



22 December 2021

### End of Term Letter December 2021

Dear Parents and carers, we have made it to our end of term and what a busy term this has been!

We have had visits from specialist leaders of education in Computing, Technology, Art, PE and a **2 day visit from our School Improvement Partner, an ex-Senior Her Majesty's Inspector**. During the visit, many of our leadership team, subject leaders, seconds in department and students were spoken to about School's progress, the curriculum, behaviour and teaching standards. We are delighted to report the following statements from the report;

***The school is almost unrecognisable when compared with my first visit 2 years ago. Leaders have a clear, unrelenting, and ambitious vision for providing a high-quality of education to all pupils. This vision of higher aspirations for all is shared across all layers of curriculum leadership.***

***In stark contrast to the poor and disrespectful behaviour witnessed two years ago, pupils I spoke to were unreservedly polite and friendly.***

***There has been a concerted and unrelenting focus on the curriculum which is now more than fit for purpose across both KS3 and 4.***

***There has been a powerful change in the culture at subject leadership level which has been a key feature in propelling the school forward.***

Also this term we have finally been able to get back to educational visits. Our students have gained opportunities to speak to Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Leader of the House of Commons, Captain Tim Peake, Astronaut, have represented St Gabriel's at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day and visited a local college and local Careers event. In addition to this, our Geographers went to Cleveleys to complete their field work, our music students visited Bridgewater Hall to experience an Orchestra, our students represented and successfully gained recognition at the Festival of Human Rights and many of our students gained their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. We are so proud of all our students, who have genuinely ploughed on and worked relentlessly with staff to overcome any gaps in learning the lockdown may have created, including our Year 11s, who completed their first set of GCSE mock exams and their attitudes and behaviour were exemplary throughout.

#### Other things to celebrate

As we near the end of the term, we reflect on the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ and on what we can do to serve Christ in our day to day lives. Our students have shown as ever, that St Gabriel's is still completely united as a family in Christ and that we are ever willing to serve our community. In this term, we have collected both food hampers and Mission for Christmas raising 25 bags of toys for families living in poverty, we have raised money for Cornerstones, one of our Diocese shelters for the homeless and we have completed service to our primary feeder schools by offering the services of our GCSE photography students, who visited St Joseph's in Ramsbottom to complete photography work with their students to produce art work for their school and show them how to use professional cameras and St Marie's in Bury to help out with their IT and library. The Eco group have also offered to support Holly Mount with their pond renovations.

And finally...for the first time in recent history, our Year 11s successfully completed a week of work experience. They are well on their journey for an exciting and hopeful future as adults in our communities.

## **Y11 after school interventions starting January**

Every year, our staff dedicate after school time to our Year 11s to help them reach their target grade. Last year, this compulsory part of the curriculum commenced in September. However, this year we have waited until after the mock exam outcomes in order that we can tailor a bespoke package for our students. To this end, parents and carers of Year 11, the after school compulsory lessons will commence the second week back in January and you will receive a timetable of what lessons are happening when. We will direct your child to wherever they have the greatest gaps between their target grades and their mock outcomes. They will be expected to attend at least 2 after school sessions per week if they fall below their target grades in their mocks. We hope all families support us this year again with the intervention schedule, as staff are all giving their time voluntarily to help continue to bridge any gaps the lockdown created in your child's GCSE education.

## **Government Announcements over the festive period**

Please note that if there are any Government announcements regarding a circuit breaker or lockdown over the festive period, we will address this at the time and parents and carers will receive emails and an announcement will be placed on the Schools website, so everyone is clear about what to do/when to return to School. At the point of this letter being written, Schools have received no information from the Department for Education or Public Health England.

***God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world.***

Watch School's Virtual Carol Concert on [youtu.be/GkZCuKX4P6Q](https://youtu.be/GkZCuKX4P6Q) featuring the sign language group, ukulele group, choir and Tottington brass band!

God bless for a happy and Holy Christmas.

Stay safe everyone,

Your St Gabriel's Team

Miss Corrigan, Mrs Roberts, Mr Stewart, Mrs Rosa, Dr Hargreaves, Mr Minshall, Mrs Middleton, Mrs Turner, Mrs Shiels, Mrs Nelson, Mr Killion, Mrs Heap and all our teaching staff, teaching support staff, admin team and premises staff.