

27th November 2025

Dear All,

HAPPY FEAST DAY! This is probably a little premature depending on when you're reading this letter but the feast of our patron, St Francis Xavier falls on 3rd December, which is why we have the additional day of holiday on Monday. During his lifetime, some 500 years ago, St Francis Xavier provided a beacon of living hope by dedicating himself to spreading the message of the Gospel and taking practical steps to serve the poor by establishing schools and hospitals wherever he went. Everyone within the Xavier Trust is encouraged to imitate the great man through our work today, offering hope to all by going about our business in a spirit of loving kindness. We give thanks for all that is achieved in our schools as a result of this approach, not to mention the prospect of a lie-in on Monday!



It is my great pleasure to offer a very warm welcome to the pupils, families, staff and governors of **St. Peter's Catholic Primary School in Leatherhead**, who joined the Trust at the beginning of the month. We are delighted to have another great Catholic school joining the Xavier family and look forward to everything we will achieve together for the good of the children over the coming years. With only 6 more schools still to join the Trust over the next 3 years, we are almost at full strength as a family of schools which is great news for everyone concerned as we reap the benefits of working together as a community of Catholic education going forward.

Last week the Diocese held a conference for school leaders where we were blessed to hear Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe's reflections on the theme of "hope" and the legacy of the Jubilee Year which drew to a close last Friday. The Cardinal has, over decades of ministry, spent time all over the world and often in the most challenging of circumstances, mainly in various war-torn parts of the Middle East. He offered the provision of education as one of the greatest symbols of hope, as it has the power to transform the lives of young people, even when they start their journeys amidst the destruction of war. Reflecting on quite how difficult life is for many serves as a reminder of how fortunate we are to be living in this corner of the world and at this time. The very real challenges that many of us face are at least made manageable by living in a fair, just, and, for the most part, peaceful society which is served well by public services, which although creaking are at least still there for us. Unfortunately, it is all too easy to forget how blessed we are when we find things difficult.

As we embark on the season of Advent next week, we are called to reflect on these blessings and enter into a period of quiet but joyful preparation and expectation for the coming of Our Lord. In an age where so many of us, not just youngsters, find it difficult to be still, we are encouraged to find the time and space to engage with the theme of hope and think about how we, through the example of our own lives, can spread that sense of hope in our world.

For those seeking to take practical steps to offer hope, the [CAFOD Advent Appeal](#) offers the chance to make a real difference where people need it the most. Those wishing to do something closer to home may want to think about how we encourage one another to demonstrate resilience and endurance when things are difficult, rather than resorting to self-pity or complaint. And for those who are just seeking to escape the hype of the build up to Christmas, Advent is a good time to return to Church and reconnect with the source of all hope, God Our Father. However you choose to spend Advent, I wish you every blessing. Stay hopeful!

Finally, thank you. Everyone in our Trust, staff, students, pupils, parents, families, governors and directors all play a vital part in delivering excellent Catholic education. Thank you for all that you continue to do to make Xavier a very special community to belong to.

God bless,

James Kibble
CEO