

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Families

I may be a little late but I wish you all a very happy new year. This week children have returned to school and are focused and engaged. They are really rising to the challenge. In Collective Worships this week we have been learning about the Feast of the Epiphany. Children will see that each door in school has a sign above it with the initials CMB and 2024. This follows the tradition of having houses blessed by priests each new year.

Applications for our Sixth Form are now open so if your child is in Year 11 please ensure that these are being completed. Applicants from outside our school are also welcome. We have also begun a trial of some teachers adding green reward stamps straight onto classcharts rather than physically stamping in planners. We are following a hybrid approach until the end of the trial period. I am following the classcharts activity feed very closely each day and can see that children are certainly getting many more green stamps than red! The system also sends an alert to you once your child has received 30 green stamps, this is a reminder for them to visit me in my office for a purple Headteacher stamp. I am introducing Headteacher praise postcards which I will stamp too so please look out for these when your child brings them home.

This week we held our Student Leaders' Conference on Tuesday. It was a pleasure to speak to student leaders about the nature of leadership at St. Paul's and to emphasise that it is founded on Christ's example and based on the values of love and service. The students heard quite a bit about the concept of servant leadership which hopefully will guide them in their work this year. Today I have been at our annual subject Middle Leaders Conference. It was an excellent day and a superb way to work with our middle leaders in shaping our school for the future. Next Friday we will be repeating this with Pastoral Middle Leaders. Also this week, Year 8 form groups have started their Days of Recollection which provides a very important opportunity for children to explore their faith in a secure and supportive environment. Yesterday Year 11 and 13 students had their photographs, it is no easy task trying to photograph 300 children at once! Last night Year 12 mentoring appointments took place. The second opportunity to meet with mentors is on Monday so please sign up if you haven't already done so.

Next week we begin the week with a Governors' Curriculum and Teaching committee meeting on Monday evening. We will be reviewing the most recent data collection and Year 11 PPE results. We will also be sharing with Governors the work we have been doing to launch our new Phonics programme. On Tuesday evening there is a PTA meeting at 6pm. New members are always welcome. On Wednesday evening we are holding a Year 11 Parents' Information Evening with a focus on English Literature and Science.

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A gentle reminder that parents who collect their children from school should be mindful of our local residents. I have had complaints that parents are blocking driveways again. Thank you for your support with this.

Finally, this week begins a series of external assessments and examinations for Vocational Learners. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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