



**ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA**
Catholic Academy Trust

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



9th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As your child's Headteacher, I wanted to take a moment to share some important updates and reflections with you.

Yesterday, we were all inspired by the election of our new Pope, Leo XIV. In his inaugural address, his deep commitment to social justice and peace for all people was truly striking. It is clear that the tireless work of Pope Francis will be continued and renewed with a new direction. This led me to reflect on the words of Proverbs 31:8-9, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and the needy." This passage speaks to us all as Catholics to be a voice of reason in our own communities and to speak out against the rhetoric of mistrust and anger that is shaping our political world.

This week has been a significant one for our Year 11 students, as they have taken their first public exam. Next week, our feeder school students will be taking their SATs. As a parent myself, I know the worry and stress that these important assessments can cause. That is why I began my day with a simple prayer for all our young people facing exams: "Lord, as our young people prepare for their GCSEs and SATs, grant them wisdom, clarity, and strength to navigate these challenging exams. May they find the calm and focus they need to perform their best. May they find peace and ease in their minds, and may their hard work be reflected in their results. We ask for success in their studies and a positive outcome for their future."

Attendance:

I am pleased to share that our overall attendance figures have improved compared to the same period last year, with our current year-to-date attendance at 92.1%, compared to 90.4% last year. However, we still have work to do, and I would like to encourage you to continue supporting us in our drive to raise attendance, as it makes a significant difference in the well-being and outcomes of our students.

Confirmation:

Year 8 students who have been completing the Sacrament of Confirmation Programme with Sr Linda and Mrs Middleton have now finished this programme and were given a certificate of attendance. Students should now take this certificate to their local parish priest who will coordinate the next part of the programme.

Year 11 Exams:

We are incredibly proud of the Year 11 students who have started the public exams. It is of vital importance that students attend school every day on time and attend revision sessions which staff are providing before the examinations.

Many thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher

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