

04/09/2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome back our wonderful students this week and to see all of them in assembly, setting out expectations for this year.

As we start another year at St Gabriel's, our shared hope is simple: that every young person here can grow in faith, character and learning.

The words of Psalm 23 reminds us that we are not alone on that journey. God walks with us — through calm times and through challenges — and calls us to care for one another.

You play a central role in that calling. Your encouragement, routines at home and belief in your child's potential give them the stability they need to flourish. Together with our teachers and staff we will use our values — Strength, Service and Success — to shape daily life at school:

- **Strength:** helping students develop self regulation, resilience and the habit of arriving prepared and on time.
- **Service:** encouraging compassion and practical care for others, so faith is lived not only taught.
- **Success:** holding high expectations for effort and progress, so each student achieves the knowledge and skills they need.

During the assemblies Behaviour expectations were re-shared, there is nothing new here but reinforcing standards leads to increased performance. There are 5 simple expectations shared and are known to all our students. Please may I ask these are reinforced at home.

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Uniform

Thank you to vast majority of students, parents/carers and families that have continued to ensure uniform is worn to the highest standard. The uniform expectations were shared last term and again this week in assemblies with all our students. Please can parents/carers/families be aware that we will be ensuring that students wear their uniform correctly and with pride; any deviation from the uniform will be challenged and sanctioned when necessary and appropriate.

As a reminder, please see below the school uniform expectations as shared with students in assemblies and parents on the school website.

Uniform (Girls):

Navy blazer with school logo; navy pinafore with school logo (must be at least knee length) and must be worn with plain black tights, please note plain black ankle socks may be worn over tights; navy V-neck jumper with or without school logo (optional); plain white closed neck shirt, school year tie; black polishable shoes (no other colours, no fabric, no mesh, no metal enhancements)

Girls also have the option of plain black tailored or bootcut school trousers and from September 2026, a skort will be introduced as an alternative to the pinafore and may be worn without tights, with plain black ankle socks. Pinafores will be phased out by September 2027; until then, they must be worn with black tights. **Skorts must meet the minimum length requirement of no more than 2 inches above the knee, and where this is not met, students may be required to wear trousers.**

Uniform (Boys):

Navy blazer with school logo; black school trousers; navy V-neck jumper with or without school logo (optional); plain white closed neck shirt, school year tie; black polishable shoes (no other colours, no fabric, no mesh, no metal enhancements)

Prohibited:

- Leggings/flared trousers/fashion trousers
- Make-up.
- False eye-lashes.
- Facial piercings
- Hooped earrings, dropped earrings and stretchers
- White ankle socks
- Trainers
- Hoodies worn as jackets
- False nails and/or colourful nail varnish.
- Unnatural hair colours.
- Visible bracelets and chains cannot be worn for safety reasons.
- Badges not issued by school.

Attendance:

The majority of our students have arrived back to school on time, in the correct uniform, prepared for lessons and ready to learn. A gentle reminder to parents/carers/families of the attendance expectations below and this was also shared with all students in assembly this week.

Good attendance is 95% = no more than 9 days off a year (190 school days – good attendance is 181+ days)

Attendance During One School Year	Equals Days Absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed	Absence over 5 years
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	¼ year
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	½ year
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	1 year
70%	59 days	12 weeks	300 lessons	1 ½ years
60%	80 days	16 weeks	400 lessons	2 years
50%	100 days	20 weeks	500 lessons	2 ½ years

It is important to remember and recognise that not only does good attendance help with mental health by providing consistent routines and opportunities to be with peers but it is imperative for academic success. Students who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were almost twice as likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to students who only attended 90-95% of the time (**relating to up to 2 weeks more time in school over the course of a year**) and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (**relating to 4 - 6 weeks more time in school**).

Thank you for continuing to support our school expectations and ensuring our students meet them. If you have any concerns or queries regarding school uniform or attendance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form teacher in the first instance.

Year 7 Netball and Football Trials

Monday 7th September 3:10-4:30 in the PE department.

Year 8/9 Netball Trials

Tuesday 8th September 3:10-4:10 in PE.

Full PE kit required. For Football shin pads and football boots required.

You will be aware from our SEND coffee event, and previous correspondence, we have introduced co-regulation as a way to help your young person remain in class with support.

We would like to clarify that passes for underlying medical reasons are still in operation.

Kind regards



Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher



Key dates for KS3

September

NGRT Tests (Reading)

GL Science Progress Test (Year 7 only)

March

KS3 Assessments

April/May

GL Progress Tests in Maths and English

GL Progress Tests in Science (Year 9 Only)

June/July

NGRT Tests (Reading)



Parents Evenings

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
8th October 29th April	15th April	4th February

KS3 Assessment Reports are sent out at the end of every term via the Arbor App



Quality of Education

Key dates for Year 10

September- NGRT Tests (Reading)

16th December- Y10 reports sent home via the Arbor App.

7th January - Y10 parents' evening.

25th March- Y10 reports sent home via the Arbor App.

24th May-Y10 Work Experience week

W/C 7th June - Y10 Examination Preparation week

W/C 14th June-Y10 Examination weeks begin.

June/July- NGRT Tests (Reading)

8th July-Getting ready for Year 11 GCSE Information and Revision Skills Evening.

8th July - Y10 reports sent home via the Arbor App. (To be used on College Applications).





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Quality of Education

Key dates for Year 11

September- NGRT Reading Tests

2nd October- Year 11 College Applications to school if not already completed.

W/C 19th October- Y11 Mock 1 Preparation week.

W/C 3rd November- Mock 1 Examinations begin for two weeks-Hall-No resits.

3rd December- Year 11 Parents Evening 3.45-6.45pm NB: Students are expected to attend.

10th December- Reports to Parents/carers via the Arbor App.

W/C 25th January- Y11 Mock 2 Preparation week.

W/C 1st February- Mock 2 Examinations begin for two weeks-Hall-No resits.

10th March- Reports to Parents/carers via the Arbor App.

11th March- Year 11 Parents Evening 3.45-6.45pm NB: Students are expected to attend.

4th May- GCSE Examinations Start. NB: NEA and Practical Components will start prior to this.

Thursday 19th August- GCSE Results Day.

Year 11 After School Tuition Timetable 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
Science	Maths	English	GCSE PE
Geography	Psychology	RE	Voc PE
Photography	MFL (French and Spanish)	Art and Photography	
3D Design	3D Design	Computer Science	
	Hosp & Catering		
	History		

All Year 11 Students are welcome to attend

You can earn achievement points and achieve your goals