

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



Learn
Love
Believe

December 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

We have just completed the longest and hardest term of the school year. In September, warm evenings give way to dark mornings and evenings in November. The one constant is the inevitability that winter will give way to spring. In school, it is the same: Year 7 settle in and then we quickly focus on Year 11 trial examinations. Other year groups continue their learning journey.

In October, the school was inspected by Salford Diocese under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. This examines the religious life of the school. We were again judged to be outstanding in all areas and the report can be seen on our website under parents/letters. It is testimony to all who learn, work and are involved here.

We welcomed a large Year 7 group and we are pleased they have settled in and our transition arrangements have been successful. I am grateful for the positive feedback we received at parents' evening. Year 11 recently completed their trial examinations. I can say that they were a credit to school, their families and themselves. Positive feedback here as well.

Fundraising for charities is fundamental and central to our Catholic mission. We have been collecting toys and food parcels for distribution locally. Mrs Roberts' '£10 challenge' was met by so many, for the benefit of the vulnerable and needy. We pray this brings a smile to a child's face on Christmas morning and many of you will have made that happen.

Some Reminders:

Uniform - in January, there will be a strict enforcement of uniform expectations. This means scarves, outdoor coats and hoodies will not be allowed to be worn inside school. (Please refer to the uniform policy/list on the website)

Punctuality - school begins at 8.45am. Pupils registration is at 8.50am. Pupils must be on site for 8.45am. There are well publicised sanctions, for persistent lateness. My expectation is that all pupils must be on time.

Thank you to parents who park with care in our car park and not on yellow lines. These are painted for your child's safety and not to inconvenience you.

The school has a number of priorities each year that the governing body and senior team aim to address. This year, they include:

- Improving the rates of progress across all subjects in Years 7-9
- Improving attainment in English
- Boys attainment and progress
- Continuing to improve outcomes in maths

Cont.

Headteacher Mr S A Smith BA MA NPOH LLE
Telephone 0161 764 3186
Email stgabriels@bury.gov.uk
Twitter @stgabsbury
Website www.st-gabriels.org.uk
Postal address Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ



JUBILEE
OF MERCY



So, I will close my end of term letter with these words...

'This tonight is the meeting place'

This, tonight, is the meeting place of heaven and earth. For this, tonight, is the stable.

In which God keeps his appointment to meet his people. Not many high are here, not many holy;

Not many innocent children, not many worldly wise; not all familiar faces, not all frequent visitors.

*But, if tonight only strangers met, that would be enough. For Bethlehem was not the hub of the universe,
Nor was the stable a platform for famous folk. In an out-of-the-way place which folk never thought to visit*

—There God kept and keeps his promise. There God sends his Son.

On behalf of the governing board, staff and pupils, I wish you a happy and holy Christmas.

School opens for the spring term on Monday 9 January 2017 at 8.45am.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S A Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

S A Smith
Headteacher