



9th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year to you and your family. As we embark on this new term, I would like to take a moment to share a reflection inspired by the words of John the Baptist in John 3:26–30. During a time when John's ministry was thriving and gaining many followers, he encountered a shift as Jesus began to gather His own disciples. Rather than feeling threatened or diminished, John responded with remarkable humility and joy, declaring, "He must increase; I must decrease." This powerful statement serves as a profound reminder for us all. It teaches us that every good thing in our lives—our talents, successes, and opportunities—are ultimately gifts from God and not solely the product of our own efforts or ambitions. It encourages us to allow God's presence and influence to grow within us and our community, while gently releasing our own desire for control, recognition, or personal gain. Just as John rejoiced wholeheartedly in Jesus' success without envy or jealousy, we too are called to live lives marked by humility, selflessness, and gratitude, giving glory to God rather than seeking the spotlight for ourselves.

In the spirit of new beginnings, I am pleased to share some exciting news from St Gabriel's. We are delighted to welcome two new members to our staff community. Mr. Olsen has joined our Religious Education department, bringing with him a deep passion for faith and a wealth of knowledge that will greatly enrich our students' spiritual and academic growth. Additionally, Mr. Fearn has joined our IT department, equipped with extensive experience and enthusiasm for technology education, which is increasingly vital in today's digital world. Both colleagues have already begun to make positive contributions, and we are confident that their dedication and expertise will enhance the learning experiences of all our students.

Year 9

Looking ahead, we are approaching an important milestone for our Year 9 students: the options process. This is a crucial time when students begin to make decisions that will shape their educational journey and future pathways. To support this, we have carefully planned a series of events designed to provide comprehensive information and guidance for both students and parents. On 10th February, we will host an information evening where a detailed options booklet and curriculum information will be shared. This event will also offer the opportunity for parents and students to visit subject areas, meet teachers, and ask questions, helping them to make well-informed choices. Leading up to this, assemblies will be held to prepare students thoughtfully, highlighting the importance of their decisions and the potential impact on their academic and personal development. Following the evening, we will arrange individual options appointments involving parents, students, and members of the Senior Leadership Team to confirm final choices and offer personalised advice tailored to each student's strengths, interests, and aspirations. We will provide further details and timings in upcoming communications to ensure everyone is fully informed and supported throughout this process.

Year 10

Parents evening is on Thursday at 3.45pm. Please ensure you have made appointments with your child's teachers.

Fundraising for Charity

During Advent we raised £476 pounds for CAFOD. We also created 20 Hampers and Christmas Presents for our own more vulnerable families. In addition to this Year 7 collected toiletries for Cornerstones which linked to the students English Reading curriculum where they have been learning about homelessness. Years 8-11 collected Food for a local food bank in Bury (Topping Fold) which was a response to a request from a Year 11 GIFT Team Student. We would like to thank all our families for their generosity and support.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support and partnership as we strive to provide an outstanding educational experience for all our students. Together, we can nurture a community where every young person is valued, inspired, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher