

6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today's daily advent reading was taken from Jeremiah "The days are coming,' declares the Lord 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.<sup>1</sup> "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.'

As we prepare as a community for the coming of the Light over the coming weeks we are reminded here of God's promise to the faithful that hope, safety and being saved through forgiveness and reconciliation with God. If we take a literal meaning then it is our duty to pray for peace, especially in the middle east and that all people find refuge and safety from conflict and hate. For all of this that promise of life walking with Christ in his example is renewed at this time and that in itself gives us hope through acts of kindness, acts of charity and love. Over the next few weeks our school comes together in this preparation to welcome Christ into the world.

Firstly, I wish to thank Father Paul for coming into school today to conduct the sacrament of reconciliation, many children took part and through this sacrament were able to re-establish their relationship with Christ. The strong link between parish and school is what sets our school apart from just a community school, and sustains us a Catholic community set on delivering the Catholic social teachings in the real world.

I wish to share with you key dates over the coming days:

**Advent Friday Morning Prayer in the Chapel:** 8.25am in the Chapel every Friday.

**Christmas Jumper (attire) and Dinner Day:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Donations for CAFOD. Please send a donation to school on this day in order for your child to be a part of this or donate using the following link <https://www.justgiving.com/page/stgabrielschristmascafodworldgifts> *\*\*Please note, Year 7 and 8 will be having lunch during period 4.*

**Advent Carol Service:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6pm at Guardian Angels Parish Church. All are very welcome.

**Voluntary Mass in the Chapel:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at lunch time.

We also look forward to welcoming Year 10 parents/carers on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December in the school hall at 3.45pm-6.45pm.

### Personal Development

This week has seen our Student Leadership Team deliver assemblies to all year groups about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, linking this to our advent theme of peace and promoting the importance of dignity from Catholic Social Teaching.

Our Performing Arts Department have also launched the production of this year's school musical - Matilda! If your child would like to be involved onstage, backstage or front of house, please attend a short meeting at **lunchtime** on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** in PH05 – Drama Studio. Auditions will be on Wednesday **15<sup>th</sup>**

**January.** Rehearsals will be twice a week (to begin with!) on **Wednesday lunchtimes** and **Fridays after school until 4:15pm**. Show dates will be **16th, 17th & 18th July.**  
Any questions, please ask Mrs Dean or Mr Turner.

Uniform:

Thank you as always for your support in our drive to ensure our uniform standards are high. The last few weeks have seen us focus, in particular, on make-up, false eyelashes, jewellery and trainers and I would like to commend both yourselves and the students for really committing to embodying our standards. Moving forward, any of the very few students who are still failing to comply with our uniform standards will be placed on a uniform report to support them in joining the majority in exemplifying our ethos of service, strength and success. As always if there is any reason that complying with the uniform policy is an issue, please contact school and we are more than happy to support and help.

Attendance:

Attendance is 2.05% higher than it was this time last year, which a great achievement and I thank you for ensuring your children attend school every day and on time. Next week will see the young people recognised in their year group's celebration assembly for efforts around attendance and behaviour. This will be further emphasised in our final week of term (W/C 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024) when those students who have attended 100% since our return from half term on Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Oct until the end of next week Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec will receive a Golden Ticket, which will allow them to obtain lunch 15 minutes early and then watch a Christmas film. Again, we thank you as your support on a day-to-day basis is essential if your child is to reach their full potential.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite  
Interim Headteacher