



# ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

5<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope that you have heard from your sons that I met with all boys from Years 7 to 11 on Monday in order to clarify our expectations in regard to classroom and community conduct, as we have made some changes to our stated procedures.

One of the things I can say about our boys, is that they have all been taught by you, their first teachers, the difference between right and wrong and how to act in a respectful manner towards others. I see this day in and day out, as I watch interactions between students and adults across our community. You will be aware, that our “Five Respects” are at the heart of what we want a St. Joseph’s student to stand for. Our Respects for Faith, Self, Others, Community, and Learning are not just hollow words. They have meaning and challenge to us all as we conduct ourselves in our daily lives. These respects do demand much of us and can be challenging at times. The reason for our Respects are that we want our boys to be successful in all they do because their progress matters.

It is my expectation that when you send your sons to St. Joseph’s College, their learning is free from disruption, so that they are able to learn to the best of their ability and teachers can teach to the best of their ability. In order for us to sustain the excellent outcomes and results achieved by students last year, we need to ensure that every individual in our community is able to focus and achieve. As a result, this week, we have taken away the C1 and C2 warning system. We have said to the boys that any rudeness, disruption to learning, boisterous behaviour or lack of concentration and effort in lessons will not be tolerated, **because** their progress matters.

Where appropriate, we will still offer a warning to either a group or an individual. However, if students disrupt learning for others or themselves, they will be exited and spend the rest of the day in isolation together with a detention at the end of the day. You will of course be informed of this detention and its length. Students who are repeatedly exited for disruption will have further sanctions imposed on them in order to support the learning of others and the ability of our teachers to be able to help and support the majority of our students.

In addition to classroom conduct and conduct around the school, I would like to confirm with you the fact that mobile devices and headphones should not be switched on or visible once on school premises. If they are seen, they will be confiscated immediately and parents will be asked to collect them from the College. Could I please stress that if you need to contact your son during the school day in an emergency, you do so by contacting the College and we will then give your son the message, rather than you trying to speak to him on his mobile device. I say this because this has happened a number of times this week.

Respect for our wider community is also important to us, and how our boys act when travelling to and from the College is vital in terms of the public perception of your sons. In order to clarify our expectations around the Crown Point area, in the morning, we expect our boys to come straight into school and not loiter around the shops and similarly at night we do not expect any of our students to be in shops after 3.00pm. We also expect them to go straight home after they have finished their school day and again not loiter around the Crown Point area. We have been asked by our neighbours that boys do not wear their hoods around the shops and that they are polite and respectful to members of the public. I know that the vast majority of our students do follow these rules, however, there are one or two who find these expectations more challenging. We also expect that, particularly on Friday nights, students do not return back to the area once they have left.

I am immensely proud of the vast majority of our boys and how they conduct themselves in and out of school. Only last week we received a phone call from a member of the public thanking one of our students who had helped her when her bags of shopping split open. She was full of praise and admiration for this young man. He embodies everything that we want our sons to be. These expectations are high but necessary when we look at the academic demands that they are put under in order to achieve well at GCSE and in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. We need our boys to be able to think hard and make connections between what they have learnt in the past and apply this knowledge to other situations. They need to be able to retrieve information from their memories without the help from anyone else. This is why we need to help our boys practice these skills every day in every lesson. As parents and teachers, we want our sons and students to be highly successful.

At St. Joseph's College, through the partnership of great teachers; students who are focussed on their own achievement and who work hard; and parents who encourage and support learning together, we will achieve great things.

I thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



David Garrido  
Headmaster