



### Headteacher's Letter Week 2

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy and successful first full week back for students and staff at St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School. On Monday, the week began with our General Assembly on the theme of discipleship. Pupils reflected on the Gospel message and also on Pope Francis' visit to Africa. The themes of our commitment to the poor and destitute in society and our responsibility towards the environment which are two of the Popes central messages, were considered very carefully and prayerfully.

On Tuesday, Father Kevin, Parish Priest at the Holy Family Church celebrated our start of year Mass for pupils in Year 7 to 11. The Mass was a wonderful opportunity to put all the school's intentions for the academic year, in the hands of our loving Father, who cares and guides all our actions.

Throughout the week, I have been visiting lessons to see how our new pupils and staff are settling in and I have been very pleased with what I have seen so far. Pupils have been very positive about the changes we have implemented at the start of the year, including the use of Class Charts to reward their positive work and commitment to school life. Pupils have reported that homework is being set regularly and I know parents value the App, to know what pupils are doing and when the deadlines are set for completed work to be returned.

I would like to thank members of the PE Department who have been holding trials for sports teams particularly Football and Netball for the pupils this week.

I look forward to welcoming parents to our Information Evenings next week. Parents are invited to arrive from 5.45pm, when the new Café will be open serving light refreshments. The Information Evenings begin at 6.30pm.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm - Year 8 & 9 Information Evening

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm - Year 12 & 13 Information Evening

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm - Year 10 & 11 Information Evening

I would like to remind parents that school will close at 2pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September for the school's Open Evening.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'P. Kassapian'.

Paul Kassapian  
Headteacher



# Chaplain's Message



On Tuesday we were blessed to have the company of Fr Kevin to celebrate Mass for years 7 to 11. It was a beautiful occasion and the students conducted themselves in a mature and prayerful manner. Thank you to Fr Kevin for coming along and to the readers, ministers, servers, musicians, tech team, site staff and everyone who contributed, for their support, especially, Pippi, Alden, Aaron and Tamara. During this mass we heard the Gospel reading of Jesus choosing his twelve apostles. In the dictionary the word 'apostle' is defined as 'a vigorous and pioneering advocate'. Are you a vigorous and pioneering advocate of God?

You can read the passage

here: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A12-19&version=NIV>



Pupils from Holy Family Parish  
with Fr Kevin

I would like to share with you an interview with Cardinal Vincent Nichols the head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/cardinal-nichols-archbishop-of-westminster/id1473128357?i=1000447734295>

**Siobhan Denny**  
School Chaplain



# My first week in Year 7



I have enjoyed my first week at St Bernard's thoroughly. Every moment has been great – from making new friends to being allowed to play football every day. I've also found learning four languages quite enjoyable since some languages can be similar to others. So far my time at St Bernard's has been amazing. **Yuvann 7B**

I have enjoyed making lots of friends in different forms, the new café, the lessons and all of my teachers who are all very kind and helpful. Also I have enjoyed my language lessons especially. **Eden 7B**

So far my experience at St Bernard's has been wonderful. I have made many new friends and I have been treated nicely by all the other year groups as well. The lessons have been really interesting for me as well and all the different topics that I have already done have been great. The lessons are fun and the teachers are great as well because they each have different methods of teaching that make each topic unique. **Cyprian 7S**



**Yuvaan and Eden**



**Max, Cyprian and Lydia**

School has been good. I like the teachers and the lessons. I like the independence. **Vivienne 7R**

The first week has been very enjoyable. The lessons are fun and enjoyable. I know my way around the school now and where my lessons are. I enjoy coming to school every morning as I know it will be fun. I am learning many new things such as new languages- French, Japanese, Latin and today I will have Spanish. **Max 7S**

Lessons have been enjoyable, clear and when homework has been set it has been easy to find on class charts. Teachers have been kind and the atmosphere has been nice. **Shemi 7R**



**Shemi and Vivienne**

I am really enjoying my time at St Bernard's because I have made lots of friends and my teachers are kind. I also have been helped by the other years because when I got lost, they have helped me around the school. The peer mentors are also very kind and helpful. **Lydia 7S**

# Italian Exchange Student visit



I'm Emma, the Italian exchange student. I wanted to thank the school for welcoming me and letting me attend the lessons in the past two days.

My experience at St. Bernard's Grammar Catholic School was very educational and inspiring for me.

I attended the lessons just for two days, on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, but I was able to savour a full experience as an English student. I attended several different lessons such as Business Studies, English and Psychology and they were all very interesting. During the English lesson I had a great time because the teacher was able to engage with every student, including me, in a conversation about English literature.

I really enjoyed my time in the school, even if it was just for a couple of days. Everyone was really welcoming and friendly and I'm very thankful for the people I've met during my stay at St. Bernard's. I wanted to thank especially Ms Instone for organising my timetable and Mr Kassapian for giving me this opportunity.



Emma is William's cousin, who is in Year 12. She has visited the school as part of her time spent with his family.

# Grade 5 Theory in Music



If you would like to work towards your grade 5 theory in Music and would like to have support in this, there are sessions on a Friday 3.30-4.30pm with our expert teacher Mrs Dunsden.

Please e mail Mrs Coyne if you are interested in signing up.