

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School

April 2017

Dear Parents / Carers



Learn
Love
Believe

As usual when I write an end of term letter, I begin by reminding you of our school priorities for this year. So in 2016-2017 our priorities are:

- For key stage three pupils to make rapid progress in all subject areas
- Continue to improve the progress and attainment of pupils in maths
- Improve the progress and attainment of pupils in English language and literature
- Improve the performance of key pupil groups (called PPG)
- Improve the outcomes for boys

Enclosed is the latest edition of Pronuntio. It gives you a very good overview of the enrichment activities that have been taking place this term as well as some useful information. The purpose of my letter is to reinforce and remind you about some of the school routines and procedures that help the St Gabriel's community work well.

Uniform

The standard of uniform for most is excellent. I should congratulate those pupils that wear their uniform well with pride every day. They are a credit to parents, themselves and our school. But for some it is not good enough. In particular, uniform standards are spoilt by girls and boys wearing tight fitting trousers which are in fact jeans. This single item can dramatically change the appearance of an otherwise well-dressed pupil. The uniform policy states: "*Black tailored trousers (no tight fitting, fashion trousers, or jean style with buckles)*". A reminder that hoodies or similar should not be worn underneath the blazer.

I would ask that now we have moved into the summer term, heavy outside coats are not brought to school which means pupils do not wear them inside. Light-weight coats that can be put inside a school bag are perfectly acceptable. I apologise in advance if parents are contacted about uniform – but I am grateful for your support. We need your help to make it perfect! Lastly, E-Cigarettes continue to be banned. May I remind parents (and pupils) that using them in school uniform brings the school into disrepute.

Social Media

Some of my colleagues have had to invest hours and hours of time 'unpicking' the consequences of pupils not using social media responsibly. I would like to remind you 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). Please can I encourage parents to monitor and know what your son/daughter's social media activity is. Our website has a link to CEOP and the 'Think U Know' video. It may be worth reminding yourself of what it says and encourage your children to do the same. Thank you for your cooperation.

Cont.

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JUBILEE
OF MERCY



Punctuality to school

A reminder that the start of the school session is 8.45am daily. All pupils should be here in time and move to their form room at 8.45am. The register is taken at 8.45am.

School closes on Friday. Due to Easter day falling mid-April, we are not in school for Holy Week. Normally, pupils would attend a Lenten mass or liturgy in Holy week. This year, we held them a week early. So I would ask that families might consider attending some of the various liturgies or masses during Holy Week in their own parish. In particular, the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday) are the most important days in the church's year (not Christmas day!). Parish details for our associated parishes can be accessed through the school's website.

Mr Wray is leaving school this week. As well as teaching technology, he also supported the school's Duke of Edinburgh programme. Ms Richard, our receptionist is also leaving. We thank them both and wish them well for the future.

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

School opens on Monday 24 April at 8.45am.

Yours sincerely



S A Smith
Headteacher