

17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we continue our journey through the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to share with you a powerful reflection from today's Catholic daily reading, which I believe holds an important message for our school community.

The story of the paralytic in Mark 2 resonates deeply with me. It speaks of those who are trapped in sin, longing for forgiveness but unable to turn to God on their own. Just as the paralytic's friends carried him to Jesus, we are called to help others overcome their struggles, offering support and hope. Instead of judging those caught in sin, we should extend compassion, listen, and assist them in turning to God. By embodying charity and helping others find hope, we can guide them towards healing and salvation, just as Jesus did for the paralytic.

Reflecting on this, I am reminded of the challenges we face as a school community, but I am also filled with a renewed sense of purpose. We must be persistent and consistent in our efforts, always guided by compassion, as we strive to do our best for our young people.

I am pleased to report that our attendance is 2.2% better than this time last year, but we know there is still work to be done. Likewise, our behaviour is improving, and we will continue to focus on the small things, like uniform, that contribute to the positive culture of our school, inspired by the work of Dave Brailsford and the concept of "marginal gains." When Brailsford was the head of GB cycling every detail was considered and even if it added just 1% the aggregate of all the 1% changes added up to a significant improvement.

As we move forward, let us be a source of hope for those who are lost in sin, offering our support and guidance as they turn fully to the Lord. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our students and our community.

### **Family Forum - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 5-6pm**

We welcome you to please join us at our next family forum. The agenda is Uniform, Community Service, Rewards.

<https://forms.office.com/e/cqp6tRdmaX>

### **Personal Development**

In the coming weeks we have some exciting opportunities for our students to be active citizens in our community

Some students will be asked to participate in Hate Crime Ambassador Training 2025, a key initiative supporting Greater Manchester's Hate Crime Awareness Week of Action. Through this role, students will:

- Gain specific training to raise awareness about hate incidents and hate crime within their school.
- Support staff in addressing discriminatory behaviours effectively.
- Enhance their personal development and leadership skills

We have also been invited to send 4 pupils to attend Bury Youth Led Policing Conference. This is run by Bury Youth Service, alongside GMP Bury, to improve the relationship between young people and the police and to ensure that young people have the opportunity to tell the police what issues matter most to them and what they would like to see from the police.

We have been asked to send students from Year 10 or 11 who have strong feelings about the police or who have previously had police involvement in their lives but it is open to anyone. If you child is interested in this, please let their form teacher know by Wednesday 22nd Jan to be considered for selection.

### **Work Experience**

Reminder to Year 10 parents that their child should have downloaded the connect app via the QR code or emailed link so they can upload their work experience placement details. The deadline for them to find their own placement is 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. If you need help doing this please contact your form teacher or Head of Year.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite  
Interim Headteacher