

28th March 2024

Dear Families

We have really enjoyed the opportunity to mark Easter Week within school this year. It has been a lovely end to a very busy term. This time of year always feels very busy, mostly because it is the shortest term, with everything condensed into a short space of time. It is also a time when we are experiencing the final push to get students ready for GCSE & A Level examination, so we are all ready for a nice Easter break!

Congratulations to our Year 9 students working with Santander as part of the Lead Curriculum project. The students worked collaboratively to compete with groups from other schools, researching and making podcasts and presentations. Our groups came both first & second, winning multistore vouchers. Well done to all involved as they have really grown in both confidence and professional communication skills during the project.

This week Year 10 visited Oxford Brookes University on Monday and had a really good day. Year 13, Year 12 Vocational Learners and Year 9 had their second mentoring appointments and I hope that you found these helpful. Last night the Full Governing Board met and this provided a thorough scrutiny of the work of the school.

I am very grateful to all of our community for the care and support they have shared this term. It is an absolute privilege to serve your children and to ensure that they get the best possible education and pastoral care that we can offer. We welcome your children back to school on Monday 15th April. The Pentecost Term is always a joyous term (once the examinations are finished!) with lots of enrichment activities and intense preparation for the next school year. I love the planning and strategic preparation time that the Pentecost term brings.

During the first week back we begin the GCSE Art examinations and Year 10 will have their MFL speaking exams. Year 7 & 8 students are off to Kintbury on retreat and Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh students are off on a practice expedition from Wednesday to Friday. Not quite so exciting, but very important, Year 8 students have their HPV vaccinations on Wednesday 17th April. On Thursday we host our next Stem Lecture given by Ralph Oakley and the lecture is titled 'The Hitchhiking Historian'. All are welcome to attend. On this the 80th anniversary year of D-Day, Ralph will explore the experiences of those living and serving in Buckinghamshire throughout the final years of WW2; from the secret listeners at Latimer House to the men and women of the RAF and USAAF based in the surrounding countryside. It will delve into their experiences of what war would have been through personal stories, and how their roles impacted the surrounding area.

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Congratulations to our Year 9 boys' basketball team who, after their 44 – 11 win against Stantonbury Campus, have won the MK District basketball final. It was a gruelling four quarters for St Paul's as we only had five players, and the support of our injured team captain, to secure the victory but the team did us all proud. Well done to all involved and please encourage your child to come and see me for their Headteacher certificates.

Next term we are introducing a new reward for pupils from across year groups. I will be inviting pupils who have gone above and beyond in service of our community or in their approach to their studies to a regular afternoon tea each Friday afternoon in my office. Those who know me well might feel this is an excuse for me to eat cake (!) but in reality it is a lovely way to reward exceptional children for their contribution. I am really looking forward to spending time with children in this way.

Also, after Easter we will be taking part in the Great Spring Cleanout! The Student Council will be collecting gently used clothing for charity so please take a look around your house and see if you can donate anything that could be used by those who are less fortunate! This includes any T-shirts, skirts, blouses, shirts, trousers, shorts, or paired shoes. Clothes for smaller children are also welcome! Your children should bring items into school and pass to their student council reps. We will be collecting up until the 4th May.

Often the holidays can be some of the most challenging times when funds are tight. This week's support spotlight shines on the Love Exploring app, <https://loveexploring.co.uk/>. The app offers guided walks around Milton Keynes, with maps to make sure you know where to go, check-in points with quizzes and information about the area and estimates of times and distance so you can filter walks to meet your needs. One of the most recommended elements on the app are the AR (Augmented Reality) walks where when you reach certain spots you can use your phones to 'see' dinosaurs, fairies, minibeasts or the planets! This app is completely free to use and has the added bonus of getting our young people out in the fresh air.

I hope that you all have a very happy and Holy Easter.

Yours sincerely



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