

16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we continue our journey through this academic year, I wanted to share with you a message of hope and encouragement from the Gospels.

In John's Gospel, Chapters 14–17 present us with what is referred to as Jesus' "Last Supper Discourses," or His "Final Discourses." These are a series of sermons given by our Lord to the disciples the night He was arrested. In these discourses, Jesus addresses the coming fear and troubled hearts that He knows His disciples will experience.

Jesus' words to them, and to us, are clear: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." This is a gentle command, yet a command nonetheless. Our Lord knew that His disciples would soon witness His arrest, false accusation, mocking, beating, and death. He wanted to prepare them, to reassure them, and to remind them to keep their faith.

Similarly, our Year 11 Students have settled into their public examinations with energy and vigour. I know this can feel relentless and overwhelming, but we must hold fast to Jesus' words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." It is natural to dwell on individual questions from the papers that have been sat, but it is important that we focus on the next challenge ahead.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance remains at 92.1%, and consistent attendance is a key driver in student wellbeing and academic success. It will be a key measure for inclusion in the end-of-term trip to Blackpool. Over the next five weeks, we expect 95% attendance from students to ensure entry to the trip. While individual cases will be reviewed by the respective Head of Year based on individual circumstances, we have set the bar high, as it is essential that we reward good attendance.

### **Work Experience:**

We wish our Year 10 students on work experience the very best in their work placements next week. We have managed to place a record number of our students in out of school work places. Those students who have been unable to find placements are working within departments to experience a week in an educational workplace or will be completing work-based activities such as an enterprise day, a town hall visit or virtual work experience. If you or a family member think you could offer a placement to a student in your workplace for a week next year, please contact Mr Killion - [pkillion@stgabrielshigh.stoccat.org.uk](mailto:pkillion@stgabrielshigh.stoccat.org.uk). We hope they all enjoy this enriching experience and find new drive and energy to carry them through the next 12 months. Work experience is a valuable opportunity that can clarify future plans and give purpose to their studies, setting clear goals for the next steps.

### **Bury College**

We are delighted to say Year 10 are again visiting Bury College this year for a taster day on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Students must have completed their choice of taster sessions using the form shared on email to parents and on Satchel one by 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Student Elections:**

The elections for Head Student were successfully completed this week. With 8 candidates, a week of campaigning and over 800 votes cast on official ballot papers the students experienced a strong representation of the British democratic process. The current student leadership team were extremely helpful in helping run the voting process and we would like to thank them for this as one of their last official acts in post. I am pleased to announce the results of the recent Head Student elections. Congratulations to Darcie who has been elected as Head Student, and to Arish, Harrison and Macie, who have been elected as Deputy Head Students. Their work over the next 12 months will truly model our value of service to our school community. However, the other candidates can be very proud of their efforts. We were so impressed with their application letters and the fantastic role models they are that we are looking to make sure Haleema, Summer, Seana and April all have student leadership roles of some kind next year.

**Congratulations:**

We are delighted to announce that one of our students, Sienna, has received a Sparkle Award from the Mizen Foundation. This award celebrates young people who embody the qualities that defined their son Jimmy: kindness, care, friendship and a determination to make a positive difference to those around them. Sienna is a shining light, with the biggest smile and caring, positive, infectious spirit. She often spends her time supporting others who struggle to attend and our school ethos is only enhanced further with her presence. We are so incredibly proud.

**Exams:**

Finally, we are receiving positive feedback from our Year 11 students during their exams, many stating that the exam preparation sessions have been invaluable. As we did at Easter, we are running some tuition sessions during May half term to further support our students. This timetable will be emailed directly to parents and carers of Year 11 students.

I hope this letter has provided you with a sense of encouragement and a reminder to keep your faith, even in the midst of challenges. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite  
Headteacher