

22nd November 2024

Dear Families

We began this week with the Year 11 Art PPE all day on Monday. On Wednesday Year 11 students visited the University of Northampton. Also that day we welcomed prospective parents of SEND children for a tour of the school. On Wednesday evening we held our second Full Governing Board meeting of the academic year. Yesterday, A Level Politics students went to De Montfort University to take part in a 'Congress to Campus' event. Also, eight Year 9 boys attended the Teen Boys Conference in London. They listened to some incredible motivational speakers and had the opportunity for mentoring from industry experts from Law and Technology. We had some fantastic feedback from the staff running the conference that the boys from St Paul's were impeccably behaved and really engaged and they represented the school extremely well.

We only had one fixture this week. The Year 9 boys' football team won 3-2 against Walton High, with two very well taken goals from Enrico and one from Orion. A player of the match performance from Joe in defence contributed to a very strong team performance. After the game their teacher was very complimentary of our boys and commented on how impressed he was with their attitude and said that it was a real pleasure being involved in a game where a team just enjoyed playing football and did not want to argue with the ref or opposition. Well done to all those involved.

On a cold Wednesday afternoon, we took nearly 30 pupils to compete in the Milton Keynes Cross Country event at Campbell Park. In very challenging conditions, all our pupils did themselves proud. Josh Booty in Year 8 finished his race, which was a race with Year 9 too, in 8th position. Well done to those competing.

Congratulations to Cian Devereux in Year 12 who got a merit in his Grade 7 saxophone exam.

We begin next week with a very exciting visit for our Student Leaders and the Student Council. They are off to visit the Houses of Parliament on Monday. On Tuesday our excellent Careers Department are visiting the Amazon depot to look at the range of careers on offer there and build relationships for future visits and events with our students. A heads up that on Wednesday 4th December our Careers team is holding a Careers Fair in the Sports Hall which parents are welcome to attend from 3.35 – 5pm. We have some excellent employers and educational establishments attending.

On Thursday morning our Governors are holding their second morning visit of the academic year. The focus is on safeguarding at St. Paul's, and they will be speaking to a range of staff and students. That evening, Thursday 28th November, we will be holding our Sixth Form Open Evening from 6 – 8pm. I

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look forward to welcoming our Year 11 pupils, as well as pupils from across the city who are looking to join our excellent Sixth Form in September 2025. Please do come along to see what we have on offer for your children in our Sixth Form. Finally, on Friday we will have a non-uniform day to raise funds for CAFOD. Normal jewellery rules apply still.

We would be very grateful if you could help us to review our School Travel Plan by completing this short [questionnaire](#). The aims of the School Travel Plans are to:

- Reduce the number of car trips on journeys to and from schools to make the school journey safer, healthier and more sustainable.
- Remove the barriers, both perceived and actual, to walking, cycling and using public transport for school journeys.
- Increase the number of pupils, parents and staff choosing to walk or cycle to school.

Please could you complete a questionnaire for each of your children if more than one attends St. Paul's. We would appreciate it if you could complete the survey by Wednesday 27th November.

I continue to receive complaints from both parents and local residents about inconsiderate parking after school. Please consider others or come to collect your child 15 minutes after the end of the school day when it is quieter. Our school library is open each evening, so they have somewhere safe and warm to wait.

This is such a long term, and we still have four weeks left before we break up for Christmas. We are noticing that staff and pupils are very tired at the moment. Please ensure that your child is getting plenty of rest and early nights to give them the energy to keep learning until the 20th December! Thank you for your support with this.

This weekend, on Sunday, the Catholic Church marks the final Sunday of the Liturgical year with the Feast of Christ the King. This is an excellent opportunity to reflect on Christ's kingship over all creation, and to remind us that Christ's reign is eternal. I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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