



**ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA**
Catholic Academy Trust

St Gabriel's
Roman Catholic High School



13th June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach Father's Day, I find myself reflecting on the profound influence that fathers have in shaping the lives of their children. The words of Colossians 3:21 resonate deeply with me: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

I often reflect on the guidance I received from my own father, as he certainly brought me up with instruction from the word of God. He was a teacher for 14 years from 1962 onwards in Barrow-in-Furness, in a school where the career path of all the boys - it was an all-Boys Tech - was to work making submarines at Vickers, a fine skilled engineering role but one that did not require high academic grades to gain entry. My father's mission as a teacher was to find the wider talents and interests through his History teaching and inspire working class boys to go to University. After his passing, it was announced in the Barrow newspapers and the comments were about a kind man who had played a father figure in their lives.

In the 1970s, he changed careers after having a calling to become a Methodist minister. He served in many parishes across the country. I was born just before his ordination, so I only knew this life of service. The instrumental role he played in shaping my formation as a Christian and educator I perhaps took for granted, and now I look back with a grateful heart.

I share this as a tribute to all fathers as we recognise and celebrate Father's Day. The impact of a father's love, guidance, and example extends far beyond the home and into the very fabric of our community.

We are incredibly proud of the students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Guardian Angels Church this week, the students were a real credit to their families and our school community. It was a privilege to witness and share in this special celebration of faith and commitment alongside Mrs Middleton and Mrs Cull. The reverence, joy, and sense of community were truly inspiring. Congratulations to all involved on taking this important step in your spiritual journey. Mrs K Forkin has the student's certificates which they should collect from the Chaplaincy office.

Mobile Phones:

As you may be aware the government has given guidance to school leaders on the use of mobile phones in school: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-phone-use-to-be-banned-in-schools-in-england>

Whilst we entirely understand that many parents want their child to carry a mobile phone for the purposes of remaining in contact outside of school hours, we are increasingly concerned about the impact of mobile phones, especially as a consequence of the inappropriate use of social media on students' mental health and readiness to learn. Recently, there has been a small but noticeable increase in students being seen with a mobile device in school during school hours, therefore from Monday 16th June 2025 we will be ensuring that the mobile phone/mobile devices policy is fully implemented, and sanctions will be given to any student who contravenes this policy.

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Please see below a reminder of our mobile phone/mobile devices policy and the sanction your child should expect if they have a mobile device out in school:

- **'if we see it, we will confiscate it'** until the end of your school day and issue a 30-minute next day after school detention
- Devices may be **'on site, but out of sight'**.
- Please do not use your phone anywhere on the school premises during the school day.
- Please make sure your mobile phone is switched off and stored safely in your bag.

If any students' mobile phone / device (**including headphones and smart watches**) are seen and they refuse to hand it to the member of staff, a red card will be issued and could result in your child being placed in our internal isolation.

Uniform:

Thank you, as always, for helping us uphold our uniform standards. As a reminder please be advised that any young person who is wearing incorrect uniform or uniform incorrectly will be placed on uniform report. This extends, to but is not restricted to: not wearing pinafore at correct length (tying it up with bobbles or thin belt), make-up and eye lashes that are not subtle or natural, trainers (we will ask students who wear incorrect footwear to change into plimsols), not having a tie or a blazer, leggings or flared trousers, hooped earrings, nose studs, more than one pair of studded earring and white socks over black tights/leggings. We appreciate your support and thank you for reinforcing this with your child.

Attendance:

We expect every student to attend every day. Your child's attendance is linked to their life chances and we want your child to succeed, this starts with their attendance. As a Trust we expect every student to achieve above 95% attendance. If your child is unable to attend you must contact the school either by email or by telephone before 9.30 am. If you feel that you need help or assistance with your child's attendance, please contact the attendance team. We provide you with weekly and half termly updates regarding your child and if necessary we will also reach out if we feel support is required in the form of attendance support plans, home visits and attendance contracts. Thank you for your continued dedication to ensuring your child is in school every day.

Personal Development:

Following the recent student leadership elections for next year's head student we are now in the process of Year 9 applying to become peer mentors in Year 10. This is a vital student leadership role in helping new students arriving at St Gabriel's settle into the school family. We encourage Year 9 students who see themselves as good role models and representatives of the school to apply by Wednesday 18th June with successful applicants being notified by Friday 20th June. Good Luck!

We will shortly be starting on the Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations. Students should take some time over this weekend to ensure that they have their own scientific calculator, black pens, pencil, ruler and a clear water bottle. If you have any queries, please contact Miss Smith (Head of Year) or Mr Johnston (Exams Manager).

May this weekend bring you time for reflection, gratitude, and celebration with your families.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher