

St. Joseph's Academy

S1 Guide





WELCOME

Dear Future Pupil,

Welcome to St. Joseph's Academy.

You might be feeling excited or nervous about moving to secondary school - with butterflies in your tummy, you might be sad that you are leaving primary school. Or, you might be happy and looking forward to coming to St Joseph's Academy. No matter how you feel, this guide has been created **BY** pupils **FOR** pupils to help answer any questions you have about coming to St. Joseph's Academy. Inside, you will find lots of information from **what you will be learning about in S1** and the different clubs that you can take part in, to helpful tips and our **Code of Conduct**.

This is an exciting time. Soon, you will no longer be a primary school pupil and you will become a secondary pupil at St. Joseph's Academy. We are looking forward to welcoming you and helping you become part of our school community.

Moving to secondary school is a big step but don't be worried about it because there are lots of staff and older pupils who are looking forward to supporting you when you arrive in August. Staff and pupils will also have visited you in your primary schools to tell you more about what to expect as a pupil at St. Joseph's Academy.

We hope you will enjoy reading about your new school in this guide and that you are looking forward to starting as a St. Joseph's Academy pupil in August.

We look forward to meeting you soon!





HEAD TEACHER INTRODUCTION

Dear S1,

I very much look forward to welcoming you to St. Joseph's in August. You are joining a community of faith and learning, a community where all staff will work hard to ensure that your time with us is enjoyable and productive. At this time of transition, it is important to reflect upon the experiences you enjoyed at primary school, and to treasure the memories you will have of friends and teachers there. Equally, this is an exciting time for you and your family. You can look forward to joining a school community with an increasing sense of care for one another. I urge you to embrace life at Secondary school, to listen to the guidance of your parents/carers and to play your part in ensuring that St. Joseph's Academy continues to grow in wisdom and charity. Enjoy your summer break, and I look forward to seeing you in full school uniform in August.

Mr Kane

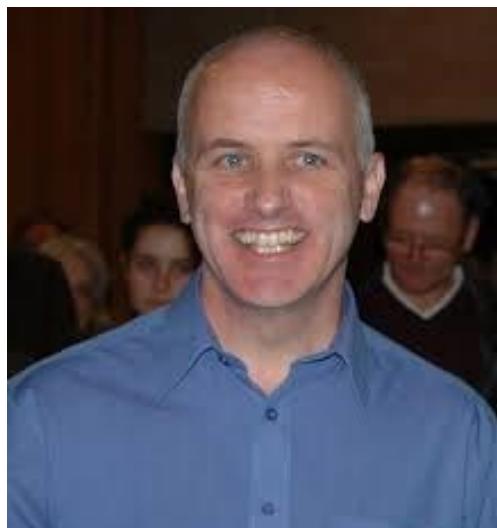




SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

My name is Martin Chambers and I am the priest at St. Matthew's Church and Mount Carmel Church, both in Kilmarnock. For all the years that I have been in Kilmarnock, I have had a close link (through class retreats and school Masses) with St. Joseph's Academy and I am happy to continue with that link. I hope your time at St. Joseph's will be happy and very fruitful – these years at 'The Joes' will be some of the best of your life - enjoy!

Father Martin Chambers





CAREERS ADVISOR

Kate Faulds is the SDS Careers Advisers based in the school to give pupils the support they need to explore options (including jobs, apprenticeships, college and university) and make career decisions. She is also available to speak to parents/carers at school parents evenings.

Through a combination of group sessions, one-to-one interviews and drop in clinics, Kate helps S1-S6 pupils develop their Career Management Skills (CMS) which includes understanding how their personality, interests and values are important when making the right career decisions. She also helps them understand how to develop and use their talents and skills, explore where they could lead and identify others who can help them along on their career journey.

Kate is based in the office of the school library. If you would like to arrange a meeting contact her in school Monday-Wednesday and Friday.

Tel 0750 009 7503

Email: kate.faulds@sds.co.uk

Twitter @StJoAcadCareers

**Skills
Development
Scotland**





SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform is as follows:

Blazer

School Tie

Black Jumper (plain and without logos)

Black school trousers/skirt

Black footwear (without logos or additional colours)

Outdoor jackets/branded jumpers must be removed before entering the school. The reason for this is to ensure pupils are easily identifiable and to prevent bullying by making everyone equal.

Good quality second-hand blazers are available to purchase from the school office. They range in price, with the maximum price of £40.







CODE OF CONDUCT

'Let us do good to everyone' Galatians 6:10

Attend school and arrive on time

Attend all timetabled classes and remember to bring your iPad to school

Respect one another, your teachers, support staff and visitors

Promote good manners by saying please, thank-you and sorry when necessary

Wear seat belts, and be considerate to one another when using school transport

Use the pupil entrance/exit rather than the main office doors

Observe the school dress code when in school and remember your PE kit

Under no circumstances should you leave class without permission from your teacher

Keep the school and school grounds clean and tidy

Do not access the top floor during break or lunch

Do not enter the street area during St. Andrew's lunch break (period 4/5 changeover)

Fill water bottles before the start of the day, during break or during lunch only

Do not listen to music or use mobile phones unless at break or lunch time

Keep to the left when moving between classes

Do not chew gum during lessons

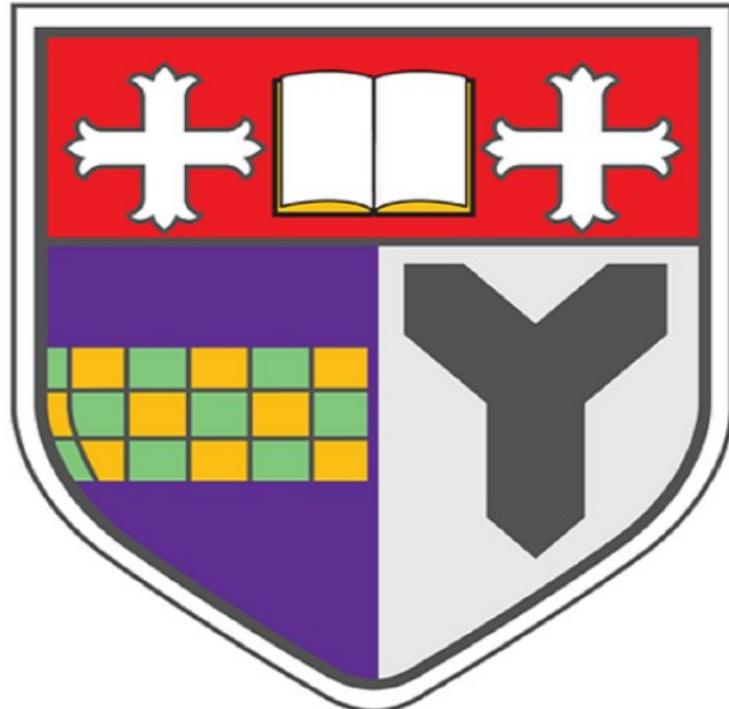
Do not smoke on school grounds or near the school gates





SCHOOL BADGE

Embroidered onto our school blazers are the words 'Fidelis, Justus, Prudens' which is our school motto. The words are Latin for 'Faithful, Just and Wise.'



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

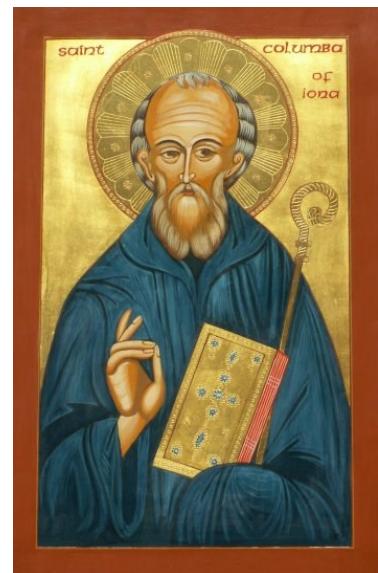
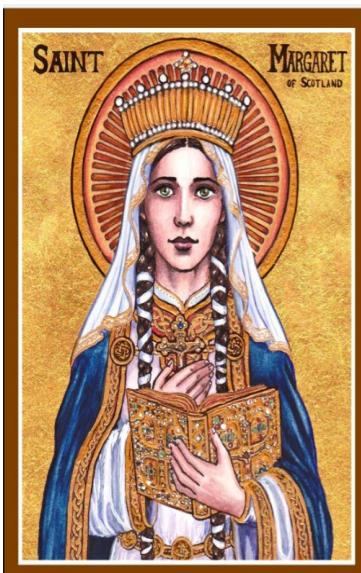
As you enter our school, on the wall you will read words from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians - "be ambitious for the higher gifts." Our school strives to do just that. As well as this, our vision statement is: 'Inspire and Transform'. The word 'inspire' is derived from Latin and means 'to breathe life into.' As pupils of St Joseph's Academy, we follow our school values like Saint Joseph followed God's commandments. Saint Joseph's words, actions and example reflect our school values by which we follow a life of faith, compassion, hope and love.





OFFICE

The school office is to your right as you enter the school building from the main door. It is where you go if you are not feeling well, if you miss the bus, if you have any questions, if you get lost, or to sign in if you are late to school in the morning. It is also where you go to sign out if you are going to a dentist appointment, for example.



HOUSES

In St. Joseph's Academy, there are three House groups which have pupils from S1 - S6:

Saint Margaret House (Captains: Holly Druce and Jonathan Morris)

Saint Andrew House (Captains: Roberto Mancini and Nayaab Rasab)

Saint Columba House (Captains: Caitlin Kelly and Andrew Bolton)

Each House celebrates the Feast of their Patron Saint and participate in assemblies together.





PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Department is located in front of the school library, and this is where you can go to discuss any problems or issues you have whether it is at home or at school. Each house group has an assigned teacher:

Mrs Burnett - Principal Teacher of Columba House

Mrs Marshall – Principal Teacher of Margaret House

Miss Preece – Principal Teacher of Andrew House

Located in the Pastoral Care Department, St. Joseph's Academy 'Safe Space' is a warm, calm, quiet environment available for any pupils to use - whether it be to escape the noise of the school or just to take time out to be by themselves. The room is situated next to Pastoral Care to enable pupils who would like to talk to a teacher to do so easily. Inside the room, there are art therapy materials, relaxing mood lighting and comfortable furniture.

MERITS

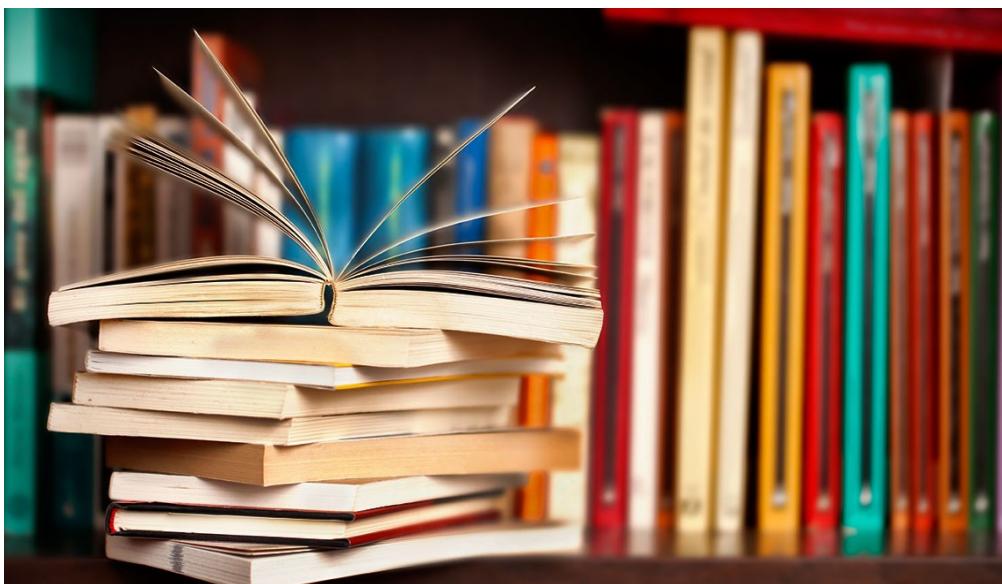
Our school merit system is used to help encourage and reward the achievements of students within our school. Merits are similar to points, you can be awarded a merit from any member of staff for a variety of reasons from behaving well to completing a piece of homework. You will receive a 'Merit Badge' in either bronze, silver, gold or platinum depending on how many merits you have earned.





ENGLISH

In S1 English, you will develop your literacy skills by focusing on four key skills; reading, writing, talking, and listening. You will write personal essays (about your own experiences) and discursive essays (about your opinion on something important) as well as essays about books and films you have studied in class. You will also take part in team challenges which may involve creating a poster and making a presentation in front of the class. There are lots of lunchtime clubs organised by the English Department like the Games Club, Debate Club and even the Homework Club!



***“We know what we are,
But know not what we
May be.”***

- William Shakespeare





MATHS

During the S1 Maths course, you will focus on three key areas:

- **Numeracy**

(fractions, decimals, percentages and rounding)

- **Critical thinking and interpreting data**

(graphs and statistics)

- **Practical skills**

(measuring length and weight, money)



SCIENCE



In S1, you will study a wide variety of topics focusing on all three sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will also cover an introductory topic on what each piece of laboratory equipment is as well as how to stay safe in the laboratory.

Elements and Reactivity

Focuses on the structure of an atom. The different elements and how they are organised into the periodic table and how they can combine to form compounds. chemical reactions and how they are affected by temperature, particle size and concentration.





Cells

Looks at the basic building blocks of life. practical skills such as how to use a microscope to view cells and how to make slides of animal and plant cells. the structure of animal and plant cells with the opportunity to build a model of a cell, plant and human reproduction and the role DNA and genes have in our development.



Energy

Involves investigating different types of energy, how they are transferred and transformed. How electrical energy is produced and how it moves in circuits and how energy consumption is linked to climate change.





SOCIAL SUBJECTS

During S1, you will have a taste of each of the three Social Subjects.

Geography – Scotland’s Geography, focusing on Map Skills

History – Scotland’s Past, focusing on The Scottish Wars of Independence

Modern Studies – Democracy, focusing on Rights & Responsibilities and a Mock Election





MODERN LANGUAGES

Throughout S1 in Modern Languages, you will develop your reading, listening, writing and speaking skills in French as well as learning about life in French speaking countries. There are many topics that you will cover including:

- Family and friends
- Hobbies
- Places
- Food and drink





TECHNICAL

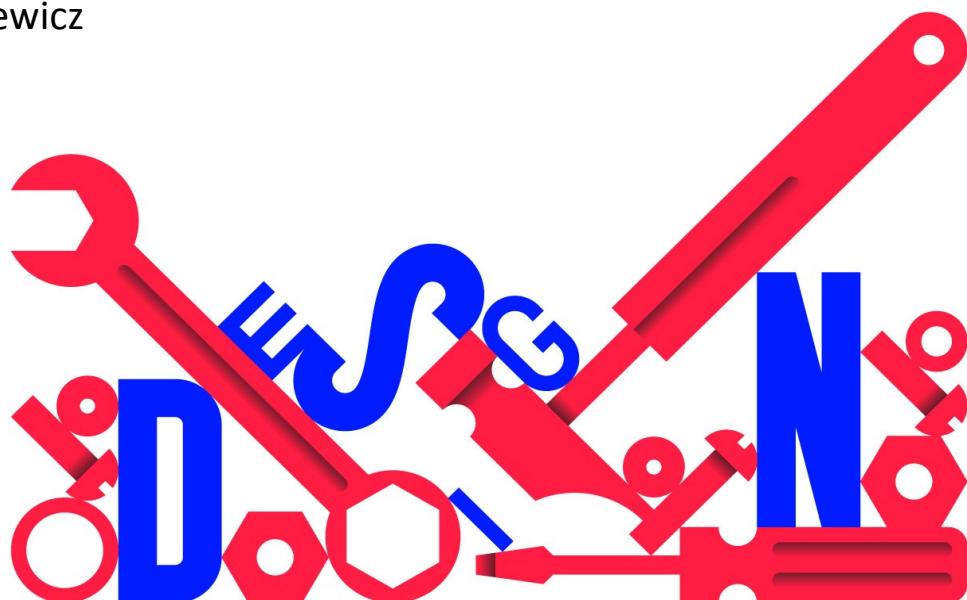
"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge. " Albert Einstein

Hello and welcome to the Design Technology department of St Joseph's Academy. Every pupil who comes through the department door should expect to be challenged both in the way they think about and approach problem solving, creativity is at the heart of all we do in the department. We have three distinct areas which you will cover in BGE (S1 – S3); Design, Manufacturing and Graphic Communications. Within Design you will be introduced to the design process and the factors which govern it. You will be given a new exciting design brief which will allow all pupils to manufacture their own individual model as opposed to everyone making the same. Discussions will take place about good vs bad design and designers along with how changes in, technology our environment, economy and society drives design forward. You will then manufacture your chosen design in the workshop using a number of different materials, tools and machinery before creating advertising, sales and marketing promotions using industry standard software packages on the PC's and iPad's. All that we ask as a department is that you come to the department with a curiosity, a hard work ethic, and respect and be ready to inspire and transform.

"Creative thinking inspires ideas. Ideas inspire change"

Barbara Januszkiewicz

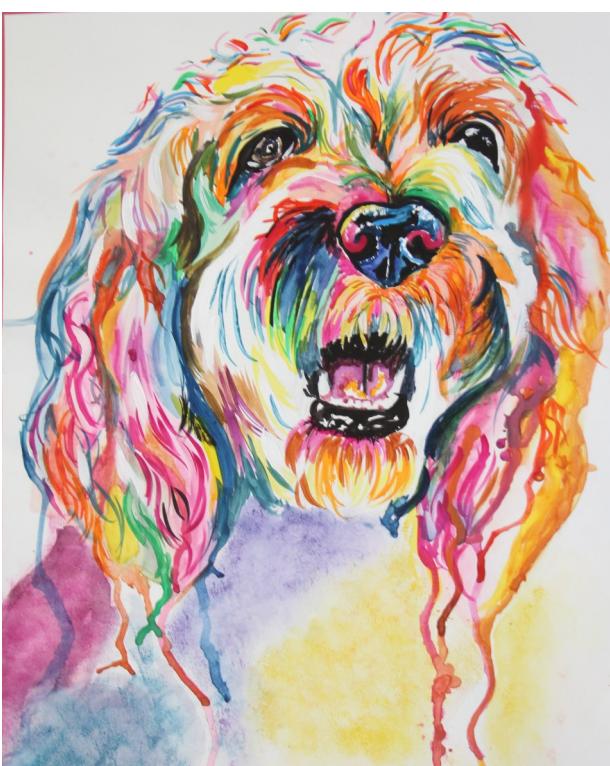
Mr Ritson





ART

In the S1 Art and Design course, you will be introduced to different techniques; line, shape, colour, tone, form, pattern, and texture. You will be able to use a variety of different materials from paint and charcoal, to oil pastel and chalk.





During PE in S1, you will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of both individual and team sports such as:

- Football
- Badminton
- Dance
- Cross country
- Athletics
- Gymnastics
- Fitness





PE KIT

Our PE kit is as follows:

T-shirt (No vests, football tops, sweatshirts or hoodies indoors)

Shorts (appropriate length)

Tracksuit bottoms/Jogging bottoms (no jeans, school trousers or chinos)

Sports leggings (no 'jeggings')

Trainers/sandshoes/moulded boots

If you forget your PE Kit, you will not be sitting out of the class. Instead, you will be given a clean kit to borrow and return at the end of the lesson.





Every pupil in the school attends RE twice a week. You are taught the teachings of the Catholic Church and given opportunities for class discussions on topics such as family, friendship, love and God. There are a wide variety of tasks including reading, answering questions, making posters and preparing presentations. You learn more about The Bible whilst also learning about aspects of life that will be important for the future. Everyone is welcome to attend a Mass every Tuesday lunchtime in our oratory led by either Fr McGrattan, Fr Chambers , Fr Kitchen or Fr Gabriel, who also come into our school to celebrate Mass for key liturgical events, such as St Joseph's Day and All Saints' Day.





MUSIC

In music, you will learn how to read music, about different genres of music, and famous musicians. You will have the chance to play a variety of instruments, as well as singing, including:

- Keyboard
- Ukulele
- Acoustic guitar
- Electric guitar
- Drums
- Glockenspiel



There are several lunchtime clubs ran by the Music department including the Ukulele Club and the Vocal Group.





In HE during S1, you will learn about food and nutrition, as well as how to prepare a meal safely in the kitchen. Some of the delicious foods you might make include:

- Milkshakes
- Fruit Kebabs
- French Bread Pizza
- Fruity flapjacks
- Spicy Tomato Soup
- Fairy Cakes



Remember to bring a plastic tub with you so that you can take home the delicious food that you make!





BREAKFAST CLUB

There is a free Breakfast Club run by our Home Link Workers in the HE Department from 8:15 - 8:40am everyday. There are several options available from tea, coffee and hot chocolate to cereal, toast and breakfast bars. Sometimes, there are even rolls and sausage available!





COMPUTING AND ICT

In S1, you will have two periods each week in the ICT Suite which will help to improve your computing skills. You will learn how to use several different software packages such as;

- Spreadsheets
- Email
- Animation
- Coding and programming
- Web design
- Keyboard Skills





TECHNOLOGY

Show My Homework is an app used by our school to help with homework and learning. It is easy to use and understand. You can view a personal Homework To-Do List and stay organised by ticking off what homework you have completed. There is also an option to receive notifications and reminders for upcoming tasks and deadlines. Another useful tool on SMHW (Show My Homework) is teachers can comment on homework you have handed in - so that you can improve your work. Parents and guardians are also able to view your homework and teacher's comments.



When moving to St Josephs, every first year is given an iPad for schoolwork. You are allowed to take it home and use it for homework and research as well as for class work. Many teachers use the iPads for Show My Homework, iTunes U, and study games such as Quizlet and Kahoot. The iPads are very useful and a way for students who may not have access to a computer at home to do online research or complete homework. Every student is given a passcode and if your iPad has something wrong with it, it can be handed into the office where it will be sent to be repaired.





SCHOOL LIBRARY

During 2017, the library underwent a £10,000 facelift, where the pupils redesigned the space, removing significant amounts of unused, old resources, and brought in new furniture to make the place more bright and inviting. This allowed the development of the Employability Hub, giving a space to focus on Employability skills with the support of outside partnerships and our amazing Careers Advisor Kate Faulds from Skills Development Scotland. By creating a dedicated space, Kate has been able to support more young people in planning and perusing their next steps from school and provides a fantastic space to support career learning.





The library is open every day during interval, lunchtime, and after school to all pupils. You can borrow books, magazines, comics and manga . We even have a retro gamers collection which is actively used by our gamers club, run by our resident game enthusiasts. The club uses a variety of retro game consoles including: Nintendo DS's, game cubes, PlayStation 1&2, Xbox 360, Wii etc. You can borrow games and movies, to view and play during lunch or at home.



The library has a wealth of resources including study guides, a reference collection, shelves full of books that have been requested by pupils, graphic novels, DVDs, games, audio resources and ...our Librarian, Mrs Kirkwood. If you need to do any kind of research please ask our Librarian for help. The official title for a librarian is Information Scientist, so if you've got an essay for Modern Studies on the American Civil War, or you need to find out about feminism in Iran, ask her, she knows how to find the Information you need.



SCHOOL LIBRARY



This year also saw a whole new cast of library assistants, who have brought their own brand of awesome to the space. Some of which have been able to use their skills to complete a film exchange with a school in Finland as part of the film exchange for the Midnight Sun Film Festival.



The librarian also regularly takes pupils out of school for author events, theatre trips, and trips to the cinema. Every year, there's a visit to The Glasgow Film Theatre to see It's a Wonderful Life. (Bring tissues) The Library and it's pupils have also taken part in the book trailer competition for the Scottish Book Trust, writing workshops, Scholastic book fairs, comic book creation seminars, International Women's week, hosting Tree of Knowledge, peer mentoring through clubs, and many more. For more information about upcoming events and activities, please speak to our fantastic librarian.





The school library also has Mental Health First Aid Kits, for any pupil that feels they need a bit of support. These are the first of their kind across the council and hope to support young people in dealing with the challenges of being a young person in today's environment. The resources included will support young people in health coping mechanisms and self care advice to allow them to improve their mental health and wellbeing.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will you get shouted at for not knowing something?

No! The teacher's are there to help you and if you don't understand something, then they will go over it 1000 times until you do. If you don't want to say you don't understand something in front of the class, you can either go at break or lunch and ask privately or most subjects have after school supported study where you can get the teacher to go over anything .

How busy are the halls at break and lunch?

At break and lunch, the main area where people sit is called The Street - you will have been in already on your transition days up to St Joseph's. It does get quite busy but it's not too bad. You can also go outside at break/lunch. At lunch time, the school dinner queue has a system where S1 are first on a Monday, second on a Tuesday and so on. At break time (which is called Interval at high school) there are cookies, doughnuts, cheese on toast, rolls and sausage, and other snacks to buy at the canteen. There's also a free water fountain in The Street where you can fill up your own water bottle at break/lunch.





Is first year hard or easy? Is it fun?

First year is great fun! Some things might be easy, some things you might find a challenge but the teachers will be there to help you!

There's lots of different subjects compared to primary school;
science (cool experiments), art (painting and oil pastels), music (keyboard,
guitar, drums)

Lots of trips - for example last year's S1 pupils went to the Science Centre,
Sky Academy and the pantomime!

Clubs -Young Journalist Society (school magazine team), Eco Committee,
science club, guitar/ukulele club, vocal group, chess and board game club,
debate club, homework club, football team... and lots more!

iPads - After the summer holidays, you will be given an iPad which will be yours to keep until you leave St Joseph's. They are used in every class for lessons and homework. You must look after them!

take part





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do you know what bus to get at end of school?

Sometimes the bus will have a sign on it saying where it's going, but if you really have no idea then just ask the driver. There will be teachers standing near the buses so you can also ask them.

What happens if I miss the bus?

In the morning if you miss the bus, you will need to either phone someone to take you to school or walk. At home time if you miss the bus, you would need to phone someone to pick you up or if they can't, you go to the school office and they phone for a taxi for you.

Will I get lost?

Each department has a big blue sign with its subject on it outside the doors. If you do get lost, don't worry - ask someone where the place is you're looking for. Even though they might look a bit scary, they will help you as they have all been in S1 and know what it's like. You can also go to the school office and they will help you. It's surprising how quickly you get to know where everything is! Probably by the end of your first week in August you'll be able to find everything easily!



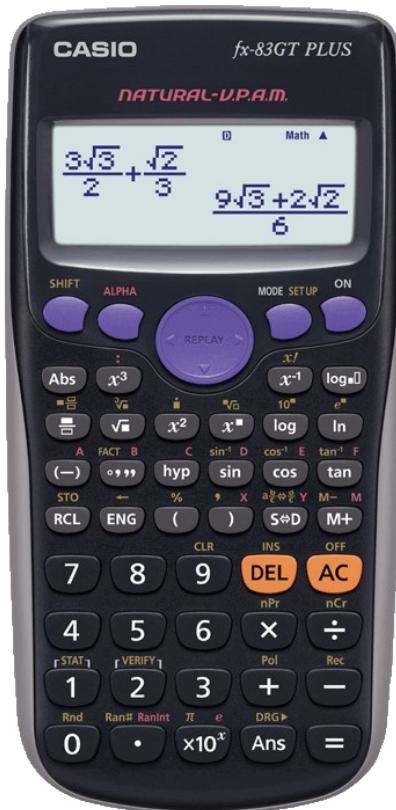


HELPFUL TIPS

Items you might want to pack in your schoolbag:

- Scientific calculator
- Different colours of highlighters
- Plastic A4 folders (different colours for different subjects)
- Diary
- Only take your PE kit on days you actually have PE
- Pack your school bag the night before to save time in the morning
- Look out your uniform the night before too
- Make sure your iPad is charged for school

There are boxes of stationery in Social Subjects, Modern Languages, English, Science and Maths, free for all pupils to use - whether you have forgotten your pencil or need materials for a home project!



THIS IS SAINT JOSEPH'S.

LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT. ALL GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS TAKE TIME. CELEBRATE SUCCESS - YOURS AND OTHER PEOPLE'S **BE OPEN TO INSPIRATION** LOVE THE THINGS YOU LEARN. LOVE OTHERS UNCONDITIONALLY. ENJOY PEACE AND QUIET, SEEK IT OUT FROM TIME TO TIME **THINK OF OTHERS** ACCEPT YOURSELF AS YOU ARE. EVERYTHING YOU DO IS IMPORTANT. PRESUME THE BEST IN PEOPLE **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** IF YOU WANT TO FEEL GOOD, DO GOOD. WE HAVE DIVERSITY IN COMMON - EMBRACE IT. EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE **MAKE YOUR MARK** ABILITY IS NOTHING WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY. OPEN YOUR HEART, MIND AND ARMS TO NEW THINGS. SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOURSELF **BE CURIOUS** QUESTIONS LEAD LEARNING SO ASK GOOD ONES. NO BIRD CAN SOAR ON ITS WINGS ALONE. REMEMBER THAT WE CAN ALL CHANGE AND GROW **INSPIRE AND TRANSFORM** A GOOD HEAD AND A GOOD HEART ARE ALWAYS A FORMIDABLE COMBINATION. EDUCATION IS A CONVERSATION - SO TALK **AIM HIGH** A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE. ENJOY WHAT YOU DO AND PASS ON YOUR PASSION **TAKE PART** ADVENTURE IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF LIFE. SMILE - EVERYONE LOOKS BETTER WHEN THEY DO. **WORKING TOGETHER MAKES GREAT LEARNING**