

22nd March 2024

Dear Families

This week a group of students and staff went to the Cathedral in Northampton to celebrate the fourth anniversary of Bishop David's ordination. It was lovely for representatives of our school to join him on this special occasion, especially as his actual ordination was spoilt by the start of Covid. On Tuesday evening I met with the Heads and Chairs of Governors from the Milton Keynes Catholic primary schools. It was an excellent opportunity to work together to secure improvement for our schools in the future. On Wednesday our Gold Duke of Edinburgh students went off on an expedition to the Brecon Beacons. They return on Saturday. On Thursday evening Governors met to review resources and personnel matters. Mentoring appointments for Year 13, Year 12 Vocational learners and Year 9 took place on Thursday and continue next Monday. Year 10 had the opportunity to visit Oxford Brookes University on Wednesday and Thursday. This continues next Monday when a group of Year 10 students will be visiting the university for a study conference. On Thursday we marked World Anti-Racism Day with an opportunity to raise awareness of the impact of our words and actions. We hope that our whole community can benefit from this. Also on Thursday morning Year 13 Level 3 BTEC National pupils received their results from the January examination series. There were lots of happy faces and celebrations amongst pupils. Vocational programme leaders will be discussing these results further with pupils next week and how these results contribute to their overall points score. Our Science Team visited two more primary schools this week as part of our Science visits and had the opportunity to work with Years 1 to 6 doing fun Science experiments including static electricity with the Van de Graaff generator. Thank you to all at Bishop Parker and St Mary Magdalene School and the Year 9 pupils who were amazing ambassadors when supporting.

In sporting fixtures this week our Year 9 boys' basketball team won 33 – 28 against Shenley Brook End. Our football teams had several matches with Year 8 boys losing 4 – 3 to Oakgrove, Year 10 boys drawing 1 – 1 against Ousedale, Year 11 boys losing 2 – 0 to Denbigh and Year 9 girls winning 9 – 1 against Radcliffe. Well done to all those involved.

We are very excited to mark Holy week in school next week, starting with Collective Worship following Palm Sunday. Holy Week usually falls in the school holidays, so it is a special opportunity for us to share this with children next week. It is a short week though as we break up at 2.30pm on Thursday 28th March. Please note that on the last day (Thursday 28th) our library will be closing at 3.45pm.

Prior to the end of term though, there is an information evening for Year 11 on Wednesday, focusing on History and Geography. Also that night there is a Full Governing Board meeting. Student Leaders will be attending a conference on human rights and responsibilities at Denbigh School on Thursday the 28th of March. The students will be looking at the concepts of having a 'moral responsibility' and a 'duty

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to act' through the events that took place in WWII, in Bosnia, and in Africa with child soldiers. After sharing their ideas, they will leave prayers on a Tree of Remembrance and also pray for those involved in the current wars in Russia and in Gaza. Through this workshop, the student leaders will learn about these events, but also come up with ways to stop them so that we can be hopeful for a peaceful future and a more compassionate world.

A reminder that on Monday 25th March the school site will not be secure from 4pm onwards due to Mentoring Evening. This is because Year 9 parents will be on site from this time to attend mentoring appointments for their children. The library will remain open and staffed as usual.

Our Careers team would like to let you know about an opportunity for Year 10 to 13 students who might be interested in a STEM career. On Wednesday 3rd April from 9am - 3:30pm, there is a virtual work experience day with Spectris, Malvern Panalytical, HBK and Servomex! Spectris are a FTSE company and own all the other science and engineering-based companies mentioned above. Each of the companies Spectris owns specialises in very specific areas of science and engineering and during this work experience day there is an opportunity to take part in workshops and network with each of their companies.

Participating in an event such as this will allow your child to learn more about industry and give them a unique opportunity to gain valuable experience that will be beneficial for adding value to their CV. This will show employers that your child is proactive and looking to develop their skillset before entering the workplace, which can help them to be recognised as an ambitious and motivated individual as well as allowing them to stand out from other students. They can sign up for this incredible opportunity, by using this [registration link](#). After the event they will receive a certificate that they can use on their CVs and any job applications that they make.

Congratulations to Year 10 Student Leaders who raised funds for MK Act. The team at the refuge are going to use the money to provide Easter baking activities for the children staying at the refuge over the Easter holidays. The Trustees wrote to us stating that "We have rather a lot of children with us at the moment who have left behind their homes, so these funds will provide a wonderful opportunity for them to be creative, learn something new or embrace the baking skills they already have, which will be a very welcome activity. It will allow them to immerse themselves in something enjoyable during the break from school and their routine which has likely been significantly disrupted, which could make the holidays a little bit more tricky for some residents if they are new to us." It is important that our children know the positive impact of the money that they raise and I am proud of them for these acts of love and service.

This week's community spotlight shines on the Olio app (<https://olioapp.com/en/>). This has been recommended by many of our staff here at St Paul's. Olio is a local sharing app for passing on things you no longer need to people who live nearby. From food and clothes to books and toys, turn your useless into someone else's useful, saving money and fighting waste. Olio has many volunteers who collect any spare food from stores including Tesco, and Pret a Manger, and then list it on the app so that people who live nearby can come and collect it from the local volunteer for free.

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I hope that you have a very nice weekend.

Yours sincerely



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