

25th October 2024

Dear All,

Here we are at half term at last! Congratulations to all on making it through the longest stint of the academic year, if only a few more of England's cricketers could display such resilience at the crease!

One of the highlights of this term is the opportunity for our schools to show off their wonderful provision to prospective pupils and families at Open Mornings and Evenings. Although these events are hard work for everyone involved in organising them, the buzz created is truly energising for all concerned. Thank you to everyone who has put so much effort into making the schools shine. Whilst our schools continue to be incredibly popular, we know that with the number of children in Surrey set to fall in coming years, we can't afford to be complacent, so please continue to spread the word about how great our schools are.

With a number of new Heads in post this term, I have been enjoying a tour of the parishes for the various Induction Masses. These are always such uplifting events and it's great to see so many different members of our Xavier community gathered together on a Sunday. Another bonus at this time of year is that we tend to see a lot more of our families at Mass as children embark on the various sacramental preparation courses. One of the challenges we face in the Church is of ensuring people always feel welcome. Coming to church can be daunting for some and it's therefore so important that we all do our bit to ensure that every family is encouraged, inspired and attracted to keep coming back. This is vital for the children as we know that in order to reap the full benefit of Catholic education, they need to be given the opportunity to experience a face-to-face encounter with Jesus at Mass at the proper start for each week, a Sunday.

We almost got away with being Ofsted-free this half term but then they managed to squeeze an inspection in at Salesian School, Chertsey this week. As always, the school has to wait a few weeks for the official report to be published but suffice to say that everyone there is very happy this week. Congratulations to all involved!

At the end of each half term we inevitably say farewell to one or two colleagues across the Trust. We wish them all well but there are a couple that I would like to pay particular tribute to: Hazel Coe has worked as a Learning Support Assistant at St. Hugh of Lincoln for almost 30 years, a stunning achievement, just think of the hundreds of individual children she has had an impact on; and Tammy Lawlor, Executive Headteacher of St. Joseph's, Redhill and St. Francis, Caterham who we are particularly grateful to for the good work she has done on leading the project to induct the first schools in the Epsom & Redhill Deanery to the Xavier family.

We are always looking for people to join the team in a variety of roles across the Trust and the majority of vacancies are advertised on the Trust [website](#). One of the particular challenges of running a multi-academy trust is managing the finances to ensure that we provide value for money for every child; we are currently looking to recruit a new Finance Director to lead this work. The successful candidate will not only need to have the appropriate qualifications and experience but they'll also need to share our values. If you think you might be a suitable and interested candidate, please contact Ceri Murray c.murray@xaviercet.org.uk for more information.

Finally, thank you to everyone reading this letter, whoever you are, for your contribution to the education of the children, even if it's just to one of your own. Every member of the Xavier family is called to serve and strive for excellence, but this only comes to fruition when we all pull together, with God's grace, in pursuit of the common goal of genuine fulfilment. Working in and supporting Catholic education can be challenging, particularly if we're going to do it properly for the good of the children; we continue to be both blessed by, and grateful to each and every one of you for everything you bring to it.

With all best wishes for a happy, peaceful and fulfilling half term break.

God bless,

James Kibble
CEO