

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School

23 October 2020



Dear parents and carers,

It is finally half term!!!! As you can imagine, this half term has been a real challenge for us. However, we are sharing only positive news in this final letter of the half term.

Firstly – **our PE changing rooms are completed and open for business!!** We invited Mr Loster to come and officially open the changing rooms and our new Chapel – the St Theresa of Calcutta Chapel. We hope the students can finally use facilities which meet their needs. **If any of you attended St Gabriel's, can remember the changing rooms and want to see what they look like now, follow the link below for an inside view of the rooms and the Chapel.**

<https://youtu.be/VWV6IBTG6go>

Also, we had some amazing news this week. After a long tough battle with the DfE, **we have had confirmation that we have secured a bid for 2.1 million pounds worth of work to be completed on our building!!!!** This is an amazing achievement, backed all the way by the Diocese. We are absolutely delighted that many issues can now be addressed and are looking forward to the installation of new boilers and new roofs throughout the building. St Gabriel has certainly been looking after us this half term. It is very unusual for Schools to receive bids as large as this, which reflects the DfEs confidence in us as a community.

In the next 2 months we will convert to the St Theresa of Calcutta Academy Trust. We have been working closely with them already and our new Chapel is named the St Theresa of Calcutta Chapel in honour of St Theresa.

Attendance of students through the half term has remained high. Thank you for battling on also to ensure your child attends. Overall their behaviour has been brilliant, despite having to adapt to split bubbles and remaining mostly in one room. We do acknowledge that this is a challenge for many children.

Free School Meals

Throughout the pandemic we have been paying for free school meals for all the students who are entitled, including the holidays. This will continue to be the case this half term, as we feel it very important that families who are struggling receive our support. As times get tougher, please do not hesitate to contact us if your family begins to struggle financially. We will offer help in whatever way we possibly can, including help with outgrown uniforms wherever our budget will allow. Our prayers are with all families worried about their financial futures and we want you to know that we are behind you at this time.

Coming after half term....

Our **British sign language** class are preparing to take their first optional exam – go St Gabs BSL group!!!

All students will receive **defibrillator training** as part of our school pledge and a second defibrillator will be in place at school.

City of Trees project will be visiting School to meet our **Eco group**. We aim to support Greater Manchester by planting trees on our school site, whilst our bee garden is growing underground ready for spring.

Comino project commences – we have engaged with a national programme of links between schools and industry, which will see our students working on projects ranging from poets in residence to develop national adverts, media gurus in industry, Canon (cameras) regarding photography skills and many other potential

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

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projects to ensure our students gain all possible personal development opportunities and future employment skills.

Excelsior Award – a book review club focused upon novels, which will mean our students will participate in reading novels and having a part to play in which international author will gain an annual award. They will also gain an opportunity to interview the winning author!

So, despite the pandemic, it's business as usual for St Gabriel's and we are pushing forwards to regain our former glory!!

Ukulele club !!

Please could we ask that you spare us 5 minutes over the half term to complete the Ofsted parent view questionnaire by following the link below;

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

Please consider carefully the following questions;

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

- Remember – this is on the cover of all your children's books plus there is a section on the website which says 'curriculum' (look at the blue tabs to the top of the page) for all the knowledge you need.

The school lets me know how my child is doing.

- We send reports out every time your child is assessed, there is ongoing communication through your child's passport where required and all students received calls throughout the pandemic lockdown. Although it is frustrating regarding parents evenings at the moment, please reflect on our restrictions before answering fairly.

There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

- We offer most subjects at GCSE level, but are looking towards offering psychology, engineering, business studies and photography in the forthcoming academic year if staffing allows. We are really excited about this prospect.

My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

- Again – very much out of our hands due to Covid restrictions and all staff teaching after school on Y11 catch up every day. However, we usually do offer a huge range of clubs and many of these will be resumed after half term within bubbles, including our new ukulele club !!

The school supports my child's wider personal development.

- We have lots of personal development opportunities, some of which are mentioned in this letter, plus we will be going back to our usual trips abroad once the DfE allow this. The Duke of Edinburgh Award numbers are growing year on year.

We hope you have a peaceful and restful half term.

God bless,



L Corrigan
Headteacher

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From far left: Mrs Middleton Associate Assistant Headteacher for Ethos and Spirituality, Miss Zubair, Adult Leader for Chaplaincy, Mr Loster, Former Headteacher and VIP guest and Miss Corrigan, Headteacher

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