

19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Families

It's been an extremely busy week here at St. Paul's and nothing ever seems to stand still! The highlight of my week was a lovely student visiting my office to ask if I thought her false eye lashes were unsuitable for school! We had a discussion about the importance of keeping things for special occasions and going out for events, rather than for everyday at school. I'm sure that some of you have regular conversations with your children about the suitability of clothing and accessories so thank you for your ongoing support. In general, our school uniform looks really good and children obviously care about it otherwise they wouldn't come and ask my opinion!

On Monday we held the second of our Year 12 mentoring evenings. We have been discussing about whether Year 11 would benefit from meetings at this point in the year and so will adapt this for next year. If you are a parent of Year 11 please keep an eye on them as reality seems to be hitting home at the moment about the importance of the next few months. On Wednesday Year 11 parents joined an information evening focusing on English Literature and Science and I hope families found this helpful. Today pastoral leaders have worked together at a conference focused on planning for the next year. Having space and time to work collaboratively is so valuable.

On Monday and Friday next week pastoral staff and senior leaders will be having refresher safeguarding training. This will take place on an annual basis and is facilitated by an external expert. On Tuesday I will be welcoming headteachers from our Catholic primary schools for a Peer review. They will be visiting lessons across the curriculum to experience learning in secondary education. A particular focus will be on how we are trying to get children to think hard in their lessons. I am looking forward to a return visit to their schools in the near future. On Thursday English teachers will be working with other English departments across the city at the MK Reading for Life Conference. On Tuesday Year 9 have an information evening for parents and on Wednesday Year 10 parents are invited to a Maths workshop. On Thursday our Governing Board are conducting a Governor visit with a focus on Disadvantaged and SEND provision in our school. Also that day Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to attend an RAF insight day. On Friday some students will be joining the English department at the Poetry Live event in Cambridge.

On Wednesday, several of our Year 12 Politics students took part in an online session with members of the House of Lords. Students were able to tune in live via YouTube to a 'Learning with the Lords' session. The Lords in attendance were Lord Hayward, Lord Anderson, Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, and Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on-Trent. The discussion was held for students both live in Parliament and through YouTube for those who could join remotely. The panel of Lords discussed whether or not the House of Lords is effective in scrutinising the government? This helped the students

Headteacher:  
Jo-Anne Hoarty

St Paul's Catholic School  
Phoenix Drive  
Leadenhall  
Milton Keynes  
MK6 5EN

Telephone  
01908 669 735

Email  
enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk

Web  
www.st-pauls.org.uk



to learn the ways in which the House of Lords checks the executive. It also included parliamentary questions, queries about legislation, and the work of select committees. The panel spoke of recent reforms in the House of Lords and considered the need for further development. Finally, the Lords took student questions. This activity was entirely voluntary and students showed that they wished to become scholars of their subject by sacrificing their free time to attend. Mr Woodward and Ms Markatos are very proud of their willingness to engage in the political issues of our time and carry their study of politics into the real world.

Yesterday six A level Politics students were invited by their local MPs, Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart, to attend the MK Schools' Debate Finals which was held at the Palace of Westminster. Students watched the debate finals which was a well fought debate about artificial intelligence which Denbigh school won. After the debate, the students were treated to a private tour of the Parliamentary Estate which included the House of Lords, the House of Commons, Westminster Hall and the Lobby. Students were very enthusiastic and even got the chance to speak one on one with each of the MPs who were leading the tours. Students asked fantastic questions and impressed the MPs with their political knowledge. They were really engaged in this opportunity to live what they are learning in the classroom.

Next week Year 10s will begin a week of work experience in various exciting placements. I hope that they enjoy this valuable experience of the adult work. Year 13 students and Year 12 vocational learners begin their PPEs So we wish them well for this final practice before the external examinations.

Student Leaders in Year 12 have continued working within the local community to help those in need. Over two weekends in January, Lewis, Lola, Victoria, and Nicole collected spare change for the MK Hospital Charity outside the MK Theatre where the pantomime was taking place on Sunday evenings. The students collected over £500 and even got to enjoy the show. Jenny O'Farrell-White, the Senior Fundraiser Coordinator for the hospital, sent an email to the school to praise the students' maturity and to say how amazing they were. Ms Markatos, who is in charge of Student Leadership, is very proud of the students' contributions to the community and willingness to volunteer on the weekends. They are the epitome of the school motto which is to Love, Serve, and Do the Best that is possible.

Well done to our Year 8 basketball team for a great result, 26 - 21, against Denbigh School yesterday. Our Coach, Mr Lloyd, said it was a great team result with great team spirit against much taller opponents!

We are extremely proud to let you know that one of our year 13 students, Elisa, has self-published a book as part of her EPQ at St. Paul's. This is now available to buy on Amazon and I am sure she would welcome any support from those who would like to purchase it.

It can be found here:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Addiction-Beautiful-Thing-Chantelle-Scarito/dp/B0CS6W5CJX/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crd=3O5C44IF2H1O&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.1Az\\_mMuD7LzC1jRiSk73yQ.8kuLPMZK8lvZueNT0BksA1RNoXJR-](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Addiction-Beautiful-Thing-Chantelle-Scarito/dp/B0CS6W5CJX/ref=sr_1_1?crd=3O5C44IF2H1O&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.1Az_mMuD7LzC1jRiSk73yQ.8kuLPMZK8lvZueNT0BksA1RNoXJR-)

Headteacher:  
Jo-Anne Hoarty

St Paul's Catholic School  
Phoenix Drive  
Leadenhall  
Milton Keynes  
MK6 5EN

Telephone  
01908 669 735

Email  
enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk

Web  
www.st-pauls.org.uk



[9qil\\_SY4wfASfs&dib\\_tag=se&keywords=elisa+scarito&qid=1705491454&srefix=elisa+scarito%2Caps%2C89&sr=8-1](https://www.st-pauls.org.uk/9qil_SY4wfASfs&dib_tag=se&keywords=elisa+scarito&qid=1705491454&srefix=elisa+scarito%2Caps%2C89&sr=8-1)

For Year 9 parents, if you haven't already done so, please make sure to return the consent form for the DTP & Men ACWY vaccinations that are taking place next week.

Finally, I have introduced new praise postcards for students who come to me to receive a purple Headteacher stamp. Do look out for these in your child's bags. They are worth 5 stamps in total.

As you can see we have been extremely busy this week and will be even busier next week! Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Jo-Anne Hoarty  
Headteacher

Headteacher:  
Jo-Anne Hoarty

St Paul's Catholic School  
Phoenix Drive  
Leadenhall  
Milton Keynes  
MK6 5EN

Telephone  
01908 669 735

Email  
[enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk)

Web  
[www.st-pauls.org.uk](http://www.st-pauls.org.uk)

