

2nd May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the start of the public examinations for our Year 11 students next week, I write to you with a message of encouragement and support. The Scripture reminds us, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters..." (Colossians 3:23). This is the spirit I encourage our students to embrace as they prepare for and undertake these important assessments. Our students have worked diligently throughout their time at St Gabriel's RC High School, and now is the moment to give their studies the full measure of their effort and determination. I encourage them, with this reflection to "Study with all your heart; take the exam with all your heart. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart!". For while God may be fighting for us, he also fights through our own will to succeed.

Year 11:

To our students, I offer this simple prayer: "Dear Lord, as I prepare for this exam, I place my trust in You. Help me to recall what I have studied and give me peace and clarity as I take the test. I know that You have a plan for my life, and I trust in Your timing and guidance."

Students are reminded to have full school uniform, a full clear pencil case and scientific calculator. Parents and students are reminded that the examinations start at 9am for morning examinations and 1.30pm for afternoon examinations. We know that the whole school community will wish them well with this important stage in their lives.

Student Senior Leadership Team:

With our Year 11 students starting their examinations next week it is time to elect a new Head Student and Deputy Head Students from our Year 10 cohort. They have until Tuesday 6th May to apply. Following shortlisting we then have a week of campaigning before the whole school gets to vote on Wednesday 14th May. We wish those who are applying the best of luck and look forward to hearing about what amazing future leaders we have in school.

Jubilee Year Anchor:

This week we have been really blessed to have the Salford Diocese Jubilee Year Anchor. We received the Anchor from St Joseph's and St Bede's and gave the Anchor to St Marie's. It was wonderful to meet staff and students from our local feeder primaries and spend time in prayer with them. We also would like to thank Fr. Paul for celebrating a very moving Year 11 Leavers Mass with our students. The students were a credit to their families and teachers in the way they reflected on their 5-year spiritual journey with us as a school community.

Attendance:

Attendance remains a key focus for us, and I am pleased to report that our overall attendance currently stands at 92.1%, which is 1.9% above the same period last year. However, we must not be complacent, and I ask for your continued support in ensuring our students maintain strong attendance, as this is directly linked to positive outcomes. Consistency and routine are also essential for our students' well-being.

Uniform:

Thank you for your support in helping to ensure our uniform standards remain high. As the warmer weather approaches please can we take this opportunity to remind you of the school uniform policy that can be found on our website:

School Uniform:

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

Please note if students do opt to wear shorts, the shorts must be black and tailored; no sports shorts, cycling shorts or shorts other than the colour black can be worn. From Tuesday 6th May students must attend school wearing their tie and blazer, however if the weather becomes warm we will notify students and home if these can be removed. Unless otherwise told students must attend school in full school uniform. If a student attends school not in keeping with the school uniform policy, we will contact home and may need to issue a sanction. Again, many thanks for your support with upholding our uniform standards.

Parents' evening:

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the recent Parents' Evening, where we were able to engage in meaningful conversations and work together to serve our wonderful young people. Your engagement and partnership are invaluable to their success.

Year 10 Work Experience:

A reminder that this starts on Monday 19th May for those who have managed to find a placement. We are asking those students to recontact their workplace just to check they are still able to attend and to get any final details. For those without placements, they will either be working in departments within school or be following a programme of lessons based around the world of work.

Additional Intervention:

We would like to take this opportunity to share some of the ways we spend the additional pupil premium funding we receive through school. We have invested in a Maths tutor who is intensely tutoring groups of 4 pupils over a period of 3 weeks on a specific topic. The impact of this has been immense with some pupils increasing their topic tests by as much as 38%. We have also invested in staff to deliver reading interventions to support pupils reaching their chronological reading age. Some pupils within this cohort have increase their reading age by more than 2 years over the period of 5 months. In Year 7 and 8 we have pupils involved in Axiom Maths mentoring and the Scholars Program, through the Brilliant Club. These sessions help pupils to expand their learning and prepare for university. At GCSE, we support pupils with ingredients and music lessons where needed and ensure we have a detailed tuition program, including during the Easter and May holidays. Furthermore, we have an additional attendance officer and our own school counsellor, which we are very fortunate to have and we use to support a number of pupils to engage fully and attend school.

Many thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher