



**ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA**
Catholic Academy Trust

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



**STRENGTH
SERVICE
SUCCESS**

27 May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers.

We approach the end of our penultimate half term.

Our Year 11s have done amazingly well, being the first year group to sit GCSE examinations in formal exam conditions since 2019. We are really proud of the students for their resilience and determination and take this opportunity to thank all the staff, who for the past year have been leading extra classes after school, Easter and half term lessons and have been preparing intensive booster sessions and revision resources for our Year 11s before each exam. We pray that all this hard work pays off for our Year 11 in the summer results.

Yesterday, we celebrated Ascension Day, commemorating Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. On this day we remember our Lord and we reflect on the losses we have suffered over the past 12 months and pray that our past St Gabriel's family are also at peace in heaven. To this end, we will be creating memorials in School grounds to Hattie Dixon and to Dr Mark Hargreaves in the next half term. They will never be forgotten, but we feel we should ensure that their memory stays with us at St Gabriel's as part of our family forever.

In the next academic year, we will be establishing a parents' forum group for parents and carers to be part of some of our decision making processes (details to follow in September). We will also be establishing a Year 11 prom committee, for students to set acceptable prom attendance criteria themselves and be part of the planning process. Additionally, we intend to widen participation of the student council and fully review our rewards strategies, based on student voice. We recognise we need to update this and focus on the positives next year. We have amazing students and we want to celebrate this.

One negative to eradicate.....When we return to School after half term, we will be having another push on punctuality to lessons. To this end, students who are late to lesson after a break or lunchtime will receive after school detentions automatically. We would like to reassure parents and carers that firstly, the vast majority of students are never late between lessons (not after a break or lunch), and we understand the building covers a large footprint to move around. However, there are enough toilets available and plenty of staff serving food in our 2 eating areas, so being late after a 20 minute break or 40 minute lunchtime is not acceptable.

It has been confirmed by the council that school should again issue meal vouchers for the May holiday period for pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals. Therefore we are issuing vouchers through the Wonde / School Vouchers Scheme for the value of £15. If you are eligible, you will receive a text or email from Wonde / School Vouchers

The Council has also agreed to the payment of a one off school uniform grant to all families eligible for free school meals, on the basis of £50 per secondary age child (year 7 to 10), to be administered through schools. School will issue e-vouchers during May/June using the same Wonde / School vouchers scheme.

Finally, we sign off for half term by congratulating our Year 11 boys' football team for winning the Bury Cup Championship again in a 5-1 victory over Bury Grammar. Well done to our Year 11 boys and it was lovely to see so many parents, carers and other students there to support our team. Let's hope they are top of the league in their GCSE results too!

Lord Jesus, you became man and came to live among us. For love of us, you suffered and died for us. Because you are God, you conquered death and rose on the third day. Today you return to your Father and our Father, but you promised to remain with us till the end of time, and to send us the Holy Spirit.

God bless

Your St Gabriel's Team

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