

13th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a long term my reflection this week comes from the daily Catholic reflection which provides us the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: "To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.'"

These words resonate with me as I reflect on the journey we have undertaken together as a school community. In a world that can often feel divided and disconnected, it is essential that we remain steadfast in our commitment to nurturing the faith, character, and academic potential of our students. Your children are at the heart of what we do as a community and their generosity, warmth and positivity are what makes our school a special place. We have celebrated their excellence through reward assemblies this week and whilst not every deserving student gain the awards, so many deserve it through their hard work and commitment and we are constantly reviewing our ways to recognise student's effort and success.

Many students also enjoyed Christmas jumper day and through the just giving page and donations over £300 has been raised for Cafod. Equally many students enjoyed Christmas dinners and I wish to thank the catering staff for the herculean effort of providing Christmas dinner to so many.

I am pleased to inform you that the last day of term will have an adjusted finishing time of 12.30pm for students and will be an own clothes day. This is a small but meaningful gesture to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our students, and to provide them with a well-deserved opportunity to enjoy the end of the school term. Equally I wish to report that the idea came from a member of the student leadership team who presented a compelling argument in a respectful manner and therefore has earned this reward for the whole school community for which I commend them for. The recommendation is that to take part a £1 donation is required to raise further funds for Cafod.

As we look ahead to the new term year, I am confident that, with your continued support and partnership, we will continue to build upon the successes of the past term, with attendance being over 2% higher, assessment data showing marked improvement and behaviour incrementally improving. This has been achieved through the partnership we value with you as families.

As this is my last Friday letter of the term, I wish you all a safe, restful and joyful Christmas, and I look forward to welcoming our students back in January, refreshed and ready to embark on the next chapter of their educational journeys we continue together to uphold the values of Strength, Service and Success

Personal Development

In Personal Development we frequently talk about citizenship and our responsibilities to the community. This links strongly with our school mission statement and catholic social teaching. We have been asked by Bury council to share with parents and students the chance to share your views on GM School Travel Strategy. As an act of service to the community we would be grateful if you and/or your child would give your views using the link

<https://www.gmconsult.org/transport-for-greater-manchester/school-travel-strategy-consultation/>

Work Experience - Year 10 work experience is the week of May 19th. On Monday, Year 10 will have an assembly to launch the self placement process. Parents of Year 10 students please look out for details being sent home of how it all works.

Attendance:

Thank you as always for your support in encouraging our students to attend school. We are over 2% higher in our attendance than we were this time last year. We are looking forward to celebrating with our 685 students next week who have achieved 100% for this term. We hope they enjoy their Golden Ticket.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Braithwaite', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr S Braithwaite
Interim Headteacher