

24th January 2025

Dear Families

This week I have been in London for three days carrying out an inspection of another Catholic school. These are always excellent opportunities to learn from other schools.

It has been very busy at St. Paul's though. Year 10 have completed their work experience this week and we have received so many highly positive reports from employers. They were a joy to read. Year 13 have been doing their PPEs and have approached them extremely well. I am looking forward to reviewing their results once marking and feedback is complete. On Monday the Pastoral Leaders conference went extremely well and staff valued the opportunity to collaborate together and share excellent practice. On Tuesday our Key Stage 3 artists took part in a pottery workshop as part of their Arts Award. Everyone really enjoyed this opportunity. Year 9 Days of Recollection have also gone really well with students having a really rich opportunity to explore Catholic Social Teaching. On Tuesday evening, there was a Year 9 parents' information evening and I hope parents found this helpful. On Wednesday, Year 8 went to London to see The Lion King and had a fabulous day. Thursday evening saw mentoring appointments for students in Years 11 and 12. There was also a meeting of the Governors' Resources and Personnel committee. They listened to a presentation by our Finance & Procurement Manager who is managing the payroll system for our Catholic primary schools.

Next week teachers will start to complete the second progress check of the year. On Tuesday Year 11 are going to a Poetry Live presentation at the Derngate Theatre. This will support their study of GCSE poetry for their exams. Governors are in school on Tuesday morning and will focus on our provision for SEND and pupil premium pupils. On Thursday evening we have online mentoring appointments for Year 10 families. In person appointments will be available on Thursday 6th February.

Sports fixtures this week have included basketball games away at Denbigh School. Our Year 7 team lost by 5 – 22, our Year 9 team won by 25 – 24, our Year 8 team lost 10 - 24 and our Year 11 team won by 34 – 15. They were all hard fought games and the teams performed well under pressure. Congratulations to all those who represented the school so well.

Please can you support us by ensuring that when your child comes to school they have the correct equipment with them including their handbook.

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I hope that you all have a lovely weekend. I will be celebrating Christmas with my eldest son who will be on leave from the RAF! We really missed him during the actual Christmas celebrations.

Yours sincerely



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