



# ST GABRIEL'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## PRONUNTIO



Dec 2019



## This Advent

Advent is the time in which we prepare for Christmas: the memorial of Jesus Christ being born into the world. Preparations are practical, like decorating a tree or stringing lights, but they're also intended to be spiritual. We would encourage you to support your child to reflect upon this, as well as enjoying an exciting Christmas day.

**Did you know...** Advent comes from the Latin ad+venire, which means, essentially "to come to," or "to come toward." Ad+venire is the root of the Latin "Adventus" which means "arrival."

So Advent is the season of arrival: the arrival of Christ in our hearts, in the world, and into God's extraordinary plan for our salvation. On behalf of the whole St Gabriel's family, past and present, we wish you and your family a joyous and Holy advent.

**God bless**

**Your St Gabriel's team**

## Christmas Card

This year's Christmas card was a collaborative response created by year 9 pupils Nimran Munawar, Michal Dabrowski, Shanelle Farrer and Emilia Ratajczak as a celebration of this holy season.



## News from Miss Corrigan

Thank you to all our parents and community for the ongoing and overwhelming support this term. We have made huge strides towards rapidly improving the opportunities for pupils here at St Gabriel's over the first term. We now have Specialist Leaders in Education working alongside the Maths team, Languages team, Science team and RE team. We also have 3 external, acting or ex-acting, Ofsted inspectors (one of whom was a Senior HMI) working with school to scrutinise all the improvements we are making. We are gaining extremely positive feedback from them and taking every action possible to ensure we get St Gabriel's back to its former status as rapidly as possible.

A group of our students have now commenced British Sign Language lessons. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn an invaluable life skill. If your child wishes to gain this opportunity, please ask them to sign up on the waiting list outside Mrs Roberts' office.

Also coming in January is an opportunity to join our cheerleading group. We have reflected on your concerns regarding children getting more enrichment opportunities and are working hard to ensure there will be even more opportunities coming very soon and this will be supported by the move back to one lunchtime.

Our multi-generational St Gabriel's choir is also well underway. If you are a past student or member of staff of St Gabriel's, you are very welcome to join our choir, which practises on Tuesday at 3 o'clock. We would please ask though that you observe safeguarding regulations

by ensuring you wait in reception and are escorted by the teaching team down to the rehearsal rooms.

Our students will also be offered an opportunity to complete the Caritas in Action Award, becoming more involved in their Parishes, with the support of school to achieve this award.

Over the recent months, the students at St Gabriel's have demonstrated that they are committed to making school a more environmentally friendly place. Therefore, in January, every child will be given a re-usable water bottle on behalf of school so we can start playing more of a part in reducing plastic resources which make such an impact on our planet.

Every middle leader in school will commence a leadership programme with Ambition Schools from January 2020. This is a fantastic personal development opportunity for St Gabriel's staff and it will help us strengthen the leadership of teaching and learning across every subject area. This is a vital move towards securing good for leadership and management in an Ofsted inspection, as very little of the new Ofsted framework reflects upon senior leadership.

We are continuing to work in collaboration with Loreto Teaching School Alliance, and more recently, with Thornleigh Salesian College to share the very best school improvement strategies. Overall, it's been a really busy term with so many new initiatives to bring about rapid improvement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, pupils and our governing body who have worked so hard in my first term as Head teacher, to make a difference to St Gabriel's.

## Year Seven take up the STEM challenge

This year, pupils have embarked on various practical investigations to increase both their skills and interest in STEM. Highlights include: pupils working in teams to design the perfect parachute to safely transport an egg from deployment (Mr Barrow's window - thanks sir!) to the ground. Pupils also had a glimpse into the life of a surgeon, by dissecting various gruesome body parts as well as a rat! Many pupils successfully designed a safe packaging system for a Pringle to make it all the way from the post office, back to school - in one piece! We rounded off STEM this year with pupils making their very own snow globes and snow cookies! In the new year we will be extracting DNA, solving a crime and making bridges; there is no rest for our future engineers!



## Coffee Morning Success

Another year, another Coffee Morning with close to £2,000 raised for Bury African Outreach and our partner school; the Good Shepherd Special School in Uganda. This takes our total raised for the charity to an amazing £37,000. Thanks to all our volunteers from pupils, staff and the community, and everyone who contributed to making it such an enjoyable and successful event.



## The Gift of Faith

Just Youth Year 7 Retreat Days-Just Youth led the Year 7 Retreat Days. The theme was on how pupils can contribute to our school community in their everyday lives. The activities which the pupils experienced were very thought-provoking and relevant to their age group. Our 30 Year 10 Peer Mentors showed fantastic leadership skills and acted as small group leaders. A few weeks later we then came together to celebrate our Year 7 Welcome Mass in order to welcome our new families to our community.

**GIFT Team-** We are delighted that so many pupils want to support the Catholic Ethos of our school. We now have 20 Pupil Chaplains and 26 MAD (Making a Difference) group members. The Pupil Chaplains have been busy creating and delivering assemblies and liturgies on Anti-Bullying, Interfaith issues and Advent. MAD Group have been hard at work helping organise Coffee Morning, Christmas Hampers and discussing environmental and community issues using Caritas Faith in Action resources.

**Prayer Boxes-** As well as using our School Prayer Book, each form has created Prayer Boxes. Pupils are given opportunities to write an individual prayer on a piece of paper and then place it in their Form's Prayer Box. The whole form group then prays for the requests in the Prayer Box.



## Careers Inspiration

This year pupils have achieved so much already in regards to considering their careers and future destinations. Year 11 and Year 10 pupils attended our fantastic careers fair in October. This was a massive success. The night involved a range of college and sixth forms, and key employers from across the country and the Bury area. Over 300 pupils and parents attended the evening. Look out in the New Year for invites to 1:1 apprenticeship sessions and group workshops. Finally watch out for our fantastic careers cafes which will continue in the New Year, where pupils can speak to, and learn from, a range of employers.



## Mayoral Visit

On 10th December, we were blessed by a visit from the Mayor of Bury. The Mayor heard the St Gabriel's choir sing and met with the Making a Difference group. He was overwhelmed by our students, who were as exemplary in their politeness as ever. Our students have been invited to the Town Hall in the New Year and will also be participating in the Holocaust memorial day event. We thank the Mayor for taking the time to visit our community.

