

31st January 2025

Dear Families

I've returned to St Paul's today after speaking at a national conference. I have been doing some work with Milton Keynes Education Partnership and Dame Christine Gilbert (former Chief Inspector of OFSTED) on school report cards. Yesterday I was presenting in London on the work that we have been doing. This has had national interest in light of the proposed changes to OFSTED inspections.

I hope parents and children in Year 10 found last night's mentoring appointments helpful. The second session of these is next Thursday. On Tuesday Governors were in school for a morning visit. Their focus was on our provision for children with special needs and those who are pupil premium. This was a good visit and they were pleased to see everything that we are doing to support our pupils. Our GCSE English cohort enjoyed a visit to Poetry Live at the Derngate Theatre on Tuesday. This was an excellent opportunity to revise all of those poems that will be covered in the exams. On Thursday, Year 7 D & T students went to look at set design at the Harry Potter Studios.

Congratulations to Year 12 students who took part in the Buckinghamshire schools 'Big Challenge' on Wednesday. The teams had to complete a wide range of complex problem solving tasks to win a prize of £1000 for their school. Although we didn't win, our students were commended on their efforts.

Next week, on Tuesday evening Year 8 families have the opportunity to attend an options evening. This is to introduce the important choices that pupils will have late this year. On Wednesday evening there is a Year 10 parents' information evening and as I mentioned, the second Year 10 mentoring evening is on Thursday.

Our fantastic Student Leaders have their induction conference on Tuesday and Year 9 have their vaccinations that day too. On Wednesday to Friday, our Sixth Form Theology students are off on a residential retreat to the Spec Centre. On Thursday the University of Arts London are coming in to school to deliver a tailor made workshop to our year 12 Fashion and Textiles, Product Design, Art and Photography students. They will be working in teams to solve various design problems using a range of materials. A range of staff from UAL are coming to run this workshop including student ambassadors. The team will also introduce the Insights Programme to the Year 12s which gives them potentially a funded opportunity to take part in workshops at the University in London.

It has been a very successful week of sporting fixtures. Our netball teams had three matches at Stantonbury. Year 7 lost 6-4, Year 8 won 6-0 and year 9 won 10-3. Our year 7 boys' football team won 5-3, Year 8 won 4-2 and Year 9 won 2-1, all against Watling Academy. Our under16 girls travelled to Chesham to play a County Cup quarter final and won 5-2. A special mention to our goalkeeper Ava Martuccio, who isn't a keeper but actually a very good outfield player. Ava put the team before herself

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



and her performance went a long way towards getting the team into the semi final (where they are likely to have a rematch with Denbigh who they played in the group stages). Well done to all involved.

Four candidates have submitted their applications to represent St Paul's for the Milton Keynes Youth Council. They have made campaign videos which are being shown in tutor groups. Voting takes place from 4th - 6th February. Ballots will be collected by the MK Youth Council on Friday 7th and winners announced via their website on 10th February. We have one Year 7, two Year 8s, and one Year 11 standing.

As a school we have been working really hard on developing our shared understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. Our focus this half term is on human dignity. Children across the school have been focusing on how we can preserve human dignity through our words and actions. This has tied in really well with our continued focus on educating children about bullying and the impact that this can have on our community. I have been pleased with how pupils have responded to this, and I would be grateful if you can reinforce our key messages surrounding this in discussions at home.

Milton Keynes Council has told us that the consultation for the proposed term dates for 2026 - 2027 is now live and can be found on the [MKCC website](#).

We know that you, like us, believe that it's helpful for families and staff when terms dates align locally and, where possible, with neighbouring areas. So, make sure to have your say. Responses can be sent by completing the [online form](#). Alternatively you can send your views by emailing sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

This consultation closes on **2 March 2025** and feedback from this consultation will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families during the spring term.

This year we are inviting our Alumni in to share their journeys after leaving St Paul's with our pupils with the aim of helping our pupils broaden their horizons and realise that they can achieve their dreams. This is particularly important for our pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who feel that aspirations and ambition are not for them. Unfortunately, our guest speaker for the 5th February is no longer able to make it so we are in danger of having to cancel this opportunity for our Year 10 pupils. If you feel that you could help with this or future events, particularly if you identify as coming from a disadvantaged background, please get in touch!

Please remember to get your tickets for our school show, The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time. Performances are on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February and tickets are available on WisePay. Our students are putting so much effort into their rehearsals and it would be wonderful to have your support at our show nights.

Finally, if your child catches the 604 bus please note that a new timetable is in place from Monday 24th February. The new timetable is on our website [here](#).

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I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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