



**ST TERESA  
of CALCUTTA**  
Catholic Academy Trust

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



21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I had the privilege of visiting both Wardley Hall and the inspiring Laudato Si Centre, as well as the remarkable work of Caritas through Cornerstone. These experiences have been a true testament to the living faith of our community.

The Laudato Si Centre is a clear example of the diocesan response to the papal encyclical, serving as a practical demonstration of stewardship. The team's efforts to educate others on sustainability and caring for God's creation were truly captivating to witness.

Cornerstone, which is part of Caritas, works tirelessly with the homeless. Over the past 12 months, they have served over 27,000 meals, and it was a true privilege to sit and dine with them. Your support as parents and students of our community is vital, and without your generosity, they would not be able to do the incredible work they do. It is remarkable that they were able to achieve this with a food budget of only £500 last year, thanks to the contributions from catholic community. During Lent our students are participating in St Joseph's penny activities and much of the work done will enable the continued work of charities linked to Caritas..

During this Lenten season, it was the perfect time to see genuine faith in action. As James 2 reminds us, "faith without works is dead." Your faith is truly living when it is reflected in your actions, and it is a testament to the strength of our community.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school and the wider community. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those in need.

#### **Attendance:**

Attendance is up by 2.66% compared to this time last year. Please remember that it only with your support that we can make improvements like this. Please continue to remind your child about the importance of good attendance and please can we take this opportunity as we approach a half term to 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.**

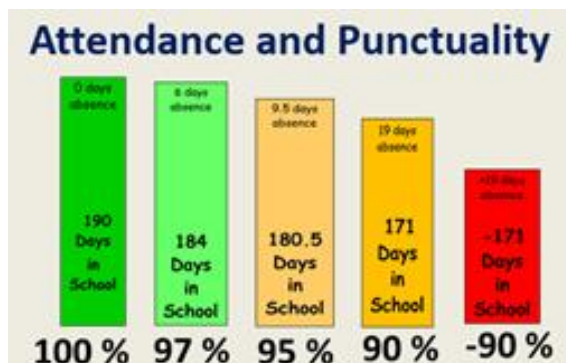
Being late after the register closes at 9:10am, without a valid reason (e.g: a medical appointment) will be considered an unauthorised absence.

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).

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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



Research shows that children with less than 95% attendance do not achieve as well as their peers with 95+% attendance. That may be stark as a reality but it equates to nearly a grade per subject behind their peers with excellent attendance. We at St Gabriel's want your child to have real choices post 16 and beyond through strong appropriate academic performance during their time as part of the St Gabriel's family. Thank you for supporting us in keeping our attendance standards high.

#### Parents/carers of Year 8 and Year 9 students:

Please be aware that the bowling trip has now been confirmed. Mr Woods and Miss Kay will be communicating to parents in due course payment methods and final details.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Braithwaite  
Headteacher