

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we journey together through the season of Lent, a time of reflection, renewal and preparation, we want to thank you all for being a valued part of our wider Trust family and for the support that you offer to our pupils, staff and schools.

Across the schools of St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, Lent invites us to reflect and consider how we can strengthen our shared mission: helping every child to flourish academically, spiritually and personally within a strong Catholic community.

In the spirit of growth and transformation that Lent inspires, you will begin to see some exciting developments across our Trust family over the coming months.

### **St Gabriel the Archangel**

The mission statement for St Gabriel the Archangel is: *Forming Christ-centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice.* Whilst your school's mission statement, values and logo will always remain and be at the heart of your school community, pupils have been exploring the image which represents their extended school family:



Cross



Halo



Trumpet



Wings



Flower



Ellipsis

We will be sharing many photographs of pupils' learning about St Gabriel on our social media platforms over the coming weeks. Children from all schools are also coming together to record the St Gabriel the Archangel songs, which we look forward to sharing with you as well.

### **Strengthening the Voice of Parents and Pupils**

We also want to deepen how we listen to and learn from the families and young people we serve. We will, therefore, be introducing parent and pupil engagement opportunities across the Trust. These will operate at several levels:

- School groups to hear local perspectives and ideas
- Regional groups bringing schools voices together within local areas
- Trust-wide to share insights and help shape future developments

Your voice as parents is vital. These opportunities will help to ensure that the experiences and ideas of families across our schools informs how we grow and improve together.

As we begin this work, we would particularly value your reflections on the three questions in this online form: [Growing Together as a Trust](#)

These questions will help to shape the discussions in our engagement groups and guide future developments across the Trust.

### **Celebrating Talent Across Our Schools**

Staff in our schools have suggested inter-school, regional and Trust-wide celebrations and events for pupils.

These would celebrate the many gifts and talents of our young people, in areas such as:

- academic achievement
- sport
- the arts and creativity
- faith and service
- innovation and enterprise

By bringing pupils together across our schools, we hope to strengthen friendships, build confidence and celebrate the wonderful diversity of our Trust family.

### **Thank You to Our Families**

None of the work of our schools would be possible without the support of parents and carers. Your encouragement, patience, and partnership with our staff make an enormous difference to the lives of the young people entrusted to us.

During this season of Lent, a time when we are invited to reflect on the gifts we have been given and the ways we are called to serve one another, we are especially grateful for the love and dedication shown by families across our Trust.

**A Prayer for Our Families:** [link to prayer card](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership with our schools. We look forward to sharing more about these developments with you over the coming months.

With every good wish and blessing,

Toni Ellis

On behalf of St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust