



21 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We write to you at the end of a very busy but enormously successful half term. At the start of the term, we tightened up our behaviour policy further still, halving the number of behaviour points students could gain without consequences and our students have risen to this challenge. Behaviour this half term has been fantastic. Well done to all our students for demonstrating self-regulated behaviour!

Our Year 11s have been busy this half term, including their parents and carers. We had a fantastic turn out for Year 11 revision evening and St Gabriel's was well represented at the Bury Careers Event, with Dr Hargreaves and Miss Fox being present at the event to support any of our students and parents/carers.

During this half term, we have also managed to secure the **Quality in Careers Standard – a National Quality Award**. This was secured by our Assistant Head Teacher, Miss Drury. Miss Drury is passionate about ensuring all doors of opportunity are opened for our students. This year she leads on disadvantaged student progress and intervention, whilst Dr Hargreaves takes over careers.

We are thankful that we have managed to keep our Covid numbers minimal in School. Thank you to all families who have continued to test their children with the lateral flow tests. However, we have had one concern arising already this half term, which is attendance. **Despite our Covid numbers being lower than most other Schools and GCSE results being higher, our attendance still needs further work. We would ask all parents and carers to please support us with this matter by ensuring that your child attends school and attends on time** and that you speak to your child regarding using their mobile phones to call home ill. First aiders will call home if it is deemed that your child does need to go home.

Attendance is a key factor in Ofsted's judgement of behaviour. If attendance is not good, behaviour will not be judged as good.

Covid

The DfE is encouraging secondary schools to continue requesting that staff and pupils test for COVID-19 twice-weekly at home during the October half term break. Pupils and staff should also test at home the evening before returning to school.

The NHS has confirmed that alongside the in-school vaccination programme, 12- to 15-year-old pupils that are eligible for the coronavirus vaccine will be able to receive their jab at walk-in centres from the October half term. Parents and pupils aged 12-15 will receive a letter from the NHS which will include information regarding how to book an appointment out of school.

If your child is vaccinated over half term, please inform School via email so we can remove them from the School nurse list.

Service

In the week beginning 13th December, all our students will take part in activities to teach them about Service and will gain opportunities to participate in service to our parishes. So far on our list we have visits to St Joseph's in Ramsbottom, with the photography students teaching St Joseph's students how to use professional cameras and producing a collage for their School display and a call from Holly Mount for the Eco Team to dig out their pond and work on their outdoor area. We also be completing charity work for our parishes in this week. Service week will take place once per term from this point onwards, reflecting our mission statement of Strength, Service, Success.



Goodbyes

This half term we say goodbye to Mrs Vaughan, our attendance officer. Mrs Vaughan has worked at St Gabriel's for 17 years, sending both her children through St Gabriel's and will be sadly missed. We wish her good health and good luck for her retirement.

Student success

During the first half term of School, our students have gained over **29,000 mission stamps!!!!** This is for demonstrating strength, service or success in lessons or around school. Year 7s are slightly in the lead, but most other year groups are in line with each other and every year group have gained over 4,000. This is an amazing achievement for one half term. **Over 100 students have also achieved 5 stars of the lesson in one week at any point this half term. Follow us on twitter to see who gained 5 star of the lessons in a week on @StGabsbury**

Sporting Success

Jessica Connolly (Y11) has gained a place in U17's Manchester Thunder Netball Squad

Amelia Crawford (Y10) has gained a place in U17's Leeds Athletic Development Squad

Imogen Young (Y11) has gained a place in the U16's Lancashire Cricket Squad and has been awarded a place on the emerging players programme.

Team Success:

Year 9 Girls Netball v Elton High 15-8 **Won**

Year 7 Boys English Schools Competition Football v Audenshaw School 3-2 **Won**

Year 9 Boys Bury Cup v The Heys School 4-2 **Won**

U13 Girls Football English Schools Competition v Ormskirk School 6-2 **Won**

Year 10 Girls Netball v Woodhey High School 17-8 **Won**

Year 9 Girls Netball v Woodhey High School 4-3 **Won**

Year 9 Girls Netball v Elton High School 14-8 **Won**

And....

Year 11 Boys Basketball team through to the Bury Finals this evening hoping to win.

Year 7 Girls Football Squad playing in the Bury Schools competition this evening

Year 9 Boys Football in the English Schools Competition v Wilmslow High School this evening

Team Gabs all the way !!!!!

Personal Development, including Ethos and Spirituality

Both our Y7s and Y8s have received external visitors this half term. Y7s spent the day with the **Youth in Christ** Team and Y8s had a visit from the **BsafeBcool** team. **Father Paul Cannon also led mass with our Year 7s**, many of them reading scriptures for us. Thank you Fr Paul !!!

Buildings update

Coming any time now – the new fence round the John Banks Building!!

Whole new roof for School – works starts in spring and all roofs will be replaced over a 12 month period, as well as School's front fence.

New about Baron Street – whilst this is not part of School's property, we can confirm that we have been in discussions with the council regarding this matter and a proposal has been put forward for resurfacing Baron Street and widening it to add a pavement. Watch this space!

A busy and productive half term.

Thank you Lord, for this half term. For our challenges, our successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt. Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends. Give us strength and courage to do what is right: to be witnesses of our faith. St Gabriel and St Teresa, pray for us.

God bless to all our family.

Your St Gabriel's Team