

18th October 2024

Dear Families

There have been a range of activities to support the personal development of our children this week. On Monday and Tuesday Year 9, 10 & 12 had the opportunity to listen to speakers from the DePaul society who focused on making the right decisions and safe behaviours. Our Sixth Form also listened to a guest speaker on Wednesday morning and our student leaders attended a conference on Friday. Also on Friday, a group of Year 10 students spent the day at Santander at Unity Place. We aim to provide a really diverse range of opportunities for our children to grow and develop into responsible citizens who can keep themselves safe and go out and make a real difference in the world. If there are any further topics that you think we need to cover in school, then please do let me know.

Our Fashion & Textiles students enjoyed an excellent workshop on natural dyeing techniques on Tuesday and I hope you saw some of the lovely pictures on our social media platforms. Congratulations too, to all those who participated in sporting events this week, representing our school so well. Please send your child to me for a Headteacher's certificate if they participated. Our Year 7 boys continued their excellent start to the football season by making it two wins in two matches with a 4-0 win over Stantonbury. Year 8 boys also made it three wins from three with a 6-3 win over Stantonbury. Their next match is Monday in the County Cup 2nd round away at John Hampden – good luck to those involved. The Year 8 girls' football team won 8-0 against Kents Hill Park, the Year 9 girls' football team produced a great come back, from being 4-1 down at the start of the second half, to equalising and finishing the game with a draw. There were goals from Seren (x2), Ella and Nabella and well done to Rafaela who was voted player of match against Denbigh on Thursday night. Our Year 9 netball team played The Webber School and lost 11-2 and our Year 7 netball team also lost to Webber 15-1.

Next week we are having our first Burditt Cup cross country competitions. They are taking place during the following lesson where the whole year group will be on PE at the same time. If this is not your child's normal PE lesson, they will need to bring their PE kit in on that day.

Year 7 – Friday P1&2

Year 8 – Monday P3&4

Year 9 – Tuesday P7&8

Year 10 – Tuesday P1&2

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On Thursday evening the Resources & Personnel committee of the Governing Board met. One of the primary functions of this committee is to monitor our budget and recruitment and the Board offer lots of support and challenge, asking key questions of leaders to ensure the smooth running of our school. Our parent governor election finished this week and the results were published on the website on Tuesday. Delali Antwi Gyamfi and Ify Oduko secured the highest number of votes.

I can't quite believe that next week is our last week of this half term. It has gone so quickly. On Monday morning Year 7 parents are invited to the Year 7 Mass of Welcome. This is such a lovely way to formally welcome new members of our community. Year 8 children have the opportunity to attend careers workout events on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday evening Year 7 parents are also welcome to attend an Information evening focusing on key information about how things work here at St. Paul's and how best they can support their children. On Thursday afternoon St Paul's is hosting staff from all of our Milton Keynes Catholic Primary schools for our annual Academic Mass. It is such a lovely way to come together and to celebrate Catholic Education in Milton Keynes. On Friday morning Mr Maw will be taking round the final parent tour for prospective families.

This year we have done quite a bit of work on Catholic Social Teaching with our students. Our focus during Advent one has been on:



and



Children have responded extremely well to these important concepts, thinking about them in terms of our own community as well as the global community. From a personal perspective, I have really noticed a significant improvement in the way that they are treating each other with dignity and respect. Litter is also massively improved this term which I am delighted about.

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During Advent two we will be focusing on:



This will be an opportunity for us to explore the concept of how we address the balance so that those more vulnerable are able to thrive in our community and beyond. We will look at the concept of fairness within this. It ties in beautifully with our Advent fundraising activities which I will mention nearer the time.

Silverstone Museum are opening their doors to encourage more girls to study STEM subjects. As part of this they are providing free admission to female pupils throughout October: <https://www.silverstonemuseum.co.uk/whats-on/latest-news/silverstone-museum-launches-girlswill-2024-plus-free-entry-for-girls-this-october/>

If you need to order any uniform please note that starting today and finishing on Friday 25th October our uniform supplier SWI is offering 20% off everything. You just need to use the code SAVE20 at checkout.

Finally, next week I am out of school on Wednesday and Thursday conducting an Inspection. I will be in contact with school throughout this time and our excellent senior team and pastoral team will be able to support you if required.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher

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