



**ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA**
Catholic Academy Trust

St Gabriel's
Roman Catholic High School



24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, our school has been deeply immersed in reflecting on the Beatitudes, those powerful scriptural messages that guide us towards compassion, peace, and spiritual understanding. As we explored these profound words - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" - we were challenged to consider a profound question: "How can we strive to be content and deserve the kingdom of heaven?"

In these challenging times, with global conflicts and local acts of violence, the Beatitude that resonates most strongly is "Blessed are the peacemakers". I have been particularly moved by recent news stories of individuals who, despite experiencing personal loss through tragic events like knife crime, are transforming their hurt into positive action and prevention.

The recent Pride of Britain awards offered powerful testament to human resilience and hope. Each award winner's story was a remarkable narrative of togetherness, inspiration, and overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles to support others in need. In many ways, these individuals embodied the Beatitudes in their entirety - living examples of mercy, peace, and righteousness.

This week's philosophical reflection, drawn from Cicero, reminds us that "the life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living". This sentiment feels particularly poignant as I prepare to attend the funeral of a lifelong friend, Les Towler. A man who dedicated 50 years to Bolton Rugby Club, Les was more than just a community figure - he was a constant presence, the first face generations of young people would encounter at the club. His life exemplified key traits of humility, purity of heart, and kindness. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

As we move forward, let us carry these reflections with us - remembering the power of compassion, the importance of peace, and the potential we all have to make a positive difference in our community. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Sporting achievements:

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 netball teams who won their recent tournaments and the Year 10 and 11 rugby team for beating Woodhey in their first fixture of the year. Some individual mentions to the following pupils for their achievements, firstly in Netball, Amelia for being chosen to represent the county, Jessica who has made the Leeds Rhinos squad and Ruby on making the Manchester Thunder squad. Elsewhere Jake has signed for Salford City FC and James has earned his black belt in Karate. Finally, Molly-Anne has been made Vice-Captain of the Manchester County U16s football team.

Year 11

We would like to remind all parents and carers that Year 11 mock examinations will begin immediately after the half-term break. These assessments are a vital part of preparing students for their final GCSEs, helping to identify strengths and areas for development. Please encourage your child to use the half term wisely for revision and to ensure they return to school fully prepared. Further details, including the exam timetable, have been shared with students and are available on the students Arbor App and Satchel One.

Attendance:

Thank you for your support in trying keep our attendance high, we are aware that there has been a rise in flu-like symptoms. As a gentle reminder for our young people could we please reiterate the key messages around the importance of hand and respiratory hygiene measures, such as covering one's mouth and nose when coughing and

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sneezing, coughing and/or sneezing into a tissue, ensuring the tissue is disposed of in a wastebin, as well as washing hands before and after eating. We are expecting, however, that our half term will be a natural circuit breaker and students' attendance will improve when we return.

Each half term parents receive an attendance report, please note that is for information only. Should you have any concerns or wish for support regarding your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact your child's form teacher in the first instance.

When we return from half term, we will be celebrating with 493 students who have achieved 95% and above attendance for this first half term. They will be rewarded with a golden ticket their first week back which will allow for them to go for an early lunch on either Thursday 6th November or Friday 7th November.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher