**Congratulations to the St Joseph’s class of 2021!**

We are delighted to congratulate our amazing Y11 leavers on their GCSE achievements.

Headteacher Tony McCabe commented “Students this year have faced challenges like never before.” The interruptions during their two GCSE study years with the added uncertainty of not knowing how their courses would be assessed until late in the year, have meant that students have had to build up their skills to demonstrate the level that they have achieved consistently, over a longer period of time. Instead of being based on the performance in one examination in each subject, they were calculated using knowledge of the level the student had been working at over a much longer period time including assessed pieces at the end of the course.  Mrs Morgan, Deputy Headteacher (Standards) said “When exams were cancelled last year we took the decision to be prepared for anything. Students have been prepared to continually produce work of a high standard in class work and homework as well as repeatedly being assessed in every subject to produce the evidence for their final Teacher Assessed grades, this is all the more reason for parents, carers and teachers to be proud of our young people’s achievement.”

Amongst our highest achievers and those who made most progress in their time at St Joseph’s are; A Dewhurst, S Fox, M Hayhurst, J Holmes, J Malone and L Mulligan who achieved all or mainly grades 8’s and 9’s.

Special mention should also go to the following students who achieved above target in either all subjects or in many of their subjects; D Charnock, N Dent, H Flanagan, J Holmes, M Khalid, M Lord, A Luke, N Makwana, J Malone, L Mulligan, B Pearson, I Santos-Duante, J Stephens, M Vaughan and T Vaughan.

Year 11 students have shown real determination, perseverance and resilience throughout their time at St Joseph’s and it is wonderful to see them achieve so well. Mr McCabe commented “When you consider that during May the DfE attendance data revealed the scale of Covid-19 disruption to schools in some parts of England, with 31.5% of pupils in Bolton absent because of the virus in the week prior to May half term compared to the national rate of 1.8% it is clear that Bolton students have faced challenges far beyond those of their peers nationally. I am proud of the efforts of school staff to reach out to students isolating at home as well as provide for those in front of them and I would like to express my gratitude to them all for the extra hours they put in filling gaps in learning and the painstaking process of assessing students according to the national standards. Many of our Year 11 students including some of our highest achievers have faced challenging circumstances including their own health, caring for family members with critical illnesses, losing loved ones and coping with family redundancies. I admire the sheer grit and determination our youngsters have shown in achieving well, despite the challenges they faced. I am genuinely proud of their achievements and their parents and carers should be too.”

Mr McCabe added “Accurate standardised methods of assessment are only possible when school’s and exam boards work together to challenge each other on standards awarded. I would like to add my congratulations to all our young people across Bolton schools for the good results that they deserve and thank our partner schools in Bolton Learning Alliance for their collaboration, supporting all of our students to achieve so well.