

28th February 2025

Dear Families

I hope that you all had a lovely half term. This week has been busy at St. Paul's. On Monday Year 10 students went off to Kintbury on retreat. Sixth Form interviews have begun this week for Year 11 students. These are going extremely well and students are very well prepared and doing themselves proud. Year 8 students have options interviews starting this week and parents have been invited to sign up to join the meetings remotely. On Tuesday I met with employers who hosted our work experience students to say thank you. That evening our talented musicians held a music showcase which was enjoyed by all who attended. This week we have also held parents' information evenings for Year 10 & 13 parents. On Thursday some of our Emmaus students went on a rewards trip to Volcano Falls and Year 12 Mathematics students went to London to a Maths Fest.

We had three basketball matches this week against MK Academy. Year 8 won by 37 – 4, Year 10 won by 51 – 28 and Year 11 narrowly lost by 42 – 45. All the teams played outstanding basketball and it was wonderful to see so many of our students supporting our teams too and cheering them on to do the best that is possible.

Next week marks the start of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we will be joining together as a community for our whole school Mass. A reminder that we are fasting that day so our canteen will be meat free (as it is every Friday). Ash Wednesday marks the start of our Lenten fundraising activities. I'm looking forward to seeing our dedicated students finding imaginative ways to raise money for their charities. Friday will be a non-uniform day as part of this fundraising. Next week is also National Careers Week. There are a number of activities planned including Year 9 'Get that Job' events and Year 10 'Broadening Horizons' talks. 'Get That Job' will introduce pupils to the process involved in applying for a job including making an application, shortlisting candidates and then either interviewing or being interviewed for a position. You can find out more about National Careers Week on this [website](#). On Tuesday evening our PTA are meeting. All are welcome to join them. On Wednesday evening I am looking forward to attending the year 13 Extended Project Evening. I really enjoy looking at all the amazing extended projects produced by our talented students. If you have a child in Year 11 or 12 then please do come along with them so they can look at some models and examples. On Thursday evening Year 12 are invited to a parents' information evening.

This half term as a community, we will continue with our work on promoting Catholic Social Teaching to pupils and staff. This half term our focus will be on **HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES** and we will explore these important concepts in many different contexts. It would be good if you can find ways to weave conversations about these concepts into your discussions at home, perhaps with examples from your workplaces etc.

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Next Thursday we will be celebrating World Book Day. As usual, many staff will dress up as a character from a book. Students are welcome to dress up if they wish but there is no pressure to do this if they feel self-conscious and there is absolutely no expectation that expensive costumes should be purchased. Please look out for the photos on our social media pages on Thursday. I'm looking forward to interviewing new staff dressed as Cruella de Vil!

Congratulations to Honey in Year 7. She has been recognised as one of the top 50 tumblers in the UK and in the top 200 between the UK, USA, Canada and Australia. As a result of this, she has been invited into a specialist tumble camp called Gen Next, run by the brand Nfinity, over the summer. Congratulations to Honey and we wish her every success in her cheerleading career.

One of our fabulous RE teachers, Mrs Alves, has launched a new Christian women's podcast this week. It is essentially an audio drama podcast on the women in scripture. You may wish to have a look at this website www.a-beautiful-thing.co.uk where you can find the podcast. Her new series is called 'Seven Women of the Old Testament'. In the bible the number 7 means wholeness or completion. In this new audio drama series, you will hear the stories of seven faith filled women of the Old Covenant; Sarah, Rebekah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, the widow at Zarephath and Queen Esther. Mrs Alves said: "I look forward to you coming on the journey with me as I explore these incredible women's stories and how they still speak to us today. Please do dip into this if you find it of interest."

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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