11th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well as we approach the end of another busy week at St Gabriel’s.

I would like to begin this week's letter with a reflection on the words of Jesus, from Matthew's Gospel: "When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speaks but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

This is an easy lesson to understand but very hard to live. This teaching of Jesus comes within the context of Him telling His Apostles that as they go forth to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, they will be handed over to courts, scourged in synagogues, and led before governors and kings. They will be persecuted in one town after another for sharing the Gospel. Though such a "pep-talk" may not at first seem that encouraging, the Gospel passage quoted above should provide much encouragement. Encouragement, that is, if they can follow Jesus' advice in faith.

When we are condemned, judged, misunderstood and the like, it is very common to begin mounting our defence within our minds right away. We justify our actions, set up a tribunal in our minds by which we act as judge and jury of the other, finding them guilty and issuing them punishments. The sin traditionally referred to as "self-love" is a sin that stems from pride and is not love at all. It tempts us to defend ourselves, using our own human wisdom and counsel.

**Production:**

Next week is the school production, and we are excited in school to bear witness to the immense talent of our students. Once again, I thank Mrs Dean and Mr Turner for their unwavering commitment to the young people throughout the planning and rehearsals.

Tickets are still available and it is not to be missed.



**Uniform:**

I would like to update you on an important change to our uniform policy. From September 2025, we are making a change to our uniform requirements. Our female students will be allowed to wear either black tailored school trousers or a navy-blue pinafore **with tights**. Socks can only be worn with school trousers. Make-up will not be allowed to be worn. These changes have been made through discussions and feedback given by parents who attended our Family Forum evening and in consultation with students. Thank you for your support with this.

**Key Stage 3**

Our recent Key Stage 3 examinations reflect the hard work of students throughout the year. Progress for all year groups represents significant improvement throughout the year and we are proud of the hard work of students and staff.

**Condover Hall:**

50 pupils in Y7-10 attended a fun-filled Sporting and Outdoor adventurous activity weekend in Shropshire. Pupils showed determination, resilience and strength during the sporting tournaments and during the on-site activities. Our success came in the Y7 Netball tournament where they achieved winners of the tournament. Therefore, being crowned ‘Condover Hall 2025 Champions’ A massive congratulations to all who participated in such a successful weekend.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite

**Headteacher**