



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

A SCIENCE SPECIALIST COLLEGE

HEADTEACHER: MS MELISSA L ROBERTS, BA (HONS), MA, NPQH

BW/hr/Y8Curriculum overviews spring and summer terms
18th October 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Through classwork and home learning tasks, we are aiming to improve the organisational skills and increase the independence of our students. We hope that one day this will involve them using the schools Virtual Learning Environment where students will find a number of useful resources, home learning activities and opportunities for independent work.

Home learning tasks will be set regularly by teachers when it is most appropriate for the subject. Students will still be required to undertake independent study for every subject over the two week timetable, but a wider range of activities, including extended projects, wider reading and research activities will become more common.

Independent study tasks will continue to be recorded in students' planners, but there should no longer be instances of 'no home learning set'. Students will be encouraged to write down the details of interim work to be completed.

The students will be encouraged to write into their planner not just home learning, but anything else which they need to with regard to their lessons. For example: key words, revision tips, website names etc.

We are continuing to try to make our Year 8 students more independent in their learning. Since starting Year 8 the students have been advised of this aim through tutor time. If we can get our students to become more independent now, then this will be of great benefit as they progress through Key Stage 4 and 5.

We would be grateful if you would encourage your child in this way to help them to understand why they need to become more independent in their learning.

Please find attached a curriculum overview for Year 8 which outlines the topics to be covered during the forthcoming term and opportunities where parents could become involved in enriching the student's experience outside of school. Your feedback regarding this document would be very much appreciated in helping to evaluate its use with other year groups.

Thank you for your support in this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me in school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Weaver
Head of Year 8

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