

21st March 2025

Dear Families

We have had a lovely week celebrating Science and Mathematics at St Paul's. There have been a range of activities this week as part of National Maths Week. This culminated in today's celebration where children and staff were invited to wear something relating to Maths. I think we have got a little bit too excited about dressing up this half term because on Wednesday our Science Department celebrated National Chemical Element Day by dressing up as various chemical elements! There were some very creative costumes! We are delighted to share that Maths Week was a tremendous success, with fantastic engagement from our pupils across various activities. From creative puzzles and crafty maths challenges to collaborative problem-solving, students demonstrated impressive enthusiasm while building valuable life skills. Year 8 students particularly excelled during the wind turbine construction challenge, with goodie bags awarded to those who created the most efficient designs. Throughout the week, pupils have been receiving plenty of praise and Maths Week Star points on ClassCharts for their dedication and effort. A big thank you to everyone who supported their children in the Baking Pies Together competition. Following anonymous voting, Abinav Selvakumar 07MOR emerged as the winner and will be awarded the Amazon voucher by his class teacher. Congratulations! Thank you to everyone who has participated in these events.

Our Lenten fundraising has proceeded at pace this week. There are some imaginative ideas for raising money which I hope the children will enjoy whilst giving generously.

Last Saturday the RE Department took students to FLAME25 at the OVO Arena, Wembley. The theme of the even was 'Unstoppable.' They were joined by over 10,000 young Catholics from England and Wales. On Monday A Level politics students partnered with students at Argo Community High School near Chicago in the United States for a second Model United Nations Summit. The three hour Summit on Global Terrorism took place on-line. Students were asked to write position papers on their chosen country's stance on terrorism to submit before the chairperson. They further crafted opening statements to the Model UN in order to attract other countries into their breakout groups. Once the breakout groups were joined, students used the time to discuss possible solutions to global terrorism that can be agreed upon and that are in line with their own country's policies. At the end of the deliberation time, students jointly wrote a resolution paper to advocate their ideas and to present them to the Model UN as a whole. After the presentations of the resolutions, each resolution was voted upon. In this case, all the resolutions passed so the students were really happy and felt accomplished. I'm grateful to Ms Markatos for organising this really valuable event. As well as the social aspect, this event was a success because it developed the students' confidence in public speaking, understanding of global political procedures, conducting academic research, critical thinking,

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persuasive writing, working within a group, being respectful of differing opinions, and adhering to strict deadlines. There are plenty of life skills being honed here, but also the Catholic Social Teaching of Human Dignity.

On Wednesday another group of Year 7s went to the theatre in London to see Wicked. Year 11 put on their Drama showcase as part of their GCSE exam. On Wednesday and Thursday Year 9 had further 'Get that Job' events put on by the Careers Team. On Thursday evening Year 9, 12 L2 Vocational & 13 mentoring appointments took place online. That evening we also held the Resources and Personnel Committee of the Governing Board. This meeting is always our budget setting meeting for the academic year.

In this week's sports fixtures, we had a netball tournament for our Year 8s where they won two games and lost three finishing fourth overall – the pupils were very keen and tried extremely hard. The Year 8 boys' football team played their final league fixture against Walton High this week and won a very hard-fought game 3-2 which meant they have now joined our Year 7, 9 and 10 boys teams as league winners and await the draw for the semi-final. Well done to all who took part.

Next week I will be holding Raising Standards meetings with all middle leaders. I will be focusing on the achievement of each year group in each subject as well as the new development plans that middle leaders have produced for 2025/26. On Tuesday we have our Annual Evaluation conducted by our Local Authority School Improvement Partner. Year 7 & 8 students are off on retreat to Kintbury next week. On Wednesday we have a Full Governing Board meeting and the second set of mentoring appointments for Years 9, 12 L2 Vocational & 13 take place in person on Thursday. Also on Thursday we have a Science in Schools event linked to the Royal Institution.

We're very pleased that as part of the RI's visit they are offering a free Community Event for pupils and families. The event, presented by Ted Hill, is for friends, family and the wider school community to engage with their children's education, get excited about Science and have some fun. The theme of the show is based around what makes a rocket work and is suitable for all ages. It will be interactive with opportunities for audience participation. The show takes place in the Maureen Grant Room (parking is available in the K block car park located off Moorgate) from 5pm to 6pm on Thursday 27th March. Please extend an invitation to your families, the show would be a wonderful opportunity if you have a child who is interested in Science. This event is not ticketed, just turn up on the evening but we advise arriving in good time to secure your seats as places are limited

GCSE exams are fast approaching and next week Drama students have their examination. We wish them well as they embark on a very busy exam season. All students facing examinations this year remain in our thoughts and prayers.

As the weather starts to get warmer can we please remind you to send your children in with a water bottle. There are water fountains around the school where their bottles can be refilled.

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Finally, we have had to change the date of the Year 11 prom due to a booking error. The evening clashed with our Year 7 new intake evening. Year 11 Form Tutors will become Year 7 form tutors and can't be in two places at once. I apologise for the error in booking.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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