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To all students leaving VI Form of our Catholic Schools

May 2025

Dear Student,

As your bishop I wanted to write to you as you leave one of our schools to send you my prayers and best wishes for the next stage of your journey. I hope that you will have enjoyed your time in Catholic education and that you will take away with you good memories of friends and staff.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that Christ is with you always. When we pray, he gives us courage, peace, and comfort. Pope Francis reminds us that:

"we should not be hesitant, afraid to take chances or make mistakes".

Do not be afraid to take risks! The greatest response you can offer to God for the gift of life is to take that life and live it fully.

I hope that whether you are Roman Catholic or from another church or world faith that your time in one of our schools has allowed you to come closer to God, to know Jesus Christ more, as a way of living a good life. Pope Francis also states:

"Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are".

These words challenge us all to move forward in the service of all people whom we believe are made equal in the image of God.

You are now moving from a school environment into a new world, of higher education, other studies or employment. Some may even be taking advantage of a gap year. This is a very significant change and I hope and pray that what you have gained from your Catholic school will help you grow and develop into the person God wants you to be, finding personal fulfilment and contributing to a better world.

I offer you, your family and friends my blessing for your future,

+ *David*

✠ David J Oakley
Bishop of Northampton