

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Dear Families

This week has been full of special occasions for those members of our community who are about to begin their examinations. Year 13 had their Mass of celebration on Tuesday and on Wednesday evening we welcomed Year 11 students and their families to their Mass of celebration. We have also been holding exam liturgies with each tutor group over the last week or so. Students were invited to write their names on prayer cards and these were placed in a vase outside my office with a lit candle. This is to signify that we are all praying for Year 11 and 13 as they sit their examinations. This morning Year 11 spent time signing their shirts and they have been in an assembly all afternoon. The formal examinations begin next week (I know we have already had Art & MFL speaking). We will be offering a free breakfast for all students sitting exams. Please keep all students in your prayers over the next few weeks. I would ask parents of all children sitting examinations to keep a close eye on how they are responding to the pressure and do not hesitate to contact school if you are concerned in any way.

Year 9 have sat their PPE exams this week. Their behaviour has been exceptional and they have lined up and entered the exam hall very calmly and efficiently, to the extent that one morning I turned up to the exam hall at the required time to supervise entry and they were already inside and writing! Teachers are busy marking and will provide helpful feedback to your child over the next couple of weeks.

Year 7 students have been on their multi activity holiday this week. Unfortunately some of them have been struck by a sickness bug which dampened things but they looked after each other very well. I'm grateful to staff for giving up their time and caring for children even when they didn't feel so well themselves!

Congratulations to our Year 9 basketball team who won the Milton Keynes Basketball League final against Watling Academy 34 – 30. We only had six players but they gave their best and were exhausted after the match as it went to double overtime! Some more Year 11 students enjoyed a reward trip today, this time to the House of Chicken restaurant in Bletchley.

You will have received an email yesterday about the exciting updates to the use of ClassCharts in school. A reminder that if you still haven't set up your ClassCharts parent account, please email [classcharts@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:classcharts@st-pauls.org.uk). Pupils will receive stickers for their planners with their unique log in details in coming days. Please also remind your children to come and see me in my office if they get 30 or more positive behaviour points in a week. You will receive an email letting you know if they achieve this.

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On Monday next week please remember that school is closed for a Bank Holiday. We will welcome students back on Tuesday morning. Year 9 students are off on retreat to Kintbury on Tuesday and return on Friday. Also on Tuesday we will be welcoming a vocal coach into school to work with our musicians. On Tuesday evening you are warmly invited to our EPQ evening where you can have a look at some of the amazing research projects our Year 13 students have been working on. Topics include:

- The cultural impact of hip hop
- The place of the blown diffuser in F1
- Phantom pregnancies in the context of African culture
- Reducing the risk of coronary heart disease in the south Asian population
- The influence of music on revolution

Such variety and excellence really needs to be celebrated. Children in younger year groups are also invited to come and see what they could be doing in our Sixth Form. Also that evening our talented musicians will be performing in our Live Lounge evening. You are warmly invited to join them. Both events are at 6pm. I have decided to move our next parents' forum to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 6pm as it clashed with both of the previous events. Our topic will be dual focused and will cover our study culture and the development of prayer and liturgy. Please sign up via [this link](#).

Next week Year 11 and 13 students will have the opportunity to thank members of staff at St Paul's. There will be thank you cards in the registers next week. All they have to do is choose any member of the staff from the school to thank and these will then be collected and distributed by the Student Wellness team. The rest of the school will have their Thank You Day in June.

On Wednesday, the A Level Theology students are going on retreat to the SPEC centre in Pinner and Year 10 students are visiting the University of Bedfordshire and Loughborough University. On Wednesday evening there is a Year 8 information evening about the forthcoming Bushcraft residential. On Thursday, our Year 9 Bronze D of E students are off on their practice expedition. Hopefully the weather has now turned and will be kind to them. We had a couple of warm days this week and immediately we had students using water bottles as squirty toys. I even had a student asking me to install air conditioning in classrooms as it was far too hot!

It's a while since I've asked you to be careful where you are parking when collecting your children from school. We have received another complaint from the residents of the flats opposite school that people are parking in the residents' designated parking spots. Please do not park in these. Thank you for your support with this.

A reminder that if you live in the Brooklands/Broughton area and haven't completed our transport survey yet, you can do so on [this link](#).

Finally, Nifty Lift have made a little video from the Women In Engineering event from earlier in the year where we took a group of our students and met another 200 pupils from across the city. We have been invited to attend next year and are looking forward to it.

Here is a link to the video with highlights from last year [Women In Engineering 2023 \(youtube.com\)](#)

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You may have seen on social media information about our prom clothes appeal for the Year 11 Prom. Our community has responded with great enthusiasm and we have already received our first donations of dresses today. You can find out more on our website [here](#).

If the weather improves this weekend please encourage your children to go outside and try and get some photos to submit to our Wellbeing Photography competition. The theme is spring and it's a great opportunity to get out into nature in Milton Keynes and get some pictures for the competition. Details can be found on itslearning. I hope that you have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely



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