

26th April 2024

Dear Families

Students have enjoyed the non-uniform day today as part of our Pentecost Term fundraising. I also held my regular meeting with representatives from the Student Council on Tuesday afternoon. They came with some very sensible and valuable suggestions for improving our school. I was pleased that many of the ideas are already factored into our planning process. I will be feeding back to the whole school on this meeting via my usual video summary in the next week or so. I hope you found the online pupil mentoring appointments helpful on Thursday evening. Face to face meetings take place next Monday. We have tried to maintain a blended approach to these meetings so that families can select either in person or virtual appointments. I continue to welcome feedback on this approach at any time so that we can find ways to maximise attendance.

A reminder that because of mentoring on Monday the school site will not be secure from 4pm onwards as parents will be on site from this time to attend mentoring appointments for their children. The library will remain open and staffed as usual.

On Wednesday Year 9 students took part in a Lead Santander Gold Circle event at the school. On Thursday some of our Year 8 Mathematicians took part in the Junior UKMT Mathematics Challenge. This is organised to develop and extend the mathematical approach of students and is designed to challenge their thinking from numerous perspectives. We would like to take this opportunity to praise those who took part for their excellent efforts. We look forward to getting the results! Today Year 11 students enjoyed a rewards trip to the Olive Tree restaurant in Central Milton Keynes.

Congratulations to all those who represented the school in sporting events this week. Our Year 10 basketball team won the League Championship with a hard fought match at home last night in front of a cheering home audience. The team would like to thank our students as they needed all of their support. Funding from LEAP has allowed us to replace our basketball match goals so this will be a real benefit for our school and community users. Our practice goals are also being replaced within the next few weeks.

During our recent Maths Week, students engaged in a variety of activities aimed at fostering problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity. They tackled puzzles, showcasing their collaborative skills while exploring new mathematical concepts. Crafty Maths sessions allowed them to have fun while creating geometric shapes like icosahedrons and modular cube frames, as well as folding intricate designs like Columbus cubes. Additionally, students delved into construction activities, building scale models of windmills, which not only honed their construction skills but also instilled a sense of accomplishment.

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



Throughout the week, over 4000 Maths green stamps were awarded, with students earning entries into a raffle for prizes if they accumulated over five stamps. Certificates and results will be distributed by their class teachers to recognise their achievements. Ambassadors and Sixth Form volunteers demonstrated leadership by supporting younger students, serving as role models and leading by example. Congratulations to all who contributed to making Maths Week a resounding success, providing students with a fun and meaningful opportunity to explore Mathematics in various engaging ways!

The GCSE MFL speaking examinations continue next week. These have been going very well so far, with students taking them very seriously. Year 9 students also sit their PPEs next week. This is the first opportunity that Year 9 have had to practise examinations in a formal setting. Please keep an eye on your child's stress levels and emphasise that these examinations are a chance to demonstrate everything they have learnt, but also to make their mistakes in a safe, low stakes environment. Also next week, Year 7 students are off on their residential to the Mendip Activity Centre. Children are really looking forward to the experiences on offer.

We are also approaching the time of year when we begin to say a temporary formal goodbye to year groups. Year 13 will have their Leavers Mass during the day on Tuesday and their BBQ On the 15th May. Year 11 have Mass on Wednesday evening followed by shirt signing and Leavers Assembly on Friday 3rd May. I mention it is a temporary goodbye because, of course, they will be in for the next month or two completing their examinations!

Advance notice that we have our next Parent Forum at 6pm on Tuesday 7th May. This is the same evening as our Year 13 EPQ Showcase so you could combine the two events! Please contact me if you have any suggestions for topics that you would like to discuss at the forum. I have plenty planned but would like to tailor the evening to include topics that would be useful for parents.

This week's community support spotlight shines on The Graduate Salon in Bletchley, <https://graduatemk.co.uk/>. When money is tight it can be difficult to find the funds for haircuts and personal grooming. At The Graduate Salon the prices aim to be more affordable with a cut and blow dry starting from £11 and barbering services from £4.50. The students of Bletchley College work in the salon as part of their qualifications and are monitored and advised by their professional tutors so you are supporting the development of young people in Milton Keynes while getting a bargain!

Please remind your children to come and collect their Headteacher's green stamp awards.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Jo-Anne Hoarty
Headteacher

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