



12th September 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

The daily catholic reading today taken from **Luke 6:41** offers profound wisdom:

"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"

This Gospel passage invites us into a deeper journey of self-awareness and humility. It challenges us to pause and reflect: **Are we truly attentive to our own growth, or are we more focused on the shortcomings of others?** The image of the splinter and the beam is striking—it reminds us that our own faults may be far greater than those we critique in others, yet we often overlook them.

In the context of our school community, this message is especially relevant. As educators, parents, and carers, we are role models for our children. When we model self-reflection, compassion, and accountability, we help shape a culture where students feel safe to grow, make mistakes, and learn. Let us ask ourselves:

- What occupies our thoughts throughout the day?
- Do we seek to understand ourselves as God sees us—with love, truth, and mercy?
- Are we cultivating a spirit of grace and understanding in our homes and classrooms?

This reflection is not about guilt, but about growth. It's a call to be honest with ourselves, to seek personal transformation, and to extend that same grace to others.

I also want to discuss our school's attendance, which currently stands at **93.7%**. While this is lower than last year, it marks an improvement from two years ago. During our recent celebration of the Year 11 results, a crucial insight emerged: students with **95%+ attendance** nationally achieved a grade higher per subject than those with lower attendance.

The Department for Education continues to emphasise attendance as a top priority, and our data clearly supports this. High attendance directly correlates with academic success. We must work together to maintain strong attendance and ensure our students have every opportunity to achieve their best and keep as many doors open as possible.

Important Date for Your Diary

Please note that our **Open Evening** will take place on Thursday, **25th September**. On this day, students will finish at **1:30 pm** to allow us to prepare the school and maximise car parking for the evening.

Let us continue to support each other, reflect on our personal growth, and commit to creating an environment where every student can thrive.

Home Learning

Home learning plays a vital role in supporting your child's progress and reinforcing the knowledge and skills they develop in class. Regular engagement with platforms like GCSE Pod, Sparks Maths and Language Nut helps students consolidate their understanding and build confidence in key areas. We strongly encourage students to take an active role in their learning by seeking support from their teacher if they are finding any topic difficult. The Resource Centre is open before school, during break and lunch time and after school if any students need to use a computer and a printer. Additionally, using the knowledge organisers provided at the beginning of each topic in the students' books can be an excellent way to review essential information

and prepare for lessons more effectively. Your support at home makes a significant difference in helping your child achieve their full potential.

We are really pleased with the commitment Year 11 students have shown by attending after-school tuition sessions. Their dedication to making the most of these opportunities reflects a strong determination to succeed, and it's fantastic to see so many taking responsibility for their own learning. These sessions provide valuable support and revision, and we're proud of the effort students are putting in as they prepare for their exams.

Personal Development

Year 11 Parents - This time of year is especially important for our Year 11 students as we help them prepare to apply for their next steps after St Gabriel's. School will be inviting in Holy Cross, Bury College and 6th Form Bolton as well as other level 2 and 3 further education providers to speak to our Year 11 students. Dates for your diaries should be:

Bury Careers Event - 24th Sept 2025, 3:30-7pm at Castle Leisure Centre

Holy Cross Open Day - Saturday 4th October 2025 (10am - 1pm). The ticketing system will be live from 9am on Monday 15th September.

Bury College - 07 October 2025 16 -18 Open Event (5pm - 7.15pm) (online booking through college website)

6th Form Bolton - Wednesday 8 October 2025 5.00pm-8.00pm (online book through college website)

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher