

# St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



Learn  
Love  
Believe

July 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been a successful finish to the school year, with a number of activities in the form of rewards and visits taking place. The school visit to Blackpool went smoothly and everyone enjoyed themselves, and all of our pupils were rewarded with Celebration Assemblies held this week. Also becoming a tradition, is the celebration of mass together for Year 7-9 and a liturgy to celebrate the close of the school year for Year 10.

It is a wonderful job to be Headteacher at St Gabriel's. The school is a positive place to learn and work and all our young people are amazing ambassadors for our school. During this school year we have tried to make a difference to the learning opportunities we offer. For example, we have introduced more time for English and Maths teaching; the amount of time allocated to RE is above the 10% of taught time required by the diocese and we have completed a programme of choices for Year 9 as they move into Year 10 and new GCSE frameworks.

You will have read recently about the changes to the national school system in the form of academies. Following the lead from our diocese, it is likely that St Gabriel's will, in due course, convert to academy status where the Trustees of the diocese will continue to oversee our work and that of other diocese schools. The timeframe is an evolving one, but I do not expect any changes imminently in the next year or two.

You can see in our latest edition of Pronuntio the richness and variety of opportunity for our young people. I hope you enjoy reading it.

There was a lot of coverage in the press about holiday leave during term time. I want to tell you that although there is an on-going legal debate, the situation here remains the same. I will not authorise holidays in term time and your son/daughter will be marked as 'unauthorised' (ie, I do not agree to the absence of your child(ren)).

In September, we are introducing a new initiative to support the completion and monitoring of homework (we call it Home Learning). It is an electronic system that both pupils and parents can access using the internet. I have enclosed an information sheet that explains things for you. There will be a parents information session (for Years 7-9) held next term to give you more information and answer any questions you may have about it. You can also access the link on the home page of our website. I will write to you in due course.

School uniform – please remember to buy school shoes – plain black. The school's website has a range of acceptable and unacceptable shoes for you to see. School trousers must not be tight fitting. Hair styles similarly – please remember we accept only natural colours. The uniform policy document is on the website.

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JUBILEE  
OF MERCY



There are a couple of staffing changes that I would like to make you aware of: Dr Hargreaves has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher; Mr Nelson moves from Head of Year to Curriculum Leader for Science; Mrs Loster will become Head of Year 8. I am sure they will be wonderful in their new roles! You can find all the key roles on the school's website under 'contacts'. A number of teaching staff are leaving the school this summer. Miss Riley (Maths) and Mrs Harvey (RE) are both emigrating to Canada; Miss Holt (MFL) leaves to relocate to Nottingham; we wish them and their families well for a very exciting future. Miss Walsh (History) and Mrs Maguire (Assistant Head) are leaving to take up promoted posts in other schools; Mrs Banton (English) is leaving us too having worked part time this year. We wish all of them every happiness and thank them for all their hard work and support given to our St Gabriel's family and moving this school forward.

School opens for the new year on Friday 2 September for Year 7 and Year 11. Years 8 – 10 return on Monday 5 September. Registration is taken at 8.45am and pupils need to be on site in order to go to form bases at 8.40am.

I wish you and your families a very happy and safe summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S A Smith', written in a cursive style.

S A Smith  
**Headteacher**