

16th September 2026

Dear All,

Welcome back to a new academic year. I can hardly believe that we are already in the third week of term!

I would like to begin by asking for your prayers for Rahulan Chelliah, his family, friends and former teachers. Rahulan, a Year 13 student at St. Andrew's last year, tragically lost his life in a road traffic accident at the start of term. We give thanks for the joy he brought to so many and pray that all who mourn his loss may find comfort. May he rest in peace.

Thank you to everyone who has already supported the children's education by attending events in our schools. It has been wonderful to see so many families joining us at Welcome and Information Evenings, celebrations and Masses across the Trust.

Pictured here are students from SJB, Woking, with Fr Rob Esdaile and Deacon Simon Tierney, who celebrated their first whole-school Mass of the year.



We offer a warm welcome to all the new children, students, families, staff and governors who are joining the Xavier family this September. We hope you will be very happy during your time with us, and we look forward to doing everything we can to support you to flourish. Please remember all new starters in your prayers, including our new Headteachers: Elizabeth Bolton at St. Peter's, Guildford; Adam Brooks at St. Andrew's, Leatherhead; Lize Claassen at St. Joseph's, Dorking; and Annabelle Spacagna at Holy Family, Addlestone. All four have made an excellent start, and we give thanks for their commitment to taking on the mantle of leadership.

There was much to celebrate over the summer, not least the excellent GCSE, A Level and BTEC results achieved by students across our secondary schools. We are proud of all they have accomplished, and we give thanks for the tireless work, expertise and patience of everyone who supported them on their journey, especially their parents and our staff. Helping young people to achieve their potential and become the best versions of themselves remains at the heart of our mission.

Of course, not everyone has been on holiday over the summer, and we would like to thank all those staff, both at the Trust and in our schools, who have been working so hard. Your efforts have not only ensured that essential operations have continued uninterrupted but have also helped to improve and prepare our schools for the children's return this September. Projects of various sizes have been completed at every school across the Trust, and it has been wonderful to see children and staff already benefiting from enhanced facilities, resources and learning environments.

Finally, let us give thanks for the opportunity to be part of a community of Catholic education at the start of this new academic year. At a time when news and social media can often focus on uncertainty and challenge, we remain hopeful about the potential of the young people in our care to rise to the challenges they will face in the future. The values of faith, hope and love that we strive to instil in them during their time with us stand them, and all of us, in good stead for the future. It is both a privilege and a joy to share in the mission of Catholic education, and we look forward with hope and confidence to all that this year will bring.

Please be assured of my prayers and best endeavours for you all in the months to come.

God bless,

James Kibble