Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are all fully aware, we are living in testing and challenging times at present. At the moment of writing, I do not fully know the government strategy to support our students and families and indeed, what period of time we may be in this situation.

One of my biggest concerns, is making sure that all pupils are able to eat during a prolonged time away from school. At summer, I highlight to parents the support of urban outreach that helps to provide free lunches for children who would normally receive a free school meal. I have attached below 4 links to local food banks that may be of use to yourself, a neighbour, relative or somebody on your street. Please share with people as appropriate to enable all families and children to be supported during this time. Or if you can, donate foot to the food banks.

Bolton: <https://www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/portfolio-posts/storehouse/>

Wigan: <http://www.thebrick.org.uk/project/foodbank-2/>

Lancashire: <https://citizensadvicelancashirewest.org.uk/index.php/food-banks/>

‘Other’: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

Below are some other links to support families during a prolonged period of time:

Emergency support <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/benefits/help-crisis-emergency>

Online Safety Advice: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Mental Health Support: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

During a prolonged period of absence, various members of the pastoral team will also be in contact with some families and students to offer support and advice with work and just as a way of staying in touch.

Our Community has always been strong, committed and supportive of each other. I have no doubt that as our situation develops, the pupils, parents and staff of St. Joseph’s will as always support each other where possible. In school, we are grateful of your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

M.Singleton

Mr M.Singleton

Assistant Headteacher