



## Headteacher's Letter Week 1

Dear Parents,

It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back to the start of the new academic year 2019/20 at St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School. I would like to congratulate our outgoing Year 13 and Year 11 students on their excellent A Level and GCSE examinations over the summer. I would also like to congratulate our Year 10 statistics students who completed their GCSE a year early; 32% of students achieved grades 9-8 and 68% achieved 9-7.

On Wednesday, we welcomed our new cohort of Year 7 students, along with our Year 11 Peer Mentors and also our Year 12 students. The day was filled with excitement and optimism about the new year and term ahead and I was very pleased to be able to speak to both groups of students about their time in school and the future.

On Thursday we welcomed back pupils in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13. It was great to see our students back in school, well rested after their summer break and ready and to engage in their learning. I would like to thank all our pupils who undertook the summer holiday activities, which ensured that they are fully prepared for the term ahead.

I am very pleased that the new Café is open to pupils and their reaction to the new facility was one of delight. The Café is the latest new build project at St Bernard's since 2003 when the Sports Hall was completed. Pupils were overwhelmingly positive about the facilities which I hope they enjoy using for many years to come.

I would like to welcome the following new staff who joined us in September.

- Mr J Dunford – Teacher of English
- Mrs M El Hamdani – French Language Assistant
- Mr M Fieldhouse – Teacher of Boys' PE
- Mrs H Khan – Part Time Teacher of English
- Ms B Kaur – Teacher of Psychology and Sociology
- Mrs V Kaur – Teacher of Science
- Mr A Kular – Head of Mathematics
- Mrs J McGurrell – Part Time Teacher of RE (Maternity Cover)
- Mrs C McQuillan – Part Time Head of Humanities Faculty
- Mr L Milisci – Teacher of Computing
- Mr B Powell – Teacher of PE
- Mrs A Rasheed – Teacher of Mathematics and Economics
- Mrs K Robinson – Part Time Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)
- Dr R Sharma – Teacher of Chemistry
- Mrs A Turley – Part Time Teacher of English & Theatre Studies

I would like to thank those staff who worked throughout the summer break to ensure the school was ready for when pupils returned in September, including our SLT, Admissions, Finance and Site Teams.

I would also like to thank Mrs Jenny Hughes, our Parent Ambassador , who co-ordinated a number of event over the summer for our new Year 7 pupils. The opportunity for pupils and parents to meet informally as part of the transition to secondary school has really helped our new pupils feel ' at home' at St Bernard's so quickly.

There are a number of important updates which we intend to share with parents at our Information Evenings on:-

KS3 - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September - 6:30pm

KS5 - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September - 6:30pm

KS4 - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September - 6:30pm

I look forward to the year ahead and working with pupils, parents, staff and school governors to ensure that St Bernard's continues to be an amazing school!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Kassapian  
**Headteacher**



School website: [www.st-bernards.slough.sch.uk](http://www.st-bernards.slough.sch.uk)  
Twitter: @StBernardsCGS

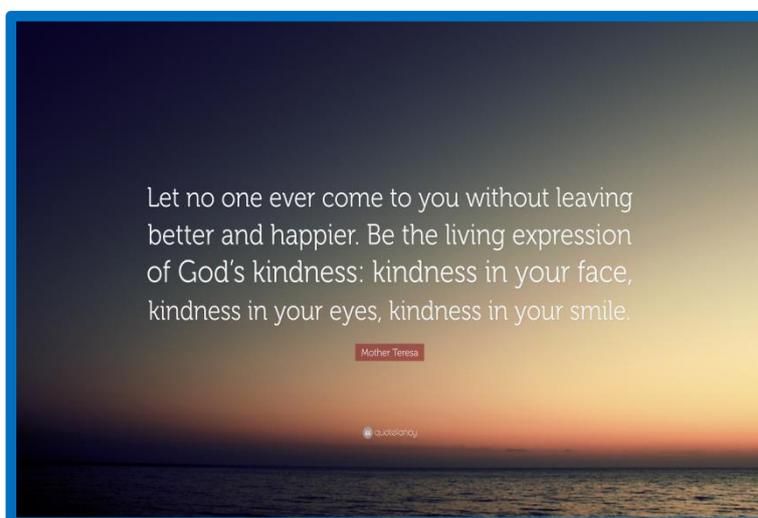
# Chaplain's Message



During the summer break on the 20<sup>th</sup> August it was the feast day of our school's patron, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. In memorial of St Bernard I would like to direct your attention to Sr Mary Apolline from the Bernadine Cistercian community at Brownhill, Stroud, giving her reflection on the remarkable saint and also her life as a Bernadine sister.

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/the-prayerful-guide-st-bernard-of-clairvaux>

This week, on the 4<sup>th</sup> September we have had the third anniversary of Mother Teresa becoming a Saint. Her feast day is the 5<sup>th</sup> September. Saint Teresa of Calcutta did some amazing work in her lifetime and was made a saint after two miracles were attributed to her. There are many quotes from Saint Teresa of Calcutta but one of my personal favourites is below.



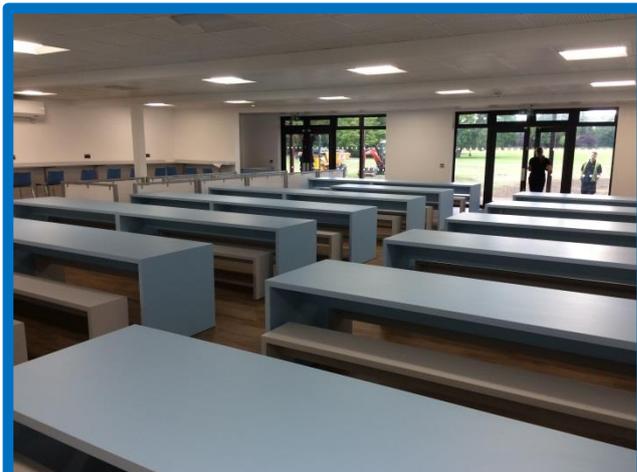
If we can all follow this example of how to interact with one another, I hope that the Mission Statement from our school which states that we strive to uphold the Christian values of Love, Forgiveness and Compassion not only shines out through our pupils and staff but also shines out through the wider St Bernards community, including parents and other family members.

Saint Mother Teresa was greatly guided by God's Word through the passage 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'. (Matt25:40) On the 30<sup>th</sup> September the Catholic Church is beginning a 'Year of the Word' which is placing specific focus on the Bible. In school the pupils and staff will be exploring different Bible passages weekly as part of their form prayer and each newsletter will have some reflection of this. Is God's Word speaking to you? For today I will leave you with this quote from Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'

**Siobhan Denney**  
School Chaplain



# Café update



We are delighted that the canteen is finished and ready for the students to use. Further information regarding menus and prices will be sent next week.



Our New Year 7 students were the first cohort to meet in the canteen for an Assembly with Mr Kassapian.

