

STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 23 November 2020

LEADERSHIP

Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant to all." (Mark 9:35)

Important Dates

30 November - Teacher Training Day

Forward Notice

As we learn of further useful/important dates for you, we will put them here for you.

Notices for All Students

Student Leadership

Thank-you to all the students who have either applied or been nominated as representatives. Our meetings will be starting the week beginning 30th November. Look out for an email inviting you to the meetings. It is not too late to apply; please email Mr Matyla as soon as possible.

"Click and Receive" Library Service

Although the Library will remain closed for the time being, we are now providing a method by which you can request books. Any orders will be delivered to your classroom. The system will work as follows:

- Requests can either be emailed to Miss Henry at RHenry@stjosephscollege.net or, preferably, written on a piece of paper and put in the drop-box outside the Library.
- A book request **must** have your name and year group, your room number and the title of the book you would like. If you are unsure of what you like, you can request a certain genre (e.g. humour, adventure), or the name of an author that you like, and we will find something for you to try out.
- To help you to know what is available, we will be providing a small booklet with the titles of the most popular and most famous books available in our Library. There will be one per classroom distributed to year seven classrooms first and to the rest of the year groups later.
- You may borrow up to two books at a time. Your books do not have to be changed every two weeks but if you would like a book renewed please contact the Library with a note in the box or an email.
- If a book you have requested is on loan, you may have to wait for it to be returned. Also please keep in mind that it may take up to a week to deliver your books so be aware of this when you make an order.

- If you already have two books on loan, you may make an order but you will not be able to borrow one until at least one of the books is returned. Please contact Miss Henry if there is an issue.

Operation Bletchley

“Calling all Secret Agents . . . Operation Bletchley: Christmas in Berlin is your virtual codebreaking challenge. Your mission is to cover 24 miles on foot to decrypt vital intelligence”

This is a fundraising event from ABF The Soldiers' Charity (the Army's National Charity). It is an online mission that is designed to be completed over Christmas. This is a lot of fun and will help you to think in the way a secret agent does! There is a fee to take part, but you can find out more by clicking [here](#). Talk to your parents about this before entering.

GCSEPod help workshop

I am going to hold a GCSE Pod help workshop on Wednesday 25th November and Thursday 26th November from 3-3:45pm in the Green Family Area (the computers outside Miss O'Connells office). If you would like to join me I can help you with logging in and changing passwords. I can also try to solve any problems that you have. You will have to stay for the entire 45minutes due to a risk of bubble mixing when year 10 and year11 leave. Thanks, Miss Jones.

Notices for All Parents

Operation Bletchley

Please see the notice in the student section of the briefing for the link and details.

Year 11 assembly presentation

Please see attached Assembly presentation that was delivered to year 11 on the new support sessions commencing for the first group of year 11 students from next week! If you have any queries, please contact LeadPractitioners@stjosephscollege.net .

Chaplaincy news

Christmas Collection

Please read through the attached PowerPoint, written by the year 9 Chaplains. We are appealing to all staff and students to make a contribution towards our St Joseph's Christmas Collection. The Collection will take place on Tuesday, 8 December 2020, during year group break times. Any questions, please email Mrs Mobey.

This week's reflection - Peace

Many thanks to Audzin Almeida (Year 9) for writing a beautiful PowerPoint on Peace. Please find the PowerPoint attached.

Pastoral Notices

Additional Layer for Winter

As we move into Winter, it has become apparent that keeping classrooms well ventilated can also make them uncomfortably cold. To avoid student discomfort, we are permitting students to wear an additional layer with their College uniform from Monday 23 November. This layer should be appropriate for wearing in the classroom and should not restrict student movement or cover their head.

Anti Bullying Week – 16 - 20 November 2020 Resources

During 'Anti-Bullying Week' we aim to raise student awareness about the ways in which they might deal with different types of bullying, should they ever arise. To assist with conversations at home about bullying you may find the links below helpful.

All students are reminded that if they have any experiences of bullying either in College or outside College they should report it to the Pastoral Team immediately.

Valuable Links:

NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/> – How to start the conversations about 'difficult' subjects that parents/carers need to have in order to keep children and young people safe.

Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/school-resources> – The ABA link includes films and additional cross curricular activity ideas - these will be tailored to ensure they can be delivered both face to face and online in case of lockdown restrictions.

Bullying UK: Video Links <https://www.bullying.co.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-videos/> - Anti-bullying videos are a great way of having conversations on how to spot and tackle bullying. They can provide invaluable advice and support. Bullying UK has a range of videos that have been made by young people across the country.

Careers Notes

1. **Spotlight Talks on Careers and Apprenticeships with BAE Systems** – This is a three day event, where you can opt in to talks about a whole range of careers from online gaming to engineering to medicine to entrepreneurs. There is lots more to choose. This is an excellent opportunity for you to listen to the people who have done it all, lived to tell the tale and can give you wonderful advice. The talks are streamed live, but you can register to see recordings later. To register, click [here](#) .
2. **Message for year 11 students** – We are coming to the end of Term 2 and the time when we said that you should have submitted your applications for your post-16 plans, be they apprenticeships, college courses or traineeships. To help you with this, you will be sent a link to fill in a Form online. Please check your inboxes This should be completed by **Friday, 27 November 2020**. Completing this will help us to see who needs help with this process.

The next briefing will be Friday, 27 November 2020