

29th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are about to move into the period of advent where we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ, As a result I wish to share an advent prayer that myself and my family will be praying during our preparations this year.

"God of love, shed the light of your loving presence in our lives. May it lay dawn in the dark places of our hearts and of our world, bringing peace, hope and healing to all in need. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord." Amen

As always, this week has been a busy week at school, yesterday we hosted our former students for their presentation evening. It was a true celebration of their talents and achievements. Earlier in the week our students went to the Bury cross country championships and in the cold and wet conditions showed real grit and determination. The chess competition has also been a joy to see this week with young people demonstrating incisive and thoughtful strategy as well as honest, friendly and healthy competition. Perhaps the most remarkable element was this was a tournament organised by students for students and this demonstrates our values as a school. All of the above show Strength, Service and Success and reveals to me yet again that we are a school of deep-rooted values.

All students have had assemblies led by our GIFT Team on our Advent Fundraising activities. This year we are collecting food and toiletries (long life non perishable) for Bury Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Please can all donations be given to school by Monday 16th December. In addition to this we are celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 13th December and raising money for CAFOD World Gifts. Christmas jumpers, hats, socks or other christmas items can be worn alongside school uniform. 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>. We will also have Christmas dinner on this day for students who have selected it.

Please be aware of other events and encourage your child to take part:

Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday 6th December in the Chapel.

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

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

Voluntary Mass in the Chapel: Thursday 19th December at lunch time.

Year 10 Advent Form Prayer: In the Chapel.

We also look forward to welcoming Year 11 parents/carers to Parents' Evening on Thursday 5th December and Year 10 parents/carers on Thursday 12th December in the school hall at 3.45pm-6.45pm.

Personal Development

In Personal Development lessons this week we have been covering a wide range of topics. Year 7 have been looking at taking responsibility for their own health. Year 8 have been learning about protecting their personal data with lessons from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Year 9 have been learning about Local Government as part of their citizenship studies. Year 10 have been studying different types of work contracts, whilst Year 11 have been learning about protection from discrimination in the workplace.

In a week when the government released a new white paper on employment with a focus on increasing the number of apprenticeships available, why not see what apprenticeships are out there for your child when they leave St Gabriel's - <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

REMINDER - Year 11 College applications need to be completed for **Holy Cross by 2nd December**.

Attendance:

Thank you again for your support in ensuring attendance to school is a priority for your child(ren). I would like to remind you of the reward the students are able to achieve if they have two weeks full attendance:

Any student who has 100% attendance for the weeks 25th Nov – 29th Nov and 02nd Dec – 06th Dec will be entered into a draw to win a £20 voucher. If a student is in for 100% on both weeks their name will go into the draw three times, otherwise their name is entered for the week they achieve 100% attendance. One student in each year group will receive this reward and it will be announced in their celebration assemblies the week of 09th Dec.

Uniform:

Thank you for your support in helping our students obtain, maintain and understand our uniform standards. Following the drive we have just had, any uniform issues will now be dealt with on an individual basis. If any student has been unable to rectify a uniform infringement over the past three weeks, parents will be contacted, invited in for a meeting if needed and support offered. If you feel you need any assistance with any part of our uniform policy and expectations please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite
Interim Headteacher