Dear Parent/Carer 29th August 2020

**Information for Parents**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back to St Joseph’s in full school uniform Year 7 on 7th September , Year 8 on 8th September followed by Years 9-11 on 9th September. A copy of the letter regarding uniform can be found on our website. There are however some changes I would like to outline to you to help make the start to the term go smoothly.

The World Health Organisation published a statement on 21st August about children and face coverings. They now advise that “children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmissions in the area.”

Currently the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary at all times in education settings because of the system of controls which have been put into place. However staff and students should wear face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, except for those with medical exceptions.

Due to the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms.

Face masks will currently not be compulsory in classrooms unless Government guidelines change again. However, should you wish your child to wear a face mask, this will not be challenged in school, but we ask that you ensure that your child wears a washable (not disposable) mask to reduce waste. Where a child wears the mask inappropriately or with disregard for personal hygiene we reserve the right to ask them to remove it. We do not mind what colour but there must be no inappropriate images or slogans. Please ensure that your child has a clean bag to keep their mask clean when not in use.

Behaviour Update

Please refer to our website under the parents, regarding updates to our Behaviour Policy in light of Covid-19. Our expectations will be outlined to your child during the first week in school.

As ever I thank you for your support and look forward to the start of the new term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Yorke-Robinson.