sup>nd</sup>. All students should now have their timetable for this. We wish all Year 11s good luck with their revision over half term in preparation for these tests. A reminder that all Year 11 (and 10) students have free access to GCSE Pod to support their independent learning and revision. Congratulations to our top users this half term!

Year 11: Aaron Descombes, Jayden Kibwota-Stevens and Sarim Haye

Year 10: Abdul-Rehman Sadiq, Alvin Kodjo-Baafi and Irfan Ahmed

## **End of Day Expectations:**

Reminder to parents and students that the end of the school day is 2.45pm. Students are expected to be out of the local area by 3.15pm to help reduce the congestion caused by neighbouring schools. We strongly ask parents to support the College's message in promoting respect for the public and public property. Please encourage students to uphold our five respects, in particular 'Respect for Community' when they are out in the local community.

## **Uniform Expectations:**

As we head into the winter months, I want to stress the importance of uniform expectations. On return coats, scarves and all winter appropriate clothing will be allowed with the exception of hoodies, tracksuits and non-uniform sportswear.

## **Attendance Update:**

To ensure attendance is dealt with in an efficient and timely manner, we request that you report the absence in one of 2 ways prior to 08:15;

- Call 020 8761 1426 and select option ONE and leave a voicemail on the pin protected attendance mail box. Clearly state the student's name, form and reason for absence.
- Report it via the My Ed app and ensure you send the reason for absence via attendance.

If you fail to do either of the above before 08:15 you may receive an absence alert notification. Please note that if you have left or sent a message after 8:15 and received this notification, there is no need to respond as your message will be picked up over the course of the school day and the attendance code will be changed depending on absence reason.

As a reminder, the close of morning registration is 08:25. Any student arriving after this will be sent to AR unless there is a valid reason for the late arrival which must be reported via the options above before 08:15. Failure to report it may result in a student being sent to AR temporarily until we are made aware of the reason for late arrival.

## **Library Update:**

This past Wednesday saw the grand opening of our newly re-located library. After the half term break, this will be open to Year 7 students initially who have passes for use during break and lunchtimes. Students in KS3 will also have the opportunity, once again, for library lessons from next half term.

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## Dates for your Diary

Date	Information
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Students return to school
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Year 11 PPE Exams</b>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11, 12 & 13 Business Trip
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 10 theatre trip to see 'Women in Black'
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	PE trip to the Rugby League World Cup semi-final
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>Year 13 PPE Exams</b>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Life Skills Day
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December- Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Transition trip to West Norwood Library
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term

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Finally, I am aware that there have been a number of Covid-19 cases locally. I would like to encourage our whole community to follow all of the relevant guidance and keep themselves safe during the half term break. I hope you all have an enjoyable and restful break. Just a final reminder that the college opens again to all students on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Kane  
Acting Headteacher

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