

# St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



Learn  
Love  
Believe

March 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

As I write my end of term letter as Acting Headteacher I reflect on the tragic loss of one of our Year 9 pupils, Lewis Albon. It has cast a shadow over the school but I am humbled by the response of the school community and in particular of our Year 9 students.

Since the beginning of January we have slightly amended our priorities. So for 2018 – 20 our priorities are:

- Ensure safeguarding procedures are robust in school.
- Continue to improve the progress and attainment of pupils in Maths and English.
- Improve the progress of key pupil groups
- Embed the climate for learning.
- Enhance our careers programme.

Once again this term has been extremely busy with lots of enrichment activities, many of which are highlighted in Pronuntio. We have had Easter services for all the year groups in Holy Week and at half term there are three trips abroad. As you will read in Pronuntio, the Year 11 had mock interviews, which were extremely successful and their final parents' evening. We wish our Year 11s good luck for the upcoming GCSE exams which start in May.

## First Aid

Please can I remind parents/carers that whilst we have trained first aiders to deal with emergency issues such as cuts and bruises, the school is not in a position to help with colds, headaches etc. If our children are unwell we have to ask parents to arrange for them to be picked up. We have no facilities for children to lie down anywhere. Naturally we want to give our children help and support when they fall ill, but our facilities are limited.

## Uniform

On the whole, the standard of uniform is excellent. I congratulate all those pupils who wear their uniform with pride every day. They are a real credit to their parents, themselves and the school. However, we do have some pupils who push the boundaries and this needs to change. As we move towards the summer I expect all pupils to wear blazers without 'hoodies' underneath. Also, a number of our students are wearing trainers. If they do not have shoes with them they will be sent home to change their footwear. The uniform policy is very clear. You can find details on the school website if you are unsure of any uniform issues. If you have any issues with uniform please contact the relevant head of year.

## Punctuality to school

I would like to remind parents/carers that school starts at 8:45am. I am aware that school buses do run late sometimes but we have staff on duty, who take this into consideration.

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## Dinner Money

Please could parents/carers ensure that their child has enough money on their dinner account to last the full week. We are also looking at introducing an online payment in the immediate future and I will write to you when this system is set up.

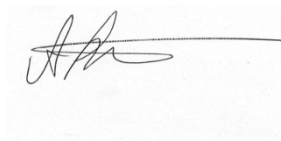
## Social Media

This is the scourge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It can be so useful in many ways, but so destructive in other ways. We often have to, as teachers, spend hours and hours of time 'unpicking' the consequences of pupils using social media irresponsibly. I would like to remind parents/carers that pupils in Year 7 and 8 should not use facebook, instagram etc. The terms and conditions of these and other sites clearly stipulate that it is for pupils over the age of 13 (facebook) and 12 (instagram). As parents I would encourage you to monitor carefully if your son or daughter is using social media, even in Year 11. Our website has a link to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) and the 'Think U Know' video, which can highlight the issues on social media.

School closes on Thursday at 1pm and re opens at 8.45am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April. If you check on your parish church websites you will find mass times over the Easter weekend. In particular, the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday) these are the most important days in the church's calendar. We also have information about parish masses on our school website.

On behalf of the governors, staff and pupils of our school, may I take this opportunity to wish each of you a happy and Holy Easter.

Yours sincerely



A Loster  
Acting Headteacher

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