

27th September 2024

Dear Families

Well, it was a very wet start to the week. We had pockets of flooding outside and our new Emmanuel Centre has a leak in the roof but nothing too major. Our children were superb throughout what could have been a very tricky day. The rest of the week has been very busy. Year 10 students enjoyed a careers event with the Army on Tuesday and our Drama students enjoyed their visit to the Globe on Wednesday to see A Comedy of Errors. On Wednesday evening it was lovely to introduce our Key Stage 3 Awards Evening. I really enjoyed celebrating the wide-ranging achievements of our students. Then on Thursday evening we held our first mentoring appointments of the year for Years 8 to 13 and Year 7 parents had the opportunity to meet their child's tutors. This opportunity is repeated next Monday. I hope that you found these meetings helpful in supporting your child's academic progress and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any comments or feedback on these meetings. On Friday morning Ms Markatos organised for Year 12 Politics students to participate in a virtual Learning with the Lords session with Baroness Bull. Baroness Bull is a cross bencher who is currently Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords so had plenty of insight to offer the students. Students were given a taught session with her on how the House of Lords operates and then had the chance to ask their own questions to her.

Next week begins with the second mentoring evening on Monday. Year 11 students are also off on retreat to Kintbury from Monday until Thursday. Thursday is National Poetry Day so there will be lots of activities to celebrate this. October is also Black History Month so there will be lots of activities and information to mark this. Please do speak to your children about what they are learning.

In sporting fixtures this week the Year 8 girls football team drew 1-1 against Oakgrove. Congratulations to the two year 7 pupils Mylee Wenman and Aalayah Scott who played up a year in their first ever game for the school. The Year 10 girls' football team lost 7-2 against a very strong Oakgrove team. Well done to Nabella Bonsu who also played up a year.

You may have seen on our social media last week praise for Shayo who had volunteered at MK Library during the summer holidays. We also had Edie Nicholas in Year 10 and former student Carey Allen volunteering at Stony Stratford Library where the manager said "They are an absolute credit to St Paul's and if that is the kind of child the school is producing I will certainly be recommending St Paul's to prospective parents." Well done to all our students who volunteered.

Asda is running a Cashpot for Schools scheme. This is a great way for parents, students and staff to support the school. All you need to do is download the Asda reward app from your preferred apps store.

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



You can then opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select St Pauls Catholic school, or you can select 'school in need' to find the school.

Once you have opted in and selected a school, Asda will add £1 to your chosen school's Cashpot to help get them started. Each time you shop at Asda a percentage of the shop will be donated to the St Paul's Cashpot. The money donated will be through Parentkind and the school can decide what is needed most, from costume for the school show to books for the school library. This will not affect your own Cashpot earnings. You can find more information on this [website](#).

Is your child interested in a career in Health or Health Science? We would like to invite Year 11 students and parents to a meet and greet drop in on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September to find out more information about our new and exciting Sixth Form pathway, a T Level in either Health or Health Science. This pathway is designed for students who probably want to progress to higher education, degree level apprenticeships, apprenticeships, or employment within a specific sector. Sixth Form staff and leaders of our new T Levels will be available between 4:30-6:30pm in B215 to answer questions and provide you and your child with further information about this exciting new pathway of study for post 16 students. We look forward to seeing you.

An early reminder that we are having a non uniform day on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October in support of CAFOD's Family Fast Day. Please remember to give your child their £1 donation.

An important date for your diaries is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October for our Open Evening for prospective Year 7 parents and students. The evening is from 6.00 – 8.00pm and I will be giving talks at 6.15pm and 7.00pm. Please spread the word to friends who have children in Year 6.

Finally, I have had some complaints from the local community about our parents parking on the double yellow lines on the main road by school. I have been invited by the parish council to their next meeting so that I can hear the views of local residents about our parents' parking. Please think carefully about where you park and be considerate of our neighbours. The car park quiets down significantly 15 minutes after the end of the school day so please consider delaying your journey to collect your child. Thank you for your support with this.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and that the weather is a little drier for us all!

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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