



**ST TERESA  
of CALCUTTA**  
Catholic Academy Trust

**St Gabriel's**  
Roman Catholic High School



7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the Headteacher of St Gabriels RC High School, I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your attendance at the parents' forum this week. It was truly refreshing to have such an honest and open discussion, which I believe will greatly benefit our school community. We discussed a range of issues in a candid and kind way to find ways together to keep moving the school forward. It is essential that the partnership between school, parents and parish is fostered to ensure flourishing children.

I was reminded of the words from the Gospel of Mark, where it is written that "Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody. When he heard him speak, he was very much perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him." (Mark 6:20) This passage resonates with me, as I strive to foster an environment of integrity and honesty within our school. This also means that as we work together to encourage high standards we must be open with each other to develop the next generation as thoughtful and positive role models in our communities rooted in faith. Much of this starts with honesty and the ability to disagree well.

I am also pleased to report that our Year 11 Students have been exemplary in their conduct during the mock examinations. Their dedication and commitment to their studies are truly commendable, and I encourage them to keep up the excellent work as they prepare for their final exams.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. It is through our collective efforts that we can ensure the success and well-being of our Students.

### Exams:

It has been brought to our attention that Parklife is on the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> June and the Physics GCSE exam is on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, which is the final core exam for Year 11. Whilst we do not want to appear to be spoilsports we ask you do not purchase tickets for your child to attend Parklife on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

### Attendance:

Thank you, as always, for your support in driving up our attendance standards. We are consistently over 2% higher than where we were last year to date. The students who have received 100% attendance this half term, as is now practice, will be given a Golden Ticket to use the first week back after half term for an early lunch. To further reward our students with excellent attendance, any student who achieves 100% during the dates 20<sup>th</sup> Jan – 14<sup>th</sup> Feb will go into a draw to win a voucher. There will be one voucher in every year group.

Please can I also gently remind you of the changes made by the DfE, which came into effect in September 2024: ***Penalty notices will be issued for any 10 unauthorised absences within a 10-week period (this is equivalent to 5 schools days). Penalty notices will rise to £160, per child, per parent. If paid within 21 days, this will be reduced to £80. If a second penalty notice is issued, this will be at £160 but will***

***not have the option of being reduced. A 3rd penalty notice cannot be issued within 3 years of the first one. If the threshold (10 sessions) is met for a 3rd time, this will result in prosecution.***

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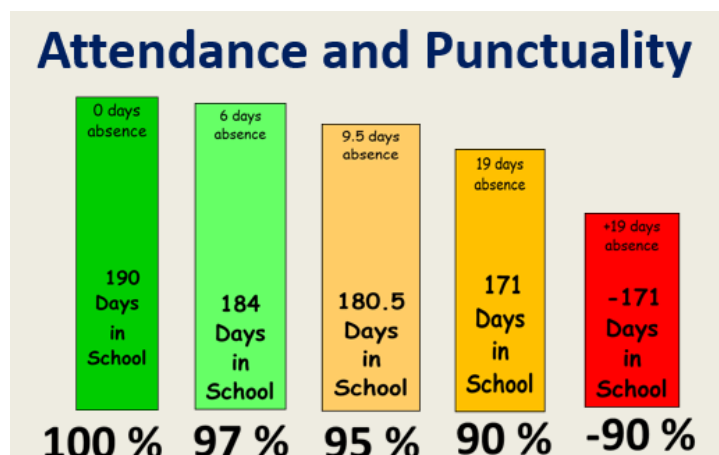


Being late after the register closes at 9:10am, without a valid reason (e.g: a medical appointment) will be considered an unauthorised absence.

No term time holidays will be authorised and the burden is on parents/carers to provide evidence that a holiday was not taken.

At St Gabriel's **we aim for all students to have 100% attendance** and we reward this. However, good attendance means being in school at least 97% of the time (184 – 190 days).

365 days in a year	190 school days in total	Absence
100%	190 days attendance	0
95%	180 days attendance	2 weeks
90%	171 days attendance	4 weeks
85%	162 days attendance	6 weeks (nearly)
80%	153 days attendance	Over a half term absence



Therefore, we politely ask that appointments e.g. the dentist, opticians etc take place as much as possible outside of school hours.

Thank you again for ensuring your child(ren) attends school every day.

### Uniform:

Thank you for your support in helping us create and maintain high standards of uniform. However, it has become noticeable that a small minority of our students have been wearing trousers that are not compliant with our school uniform policy as found on our school website:

#### School Uniform:

Only available from uniform suppliers	Also available from other high street retailers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navy blazer with school logo.</li> <li>Year group coloured tie.</li> <li>Navy pinafore with school logo (must be at least knee length).</li> <li>Navy V-neck jumper with school logo (<b>optional</b>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plain white closed neck shirt.</li> <li>Black tailored trousers.</li> <li>Black tailored shorts.</li> <li>Plain black, white or navy socks (below the knee or ankle) or opaque black or navy tights.</li> <li>Plain black polishable school shoes.</li> <li>Plain navy pinafore without school logo (<b>optional</b>)</li> <li>Plain white or cream apron.</li> <li>Navy V-neck jumper without school logo (<b>optional</b>).</li> <li>Navy or black outdoor coat (<b>optional</b>).</li> </ul>

#### **Prohibited Items – Students must not wear:**

- Fashion trousers (e.g. jeans, chinos, leggings).
- Skirts.
- Other jumpers (e.g. round neck jumpers, hooded jumpers, sports tops, branded jumpers).
- Trainers, leisure shoes or pumps.

Please be aware that the image provided of fitted black trousers with a flare at the bottom are considered fashion trousers as are leggings.



We would ask that female students who wish to wear trousers purchase ones as in the image



### **Personal Development:**

It's **National Apprenticeship Week** from the 10th-14th February. Did you know that in 2023/24 there were almost 750,000 people participating in apprenticeships! Your child will spend at least one form time next week exploring the exciting opportunities apprenticeships can bring. There are also daily online activities for them to do on Satchel One. If you want to get involved with all the fantastic things going on nationally visit <https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/>

Or if you want to find out more about apprenticeships as a parent or carer then visit the parent zone at <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parent/>

**Safer Internet Day 2025** is on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Students have had assemblies this week around internet safety from our Computing department. For more information about this years theme of protection from online scams visit

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025>. For helpful advice and guidance on keeping your child safe online visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite  
Headteacher