



St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

Chorley New Road | Horwich | Bolton | BL6 6HW

Telephone: 01204 697456 | **Fax:** 01204 669018

Website: www.stjosephsbolton.org.uk | **Email:** office@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr T McCabe | **Deputy Headteachers:** Mrs N Yorke Robinson, Mrs J Morgan | **Chair of Governors:** Mrs P Jones

Registered Charity Number: 1075795 | **Facebook/Twitter:** StJosephsRCHS

16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Nicola Law RIP

20th February 1970 – 12th July 2020

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that our Kitchen Manager Nicola Law died on Sunday 12th July. Nicola has served as Kitchen Manager in our canteen after starting with us in September 2010. She leaves behind her husband Marcus, her son Daniel, two daughters Sam and Sarah and her grandchildren. Nicola was suffering from a rare form of aggressive cancer that was diagnosed shortly after schools closed during the lockdown. Her passing leaves a hole in our community as we grieve our loss and remember her family and close friends in our prayers. Nicola was affectionately known by the young people as the 'lady in white,' due to her fresh white uniform. She was always chirpy and positive, always able to see the humour and cheery perspective no matter what the circumstances were.

As we take time to pause and grieve our loss, we must too be thankful that we were blessed to have her in our lives. We remember the life of service that she led, and the difference she made in the lives of our young people (and staff) as she filled their tummies and showed them their worth. Nicola recognised the humanity in every child and always went out of her way to provide for those who had forgotten their dinner money or missed their lunch. One of our students remembered her affectionately; "She always used to give me a grin and she seemed to always know when I 'needed' an extra big portion!"

Nicola impacted on far more lives than she will ever know and today we give thanks for her selfless life and ask God to protect and give his peace to her loved ones. We pray that they will be comforted knowing that she is no longer in pain, but enjoying an eternal hug with her creator.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Rev 21:4

In Nicola's memory the family will be setting up a page to enable family, friends and colleagues to donate to The Christie where Nicola received treatment in her final months.



Hope. As we approach the end of another academic year, I can say with certainty that this has been one like never before! We have seen pain in our community like never before, but we have seen people reach out in love to each other in an unprecedented way. Coronavirus has battered us, but not beaten us and as I reflect on the amazing things that our community has accomplished, I can see that although this might have been a season of loss, it has also been a time of love for others and resilience building. Through times of struggle and hardship can come new growth and new



opportunities and we look forward to the future with hope and anticipation. If your child hasn't yet viewed my message to all students they can view it here: <https://youtu.be/iYzLRe33yWo>

Thanks. A huge thanks to our PSA and all those who joined us for our Year 7 welcome quiz on Wednesday evening. It was a pleasure to welcome our new families into the community as they learned more about our school family.

Goodbyes. As we end the last week of this term we say fond farewells to a number of staff. We say goodbye and thank you to Miss Williams from Technology, Mr Potts from maths/PE, Miss Esteves from MFL, Miss J Yates and Mr Foster from English and Miss Shaw from Art. We thank God for their contribution to our community and pray that He will bless them all in the next phase of their lives.

Summer Safety. Your child is very precious to us. Normally at this time of year we would be supporting our young people to make good choices when they are faced with freedoms over the summer. Please remind our young people not to swim in unsupervised open water, to avoid getting into a car with anyone who they suspect may not be responsible to drive safely, to have a zero tolerance to anyone who offers anything that may be a drug, to report anyone they think may be carrying a knife and please keep vigilant checking your child's online activity. Staff may be taking a break from school life but we are still here for you if you need us. For very urgent safeguarding issues please contact the emergency services and if you need us you can contact us on safeguarding@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk If you or a family you know are struggling financially over the summer please share with them [Mr Singleton's letter](#) outlining the resources available for Bolton families from Urban Outreach.

September – A new beginning. We are looking forward to returning as a full school community in September and we will be spending much of the summer making sure that this can be done as safely as possible. Please see an [outline of our opening plans and draft risk assessment](#) shown in our letters section of the school website. We are expecting further specific government guidance over the summer so will adjust our plans accordingly. Please watch out for our September video message to welcome students prior to their return reminding them of safety rules. If there are any updates following the latest government guidance we will include these messages in the video. Please remember that following government guidelines [full school uniform](#) will resume from September. Please see our website for full details of our [uniform suppliers](#). To reduce the chance of infection we recommend that your child purchases the following equipment so that they don't need to borrow items from school: Pencil case, black or blue pens, purple pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener, glue stick, highlighter (any colour), protractor, compass (Yr11) scientific calculator. We will also make these items available in the epraise shop.

Catch-up and rest. I know that for some families the last four months have been very challenging, either because of illness/loss and bereavement/work commitments/struggling to manage home study for young people or caring for dependant family members. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. The good news is that young people are often far more resilient than we imagine. If you feel your child need to use this time for catch up please refer to the school website here: <https://stjosephsbolton.org.uk/summer-ii-2019> and remember that all recorded lessons are available on our YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKba-KncnQpFtCqKVDcr1_Q In August we will have to switch off our student email access until they return to school in order to set up our online learning platform - RM Unify. Epraise messaging will still work. On their return students will have a 'logon lesson' and will be issued with their new passwords.





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The Rainbow. As we emerge from Lockdown we get an insight into what it might have felt like in Old Testament times when Noah sent the dove out of the Ark to see if the threat of flood waters was still present. On one occasion the dove returned with an olive branch, indicating that the flood waters were receding. As the threat levels of coronavirus start to reduce and we emerge from lockdown I reflect on what that olive branch might be for us. It could be seeing an elderly relative, going to the gym, returning to church, having a haircut, getting a holiday, going to the pub or going out for a meal.

Whatever it is let's hang on to that glimmer of hope for a better future. It is fitting that a rainbow was used as a sign of coronavirus hope. As it says in Genesis 19:16 *"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."* Let's look out for the rainbows in life. For me witnessing the support from governors, staff, students, parents and carers as we worked together in this unprecedented time to walk an untrodden path to support our young people and their families, when there was no map to guide us, is one of the rainbows of this time that I am thankful for and will treasure always. Thank you for all that you do. We put together [this short video](#) as a way of capturing our memories from this time and showing appreciation for our community.

Lord,

In the hardest times of life you are there. You are there in our pain and you are there in our rejoicing. We ask for your protection on our community, especially on those who mourn those they love. Thank you for being there for us, in the smile of a stranger or the kind words of friend. We pray that we may all find rest in the coming weeks, ready to return and make a difference in your world.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey.

Until next time, stay safe, take care and God Bless!

Mr T McCabe

