

6 September 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am delighted to be able to write my first letter as the new Interim Headteacher of St Gabriel's. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen to lead the school. I have been a Senior Leader in Secondary schools for the past 15 years and a middle leader for 5 years prior. Most recently, I was the Headteacher at another local secondary school for 4 years. Similiary, I am a parent and have three boys, two of which are in Secondary school. I am aware, as a parent and teacher, of the responsibility to ensure that my staff deliver an excellent education for your children and I hold a simple mantra that it has to be excellent in all standards so that I would be proud to send my own children to the school.

I strongly believe in providing the children with exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences, which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways. I think it is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on being centred in Christ and supported values of Strength, Service and Success. As parents, like myself, you have chosen a Catholic Education for your child and it is the Catholic ethos that directs us all, especially the pupils, to the ultimate values and purpose of their life and prepares us for a life rooted in the Gospel values and provides us hope and strength that is much needed in Modern Britain.

It has been a really positive start to the term and I wish to thank you for your support in ensuring our students arrive to school in full school uniform. The vast majority of our students have arrived, looking smart and ready to learn. Please remember that hoodies are not part of our school uniform. If your child is seen wearing their hoodie in school, it will be confiscated until the end of the day and an S4, 30 minute after school detention will be issued. Please also be aware that if your child arrives in incorrect footwear, your child will be given a pair of black plimsolls to wear for the day. Again, an S4, 30 minute after school detention will be issued and their original footwear will be returned after their detention. Black trainers are not considered acceptable footwear and this includes all black trainers with a Nike, Adidas or any other sports brand logo on them. Thank you for supporting us in continuing to drive our standards forward.

Equally may I draw your attention to Sparx maths, this is our platform for maths homework and we closely monitor this weekly. Your child will have weekly maths homework to complete on this platform and research tells us that through this commitment pupils can make an additional 5 months progress which supports strong grades in Maths at GCSE.

I have felt the strong family feel of the school from the minute I walked through the door and know that it is only when parents/carers are in partnership with school that young people flourish. I look forward to working together to ensure that all of us flourish together.

Your sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite  
Interim Headteacher

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