

28th March 2025

Dear Families

We have had an excellent week here at St Paul's. Year 7 and 8 really enjoyed their residential retreat at Kintbury this week. The weather was kind to them too. On Wednesday we welcomed students from Thornton College for a debating competition. Year 10 and Year 12/13 argued very eloquently. Last night, Year 9, 12 L2 Vocational and 13 parents were able to meet with their child's mentor with face to face appointments on offer. I hope families found these meetings useful in terms of reviewing progress and identifying next steps in learning. On Wednesday evening our Full Governing Board met for their third full meeting of this academic year. It was a very full meeting and an excellent way to review our current position as a school. On Thursday we welcomed the Royal Institution who provided Science workshops for students, a CPD session for teachers and a community event in the evening.

On Sunday three of our Year 9 pupils, Logan, Aleksander and Nana played a game of rugby in the Bucks Plate final against Buckingham at High Wycombe. Unfortunately it wasn't a win for Milton Keynes as they narrowly lost by 3 points, 17 -14, but it was a fantastic achievement to reach the final. Thank you to Mrs Selleck for sharing the news with us and well done to our pupils and the team.

I have really enjoyed seeing the imaginative fundraising activities that children have planned for their Lenten charities. This week we have had a football match and a netball match with spectators paying to watch. On Wednesday, our Local Authority School Improvement partner spent the day with us and conducted our Annual Evaluation. I was delighted by the outcome of this and the feedback included phrases such as high-quality teaching, passionate subject leadership, well-presented exercise books and excellent behaviour seen throughout the visit. This is excellent preparation for our impending OFSTED inspection (we are due before the end of this academic year).

Next week is the final week before the Easter holidays so I expect our Lenten fundraising to intensify. On Tuesday next week the Drama department are hosting a 'Voices of the Holocaust' event. On Thursday Year 12 & 13 Historians are visiting Hampton Court Palace. Next week we are holding Easter rewards teas for each year group. These are for children who have consistently shown that they are living out the mission of our school. I'm looking forward to seeing children enjoying these rewards teas.

Next week Governors will hold an admissions appeals panel. This year we were significantly oversubscribed for places in Year 7 and these were all first preferences for St Paul's. This is an excellent position for us to be in as a school but has resulted in an increased number of appeals for places at our school.

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I would be grateful if all parents could speak to children about the importance of protecting our community from litter. We are noticing this in school but comments have been made by our neighbours about litter in the local vicinity. We will do some work on this in school but I'd be grateful if parents could reinforce this message.

You may be aware that the new Netflix series Adolescence has sparked meaningful conversations among families. While the show delves into important themes about growing up, it also explores sensitive issues like online misogyny, extremism, self-radicalisation, cyberbullying, and the impact of social media on young people. As a school community, we believe it's essential to equip you with resources and guidance to help you navigate these discussions with your children. You can find these resources on our school website using the following [link](#). Here you will find:

- **The school's online safety policy**
- **A parent's online safety guide** (produced by Internet Matters)
- **Customised parent guides** for various social media platforms, including Snapchat, WhatsApp, and Instagram

We encourage you to access these resources in supporting your child to safely navigate the online world.

A reminder that Z & S buses have advised that the 603 bus is unable to stop at Windermere Drive, Bletchley as this road is closed until 5th April due to roadworks. They advise students to use the bus stops on Stoke Road instead.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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