

11th October 2024

Dear Families

Last night was our Open Evening, our opportunity to show case our wonderful school. It was lovely to see so many of our current students enthusiastically talking about life at St. Paul's. Please send your child to me for a Headteacher stamp if they attended. I am grateful to all staff and pupils for really going the extra mile to make the evening such a success. We still have a couple of open mornings for parents to see the work of our school in action.

This morning a group of staff and pupils attended the Diocesan schools Mass in Dunstable. This is a lovely way to remind ourselves that we are all part of the Diocesan family.

On Monday evening Governors met to discuss curriculum and teaching matters. On Tuesday a group of year 8 pupils went to Thornton College for the Schools' Literature Fest and were able to meet some inspiring authors and have their books signed. The trip finished with inspirational STEM talks and pupils enjoyed the visit. There have been several trips this week. Year 10 have been working with representatives from Santander and our Sixth Form had the opportunity to visit Southampton University. We also held a launch of our D of E programme so please do encourage your child to participate.

The PTA met on Tuesday evening and considered a number of bids from staff to support our pupils. Over the last year our PTA have supported with:

- EAL department Pantomime tickets to enable pupils the chance of a wonderful cultural experience that has had a lasting impact on our EAL pupils and allowed them to create memories to last a lifetime.
- Funds to cover the travel for the Cricket Test Match trip where pupils from across three-year groups were given the chance to attend a live sporting event which many of the pupils could only have dreamed about otherwise, allowing them to experience live sport at a world class venue.
- The purchase of resources to enhance our prayer spaces in each classroom thus contributing to our Catholic life
- Resources for the Advent wreath making competition to allow pupils to actively participate in Advent preparations.
- An additional piano for the MGR to support with our after-school events and Mass celebrations.
- Payment for the DJ on Culture Day for our students to enjoy and celebrate their cultural music
- Clocks for our external exams and PPEs
- The annual purchase of our beautiful Christmas trees in school.

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This year the PTA are helping us to fund:

- The National School Breakfast Programme where all students can receive a free breakfast.
- The Breakout Programme which is designed to bring positive change to pupils' lives that may be at risk of entering in to crime.
- The cost of additional travel to university visits for our PP students.

As you can see, as a school we have so much to be grateful for to the PTA!

Next week, as we hurtle towards half term, we have lots going on. We have sessions run by a facilitator from DePaul for Years 9, 10 & 12 pupils. In collaboration with the BRIT school, they have created a series of engaging and hard-hitting films – Choices, Missing and Moving On, which provide the basis for whole-year workshops tailored to the different needs and risks young people are faced with as they move through key stage 3,4 and 5. These one hour workshops are designed for large groups of young people in assembly style-settings and are fully interactive, energetic and delivering key messages around youth homelessness, healthy relationships, exploitation, responding to risk and making safer choices.

There is also a Sixth Form retreat to Kintbury starting on Monday. Year 12 Fashion & Textile students have a Natural Dyeing Workshop on Tuesday. Year 10 & 12 Drama students will enjoy taking part in theatre workshops led by Frantic Assembly on Thursday.

A reminder to parents to vote for the parent governor vacancies by Tuesday morning. A reminder of the link is <https://forms.office.com/e/Div01Pn4T0>

I continue to be concerned by the slight downward trend for our attendance. We have always had the best attendance figures in Milton Keynes. Mr Tillman has consulted with other pastoral leaders across the city and other schools have not seen such a trend. I want to nip this in the bud very quickly so please can I ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school unless there are absolutely exceptional circumstances.

Next week part of Chaffron Way will be closed so please leave additional time for your journey to school.

We have lots of lost property in reception, including lovely coats and water bottles. Please ask your child to collect any lost items. It would be very helpful if you could label items so that we are able to identify them.

Congratulations to all children who have represented the school in sporting fixtures this week. In boys' football the results were:

Year 8 won 8-0 against Sir William Ramsay in the 1st round of the county cup – they are due to play John Hampden in the next round

Year 9 won 6-1 away at Stantonbury

Year 10 won 3-0 against Ousedale

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Year 11 lost 3-2 against Ousedale.

Our Science teacher Miss Hughes is a captain for Bletchley Rugby Club and they have a "Give Rugby a Try" day on Sunday 13th Oct. It is open for boys and girls ages 4-18 at 10.30 am and they can stay until 12.30pm to watch the Women's 1st XV play. They are based at Bletchley Rugby Club, Fenny Stratford, MK2 2HX.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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