

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



17 December 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

It is with great joy that I write to you during Advent. Christmas is a time for celebrations and thanks, and whilst Ofsted have not yet completed a monitoring visit there is much to celebrate about the progress school has made and there are a great many people to thank.

Miss Corrigan joined the school in September and she has been relentless in her pursuit of improvement for the school. The interim executive board (IEB) have been meeting fortnightly since September and the senior team have been reporting on the effectiveness of actions which has ensured the IEB are fully informed of the far reaching improvements. Swift action has been taken to implement many teaching and learning strategies, hopefully you are aware of the new positive behaviour policy as well as the new marking and feedback policies that are already making a big difference to the quality of education the children experience.

When a school falls into special measures almost everything needs a thorough review, much of this work goes unnoticed by the children and their families such as staff matters, finance and premises management, yet this work is essential to the smooth running of the school. Miss Corrigan has worked very closely with the IEB and the Diocese to ensure absolutely all aspects of school life improve. We have received comprehensive updates on the school financial position, which I am pleased to report is secure. We are currently engaged in discussions with the Diocese to improve the school premises and are also in the process of bidding to the DfE for additional funding for much needed school maintenance projects.

The whole of the senior team are working tirelessly to improve the lunch time facilities for the children. An early attempt to alleviate some of the lunchtime challenges was to implement a split lunch, this did not have the desired effect and a swift return to the single lunch was implemented. The IEB has since approved the hiring of temporary accommodation which will provide additional space for the children over the lunch period. These are costly and a more suitable and sustainable long term solution is being pursued.

Work towards the academisation of the school is well underway. Brownejacobson have been engaged as our solicitors who along with the Diocese, Local Authority and the DfE will support and guide us through the process. This process is a legal matter which simply put, transfers responsibility for the school from Bury Local Authority to the St Teresa of Calcutta academy trust. The process of academisation will not affect the day to day running of the school, in fact it is unlikely the children or yourselves will notice a difference at all. We will of course ensure you are updated at relevant points in the academisation process. The intention is for the academisation process to be completed as soon as possible and most definitely before the end of the summer term 2020.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

Headteacher Miss L Corrigan BSc (Hons), PGCE, PGDip, FRSB
Telephone 0161 764 3186
Email stgabriels@bury.gov.uk
Website www.st-gabriels.org.uk
Postal address Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ



@stgabsbury



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Finally I would like to thank you as members of the St Gabriel's community for the support you have shown the school, the children, Miss Corrigan and all the staff during what has been an extremely challenging and rewarding term.

Miss Corrigan will shortly be sending a newsletter highlighting the many successes of the children this term, so please do look out for it and take the time to absorb the true purpose of our work. The success of the children!

May God bless you and your families at this very special time of year.

Mrs Ruth Szolkowska and all IEB members.