09/10/2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has afforded us several occasions to reflect, celebrate and to recommit to the values that underpin life at St Gabriel's. Our Word assemblies have explored the themes of stewardship, dignity and solidarity, rooted in the injunction of Genesis 1:28 and resonating with the contemporary call to action captured by Greta Thunberg: "Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action." These assemblies invited our students to consider how care for creation, respect for one another and a shared sense of responsibility translate into daily decisions and communal purpose. Yesterday evening we were privileged to hold our Year 7 welcome Mass at Guardian Angels Parish Church. My sincere thanks to Father Paul for presiding over a wonderful celebration, to Mr Turner for organising the event, and to our music ministry student for playing so beautifully. It was a genuine pleasure to share this moment with our school community, bearing witness to our faith and reaffirming the deep-rooted union between school, parish and families.

During the week Year 8 took part in the Be-Safe event, which featured presentations from health professionals, the police and the fire service. It was an enriching day that provided valuable insight into personal safety, community responsibility and the practicalities of staying safe in a variety of situations. Such experiences are integral to our pastoral and personal development provision and contribute directly to students' awareness and resilience.

I would also like to draw your attention to attendance figures this week: Year 7 currently stand at 95.0%, Year 8 at 94.6%, Year 11 at 93.5%, Year 9 at 90.4% and Year 10 at 89.7%. Regular attendance is a cornerstone of achievement; sustained presence in school not only secures stronger academic outcomes but also fosters routine, belonging and the habits that underpin lifelong learning. Our targeted focus will be on those whose attendance has fallen below 90%, while continuing to encourage and celebrate the many students whose attendance exceeds 95%.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that the mobile phone pouches have now arrived in school. We will shortly plan the careful roll-out of this system to ensure St Gabriel's is fully compliant with current legislation regarding mobile phone-free school sites. The implementation will be managed sensitively and thoughtfully, with clear communication to families and students so that the transition supports learning and wellbeing.

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Saturday 10th October is World Mental Health Day.

With Mental Health and Wellbeing becoming of ever growing importance we'd like to signpost you to some of the support available. If you are concerned about your young person's mental health and wellbeing or just want to know more about helping them in future, these links below could be useful to you.

Mental health and wellbeing info for young people | Mind - Mind are a national charity with this specific section aimed at helping parents and carers.

https://padlet.com/ThriveinBury/ParentandCarers - Bury's Thrive team have produced this resource to help direct you to local and national services that are available to you to help support your child.

We will also be sharing with your child, via satchel one, this link to Kooth - Home - Kooth. This is a support service aimed for them to use if they are struggling with any aspect of their wellbeing.

WaterAid

The total collection from culture day was £320, Which will be donated to Water Aid. Thank you for all your donations and contributions to this event.

With gratitude for your continued support of our community,

Mr S Braithwaite

Headteacher