1st December 2023

Dear All,

Happy Feast Day!

Although the main focus this Sunday, 3rd December will be the start of Advent, it also marks the Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier, our patron and inspiration.

St. Francis was born in Xavier Castle, Spain in 1506 and as a young man joined St. Ignatius Loyola's newly formed Order of Jesus. Francis was sent as a missionary to what is now India, Japan and other countries in the East where he worked tirelessly to spread the message of the Gospel, establish schools and hospitals, baptise people by the thousands and generally serve others wherever he was needed. He was fearless in the face of danger, which he experienced much of on his many adventures around the world, and he saw Christ in all things.

Within the Xavier Catholic Education Trust today, we strive to continue Francis' mission by finding purpose, love and goodness in everything we do, by going wherever we are needed to nurture children and staff, and by putting Christ at the centre of all that we do. This is our mission, and we are proud to be serving you through it.

We celebrate St. Francis Xavier's Feast Day with a long weekend, so please remember that Monday isn't just about "Christmas shopping" as it is often billed but a celebration of all that is good about this wonderful enterprise of ours. Regardless of how you choose to spend the day, perhaps you will find time to offer up a short prayer of thanks to St. Francis for all that we are blessed with.

Today there is double cause for celebration as we welcome the school communities of St. Joseph's, Guildford and St. Cuthbert's into the Xavier family. Although we have had the privilege of working with both schools for some time, today is their first official day in the Trust and we are very excited about two such wonderful communities joining us.

I shall be in touch again before the end of term but in the meantime, on behalf of everyone here, I would wish you a prayerful, enriching and fruitful Advent and a very happy weekend.

God bless,

James Kibble
CEO