



**ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA**
Catholic Academy Trust

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today's daily Catholic reflection is *"Once when Jesus was praying in solitude, and the disciples were with him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?'"* — Luke 9:18

In this quiet moment, Jesus poses a profound question to his disciples — not about popularity or reputation, but about identity. It is a question that echoes through time and speaks directly to the heart of every young person navigating secondary school: **Who am I? And who do others say I am?**

In school, students often find themselves defined by grades, friendships, social media, or even misunderstandings. But this passage reminds us that identity is deeper than what others say or think. Jesus wasn't seeking validation from the crowd; he was inviting his disciples to reflect personally and truthfully. For our school community, this is a powerful reminder to look beyond labels and stereotypes. Whether you're a student, teacher, or staff member, parent or carer, your true worth isn't found in external opinions but in your character, your choices, and your values. Let us encourage one another to ask deeper questions — not just "What do people think of me?" but "Who am I becoming?" And just as Jesus took time to pray in solitude, may we also find quiet moments to reflect, grow, and discover our true selves.

That question of "who am I becoming" enables us to consider the character we want to be and put our energy into formation rather than performance. Formation is about building character — being kind when no one is watching, standing up for what's right, showing resilience in the face of challenge, and treating others with respect. It's about becoming someone who contributes positively to the community, not just someone who looks successful on the surface.

Last night was our Open Evening. I wish to praise our students for the warmth, maturity, and pride they showed in representing our school. Whether they were guiding families around the building, speaking about their subjects, performing in music or drama, or simply offering a friendly welcome, they embodied the values we hold dear. Their enthusiasm and confidence left a lasting impression on our visitors and reminded us all of the vibrant, caring community we are building together.

GCSE Preparation Meeting

We would like to invite all Year 11 students and their parents/carers to a GCSE Preparation Meeting on **Thursday 2nd October** from 5.15pm to 6.15pm in the School Hall. **This is a vital opportunity for students and families to come together and focus on the journey ahead.** This event is designed to offer practical advice, guidance, and encouragement as our students begin the final stretch towards their exams. We will be sharing strategies for revision, managing stress, and making the most of the support available both at home and in school. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers as partners in helping our students prepare with confidence and purpose.

Year 7

We would like to invite all our year 7 pupils and their parents/carers to our welcome mass on **Thursday, 9th October at Guardian Angels RC Church**. This is a special occasion to mark the beginning of your son or daughter's spiritual life with us at St Gabriel's School. I believe it is very important to express openly our commitment to our Catholic faith and, for many, coming together as a spiritual community is important to us. If your child is not Catholic, they can still join us of course.

Headteacher Mr S Braithwaite BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Telephone 0161 764 3186
Email stgabriels@bury.gov.uk
Website www.stgabrielshigh.stoccat.org.uk / www.stoccat.org.uk
Twitter @StGabsBury / @STOC_CAT
Postal address Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ



Personal Development

The school are again participating in this year's #BeeWell survey. Designed by young people, #BeeWell is surveying the wellbeing of young people across Greater Manchester. In four years, #BeeWell has heard the voices of 100,000 young people, from 198 secondary schools across Greater Manchester. The results are being used to deliver positive change in schools and communities and St Gabriel's continues to be a part of this important work. This autumn term we will deliver the survey to Year 7, 8 and 10. You will be sent a letter from school with more information and how to opt out if you require it. This letter is also available in Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Polish, Punjabi, Urdu on request from the school office.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher