



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

2nd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You may have heard in the press that some teacher unions are calling for school closure during this second national lockdown. The Governing body at St. Josephs and the leadership team recognise that the damage to mental health for young people caused by lockdown is a serious threat and that most young people learn better and are safer in school. We understand that young peoples' future has already been damaged enough by the impact of the last lockdown. Therefore, we endeavour to continue to stay open for young people, so long as it is safe to do so and so long as we can continue to staff it adequately.

Today we received news that a Year 10 student had tested positive for coronavirus. They were last in school on Friday so Year 10 have been asked to isolate for one day until we have had chance to accurately track and trace possible contacts. We estimate that between 60 and 70 students will then be asked to continue isolation for the full 14 days.

So far we are aware of 5 positive case in our young people since returning in September, but due to the fact that in most cases families had managed to isolate their child at least 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms, this has had little impact on learning of whole year groups. However, we have had 7 positive cases in staff members since September. Once again, the timing of the symptoms and pre-emptive action has limited the impact on the community. Each of these has been risk assessed with our health protection team and relevant people asked to isolate. There are no obvious links between all the staff members. As staff take precautions to isolate, we are having to cover for absent colleagues, so please bear with us at this time.

Some schools nationally have not been affected at all by coronavirus and others have seen far more significant challenges than St Joseph's. We would like to thank parents and carers for working with us to ensure that their child and household selflessly isolates and gets a test if they have coronavirus symptoms. This has meant that although there have been many positive cases in the families of our communities, we have manage to protect our school from the spread of infection by taking action early enough.

We are indebted to our amazing young people who despite the challenges of our current times, have shown a good attitude to their learning shown in a reduction of 11% in the number of behaviour points received compared to the same period last year. Please thank your child for their part in this.

As we focus on ensuring students keep their hands clean, wear face coverings and stick to our safety procedures we ask again for your support in ensuring that your child comes to school with a mask, removes piercings before they leave home, wears a coat and not a hoody, skirt to the correct length and black polishable shoes. Please explain the consequences of the potential spread of infection if you child doesn't dispose of their own litter in a bin. Failing to use bins puts our site staff and others at risk. Your support in this helps us to prioritise keeping your child safe and support good learning.



DIocese of SALFORD



From Thursday the government ask that....

- Pubs, bars and restaurants must close, although food takeaways and deliveries will be permitted
- All non-essential retail must close
- A ban on the mixing of households, except for support or childcare reasons. Exercising outdoors with one person from outside of your household is also permitted.
- A restriction on travel, including outbound international travel (except for work). Travel within the UK is also discouraged.
- Staying at home to be encouraged except for education, work (if impossible from home), medical reasons, shopping for food or essentials, caring for others or exercise.
- Unlike the first lockdown, nurseries, schools, colleges and universities will remain open.

In essence young people can only leave the home for education, exercise, essential grocery shopping or healthcare. They can only meet one person outside (from another household) for the purpose of exercise. Please make sure that you child doesn't walk to and from school in any more than one person from another household.

We understand that the new measures will inevitably cause anxiety and fears of job loss and financial pressures on many of our families. Please let us know if your child is struggling and take a look at the resources on our website designed to help your child. <https://stjosephsbolton.org.uk/wellbeing-support/> If your family are suffering hardship please let us know or see Mr Singleton's recent communication on where to access local food bank support. <https://stjosephsbolton.org.uk/letters-home/>

Many thanks for your support and understanding at this time. Please remember those suffering and their families in your prayers.

God Bless and Take Care!

Mr T McCabe
Headteacher