

1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Dear All,

I hope this finds everyone well into their stride as we reach the halfway point in the first half term of this not so new academic year. Let me start by offering a warm welcome to all those who have joined the Xavier community this term, new staff, governors, parents and especially new children and students who have started in our schools. I hope you are enjoying being part of this special family.

We have had much to celebrate over the summer but before we turn to that, I want to offer our condolences to those who are recently bereaved across the Trust and particularly to the families and friends of, students Rory Niewiarowski and Nathan Torres, and, St. Peter's former Head of RE, Hannah Fogell, all of whom have died in recent weeks. All three will be remembered by members of their individual school communities for all the goodness they brought to their studies and vocation. Please remember them and their families in your prayers. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

The summer holiday is a busy period in our schools, and we are extremely grateful to all those who keep working beyond the end of term. Schools' Premises teams and the Trust's Estates and IT teams have completed condition work and improvement projects in every setting, ensuring that everyone has a new or improved learning environment to return to. This work has been supported by Business Managers and those in our Finance team who have also continued throughout the summer to ensure that everything keeps ticking over. Well done and thank you to all concerned.

Exams officers in our secondary schools have been busy too of course, working behind the scenes to facilitate the publication of nearly 2,000 sets of GCSE, A' level and other post-16 results. Once again students in all four schools were celebrating huge success and looking forward to the prospect of well-earned next steps of their choice. We are delighted for them and offer our congratulations and extend our appreciation to them, their families and the staff for all the hard work that went into this collective effort. As well as all the individual success, these combined achievements will likely see Xavier being named as one of the highest performing multi-academy trusts in the country again this year.

Thank you to all those who attended the Induction Masses for two of our new Headteachers, Gemma Willcox at St. Charles Borromeo, Weybridge and Martyn Peebles at St. Polycarp's, Farnham. It was truly uplifting to see the school and parish communities gathered together with Bishop Richard to celebrate these splendid occasions and witness these school leaders professing their commitment to the vocation of Catholic education. We are truly blessed to work with such good people across the Trust. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thank you also to all those who have attended parent information evenings already this term. The partnership between school and family is key to the success of our Xavier schools, and these events, that staff work so hard to prepare, provide a platform for launching what we hope will be another happy and successful year for all the young people in our care. This success doesn't happen without the hard work and commitment of every member of our Trust community, and on behalf of all our young people, I thank you in advance for playing your part. We can't do this well without your support.

Our theme at Xavier this week is "Love your Neighbour". This is based on the Gospel reading about the rich man and Lazarus, where we are reminded of the importance of not only recognising our neighbour but the perils of not taking the trouble to act in compassion to assist them when they are in difficulty. Given the increasingly fractured state of the society we live in, this basic act of Christian service becomes ever more important. Before any of the fatigue of a long term sets in, let's take a moment to appreciate how blessed we all are and commit, once again to working well together, not only for the good of the young people in our care but for the good of all those in society who will be served by our students in the future, through the vocations we are nurturing in our schools. We look forward to working in collaboration with you once again this year, to inspire the children to achieve great things and be a force for good in our world.

God bless,

James Kibble  
CEO