Dear parents and carers 9th September 2020

A huge thanks to you all for supporting our safe opening for all year groups today. We had 97% attendance today in a time when some families have had to isolate as a precaution due to track and trace. The overwhelming majority of uniforms were perfect, so thanks for persisting in purchasing correct uniform especially in such challenging times. Staff were mainly focusing on safety and embedding routines today but we did deal with some students who had piercings or bits of uniform they had forgotten, so please support us by getting this right by Monday at the latest so that uniform doesn’t distract from keeping each other safe and ensuring that time in school is spent maximizing learning. If there are any financial barriers please let us know so that we can support you.

To keep us all safe please remind your child about face coverings on corridors, when walking round the dining room and on buses. Please remind them to follow our one way systems during lesson changeover and check back on the ‘Safety video’ <https://youtu.be/x-WS5ZYZWG4> for details if they need to. One bus was very busy this evening and we are seeking support for additional capacity with this from the LA.

After months of planning and risk assessments, today, the day when all students returned to St Joseph’s again has been much awaited. Staff look back on the day with a great sense of relief but also a great sense of achievement. Despite news of increased cases in Bolton is has been heartening that we can start to fill the minds of young people with hope that things will eventually return to normal. The smiles on the faces of our young people and the encounters we shared made it all worthwhile. But, we must refuse to become complacent and the news of local cases of coronavirus is a clear reminder that we need to keep following the guidance to keep each other safe.

God Bless and take care!

*Tony McCabe*

*Headteacher*

*St. Joseph’s RC High School*