St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Headteacher: Mr J Crowe
Chair of Local Governing Committee: Mrs G Kilgour

Mill Lane, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2ET
Web: www.stjosephs.uk.net
Telephone: 0191 428 2700
Email: office@stjosephs.uk.net

4th September2026

RE: Year 10 Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to Year 10.

Year 10 marks the beginning of the final phase of secondary education and provides the foundation upon which success in GCSE examinations in Summer 2028 will be built. The habits, routines and commitment that students develop this year will play a significant role in determining their outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4.

To support students and families in understanding the importance of the year ahead, we have prepared a short information video which can be accessed using the link below:

Year 10 information video - 2026

In the video, Mr Crowe shares his aspirations for our Year 10 students and outlines the opportunities available to them as they begin their GCSE courses. Mr Brettell then provides more detailed guidance on how students can make the very most of Year 10, including practical advice on organisation, independent study, revision habits and maintaining a positive attitude towards learning.

There is a common misconception that Year 11 is the year that matters most. Whilst Year 11 is undoubtedly important, the reality is that students who achieve outstanding outcomes are often those who establish strong routines, excellent attendance and effective study habits during Year 10. This year provides the opportunity to build knowledge, develop confidence and address challenges before the demands of the final examination year begin.
We would encourage all students to:

- Attend school every day and arrive punctually.
- Engage fully in lessons and make the most of every learning opportunity.
- Complete homework and independent study regularly.
- Develop effective revision and organisational skills.
- Seek support whenever they encounter difficulties.
- Maintain a positive mindset and high aspirations for their future.

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting this process. Simple actions such as discussing learning at home, encouraging good study routines and monitoring attendance can make a significant difference to a young person's success.

We are committed to working in partnership with you throughout the next two years to ensure that every student achieves their full potential. Year 10 is an exciting opportunity for students to lay the foundations for future success, and we look forward to supporting them every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N Wiecek

Assistant Headteacher