

02/10/2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you this week with reflections that intertwine faith, moral responsibility and our collective endeavour to educate compassionate, thoughtful young people. In considering Jesus' teachings — particularly the parable recounted in Luke 10:25–37, the story of the Good Samaritan — we are invited to ask, with deliberate honesty, “Who is my neighbour?” That question, simple in form yet profound in implication, demands an ethic of proximity: proximity of heart, of action and of duty. The parable compels us to recognise that neighbourliness transcends convenience, familiarity and difference; it obliges us to respond to suffering and need wherever and however they present themselves.

This reflection resonates with our ongoing commitment to Black History Month. As we mark this important observance, we do so not as a token of recognition but as an opportunity for rigorous learning, for amplifying voices historically marginalised, and for integrating those narratives into the moral and intellectual formation of our student body. Black History Month invites us to broaden our understanding of neighbourliness: to learn about the lives, struggles and achievements of Black individuals and communities, and to acknowledge the structural and personal responsibilities we share in cultivating equity and justice.

The words of Barack Obama — “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change we seek.” — encapsulate the practical corollary of both these traditions of thought. They remind us that ethical teaching and civic education are not passive enterprises; they require agency, examples and sustained effort. In school, this translates into deliberate curriculum choices, conversations in classrooms that confront uncomfortable truths, and actions that model compassion and solidarity.

Culture Day:

A message from Muhammed, our Head Student:

Culture Day was a much-requested idea & through pupil voice, it was implemented. On Tuesday, we celebrated our first Culture Day at Gabs alongside our St. Gabriel's Feast Day. This student-led initiative was truly a beautiful & momentous occasion. Our students from many different backgrounds & cultures came together, wearing their cultural clothes, raising money for charity (WaterAid) & setting up bake sales and henna stalls in the library. Seeing all the bright colours around school really brightened our environment & highlighted some of our key mission values of inclusivity, diversity and service.

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In total, we raised a generous amount of over £100 for WaterAid.

Thank you to all who participated and special thanks to Mr. Turner + GIFT Team for organising our fundraisers.

Library

Hello everyone,

My name is Mrs. Holt, and I am delighted to join St Gabriel's RCHS as your new Librarian. As an avid reader, I am passionate about fostering a love for reading across the school and helping everyone discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Over the next two weeks, I will be visiting all Year 7 classes to hand out a questionnaire about what you would like to see in the Library, as well as launching our brand-new **Year 7 Book Club**. We will meet every Friday lunchtime to choose, read, and discuss fantastic books together. This is just the first of many exciting clubs and activities coming to the Library, and I would love to hear your ideas for future groups! I look forward to meeting other year groups.

The Library is open from **8:15 AM until 4:00 PM**, including during break times, lunchtimes, and after school. Whether you want to catch up on homework, relax with a book, use the computers, or simply drop by to say hello, you are always welcome.

I am so thrilled to be here, and I look forward to getting to know you all as we spread a passion for reading throughout the school.

Kind regards,



Mr S Braithwaite

Headteacher