

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



Learn
Love
Believe

19 July 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

As we come to the end of a long, but exciting academic year, I would like to reflect on how school has continued to flourish. Recently, there have been three very important and successful events, which quite frankly sum up what we are about as a school. Firstly, we said 'goodbye' to our Year 11s at Celebration Evening, where pupils were awarded for their contribution to school life over 5 years, or overcoming various challenges in their lives. It was a most beautiful and poignant evening. Three days later we said 'hello' to the Year 6 parents, carers and pupils at our 'welcome' evening as they start their journey with us from 4th September. Finally, we had the Year 11 prom at The Village. It was a wonderful occasion with our young adults dressed immaculately for their final Year 11 event – the last time they will ever be together as a year group. What a splendid group of young adults. It was sad to see them leave. Our latest edition of Pronuntio will highlight Celebration Evening and Prom with a number of photographs – cherished memories which will last forever.

We also finished the year with our usual masses. Year 7 attended mass in the church of St. Marie's celebrated by Fr. Francis. Other masses were held in the school hall as we continue our spiritual journey with your children. I would like to thank all our clergy, who have served the school throughout this academic year and have supported our children spiritually, and been so loyal to the school with special thanks to Fr. Paul and Fr. Chris.

Thank you

As we look forward to the end of another long school year and the holidays, I would like to thank those teachers who are leaving us this summer. Mrs Geraldine Silvester has retired after many years of service, supporting the school and its community. She has been ever present for 39 years and is like a matriarch to so many pupils. As a PE teacher and also English and RE, she has taught so many of our children. Her own children also came to St. Gabriel's and have been exceedingly successful in their academic careers. We wish her a long and healthy retirement.

Mr Nelson, who is Head of Science, and was Head of Year, leaves us for a fully deserved promotion to Assistant Headteacher in a Catholic school in Preston. Mr Nelson was also a pupil here at St. Gabriel's. I taught him history in Year 10 and 11, which is probably why he ended up as a Science teacher.

Miss Freak, who has been second in the Science department, is also leaving us as she makes a career change. She has been a real 'trooper' in the Science department, responsible for many dynamic schemes of work and much behind the scenes work.

Mrs Tomkinson, who teaches English, has left to go to another school for A Level experience.

We wish all these teachers, who are leaving us, well for the future, and thank them for their contributions and their dedicated service to St. Gabriel's.

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Standards.

In September, I expect and insist on all pupils having perfect school uniform. The uniform list is on the website. It is detailed and very specific. I would ask parents to pay particular attention to the requirements for trousers, shoes, piercings and hairstyles. Tight fitting or jean type trousers are not allowed. Please check the website before you buy new school footwear. Mobile phones should not be switched on during school time. Please ask your son/daughter to read the policies on the website with you so we are all aware what our expectations are.

It is essential that pupils bring a bag into school each day with the correct equipment for writing – 3 black pens, pencils, rulers, erasers and maths equipment (including a scientific calculator), these are the very basics.

GCSE exams in the future

I need to inform you that from next year exam boards will identify a day each year as an 'Exam Contingency Day' after the normal exam period so should there be a major disruption locally or nationally, requiring an exam to be cancelled, this day will be set up as a 'reserve' catch up day next year, (and this affects our year 10 pupils.) The date will be 26 June. All candidates have to be available to take a postponed exam so any holidays or other plans for holidays need to be organised after that date. Our Year 11 prom is scheduled for 27th June. I need to stress that any pupil who misses an exam during the normal exam period will not be allowed to re-sit that exam on this day, as the contingency day is for emergency only.

Communicating with you.

Communication between home and school is essential and we are getting much better at it. Unfortunately, I have not been good at twitter, so my target for the summer is to learn how to use it effectively.

Please ensure that we have up to date contact details for you and any other necessary people.

Online payment for the canteen.

We are introducing online payment for the school canteen from 3 September. You will receive information through your child today. The system is called Civica, and it acts in a very similar way to Parent Pay. This will make payments much simpler. The re-valve machine near the dining room will be removed. You will still be able to send in cheques and pupils will have the ability to pay by cash using the re-valve machine on the maths corridor. I urge you to use Civica as soon as you can so that you have total control of your money coming into school.


School Buses

Please note that the 468 bus operated by RDT will only run to the interchange. We are powerless as a school to affect this decision, which essentially impacts on our children from the Rochdale area. I enclose the most recent bus timetable for all buses which will take affect from September 1st.

Once again thank you for your support. Enjoy the summer break and stay safe whether you are travelling abroad, staying in Britain or indeed remaining at home.

With every blessing from all at St Gabriel's for the summer holidays.

Yours sincerely



A Loster
Acting Headteacher