

5th July 2024

Dear Families

As we approach the end of term it is fair to say that we are all exhausted! We have an exciting couple of weeks though so that should keep us all going. This week has been a joy. On Monday evening I finished our Governing Board meeting and went across to join Year 11 at their Prom. It was such a lovely evening full of sparkles and laughter. The children were a pleasure to be with and they all very much enjoyed themselves. On Monday morning we had a full lockdown practice. Everyone responded exactly as needed and I was very impressed by the speed with which site appeared deserted.

On Tuesday evening Mrs Eastwood and I attended the Education Mass at the Cathedral in Northampton. We were both awarded certificates for completing the Catholic Certificate in religious Studies and I was delighted to receive a special award from the Bishop for 'faithful service to the Diocese'. It was a lovely occasion. On Wednesday our students attended the MK Athletics Championships and came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. In year group contests Year 7 girls came 8<sup>th</sup>, Year 7 boys came 5<sup>th</sup>, Year 8 girls came 3<sup>rd</sup>, Year 8 boys came 7<sup>th</sup>, Year 9 girls came 3<sup>rd</sup>, Year 9 boys came 7<sup>th</sup>, Year 10 boys came 4<sup>th</sup> and Year 10 girls came 1<sup>st</sup>. Well done to all our students who took part.

This week we have welcomed our new Year 7 students for their induction days. We also received their families on Thursday evening. On Wednesday we welcomed all staff who will be joining our school in September for their induction day. It has been lovely spending time welcoming new people to our community.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh students are off on their expedition so I hope the weather holds for them. A plea from the Duke of Edinburgh team, if anyone has borrowed kit such as tents, clothing, books or Trangia and has not returned them can they please be brought back to the school as soon as possible. There are more D of E expeditions going out in the last week of term and we would really appreciate having any items returned before then.

Today has been a wonderful day at St. Paul's. Children absolutely love Culture Day! We have had lots of activities including a fashion show, music and dancing and lots of food! You can see photographs of the day on our social media accounts.

Next week is going to be excellent! On Wednesday children will be involved in many varied activities for Work Related Learning Day. On Wednesday evening I will be attending the SCITT Graduation. It will be so lovely to celebrate so many new teachers qualifying and joining the profession. On Thursday we have our Educational Visits Day. I am very excited about visiting Cadbury World and consuming quite a lot of chocolate. Then on Friday we have Sports Day and I will be cooking 1500 sausages on the BBQ! I am watching the weather forecast very carefully.....

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Next week students who are off to Peru on expedition in 2025 will be selling some cakes to students as part of their fundraising activities.

Congratulations to Cian Devereux who has passed his Grade 7 clarinet with a merit.

A leaflet is attached from Northampton Diocese explaining why they need your help to sustain Catholic Schools in the Diocese through voluntary parental contributions to their Schools Building Fund. At St Paul's we are currently raising funds for essential development and hope that the Schools Building Fund will support us with our Sixth Form building development. This will take the form of a new modular building to provide dedicated spaces to stimulate creativity and encourage success, as well as refurbishment of our current Sixth Form accommodation to future proof it for growth and maintain student wellbeing.

It is important that we support students to enable them to flourish and prepare them for higher education or the world of work. The planned Sixth Form development will allow us to provide a more professional learning environment with:

- Focused areas for quiet study and tasks requiring a high level of concentration
- Collaborative areas for networking and group discussions
- Dynamic spaces which provide flexibility for learning, independent study, pastoral activities and collective worship
- Breakout areas for relaxation and social interaction, with a focus on wellbeing and mental health

Please take a look at the leaflet and if you feel you are able to make a contribution (£15 per family per term is suggested) it would be appreciated but it is absolutely not compulsory. We have also provided an online bank standing order form [here](#) and a Gift Aid declaration form [here](#) for you to complete.

Finally if your child has a school locker can you please ask them to empty this out and return their key to the Finance Office before the end of term. During the summer holidays we will be tidying and carrying out maintenance on all our lockers which will include changing the locks on lockers where keys have not been returned. Please note that if your locker key has not been returned it will no longer work from September. If you would like your child to keep the same locker please ask them to let the Finance team know when they return their keys and we will reserve the key to be reissued to them in September when the annual payment has been received. A reminder that lockers cost £20 for one year and there is a £5 deposit for the key (which is refunded when the key is returned). If you have any questions please contact our Finance Department at [financedepartment@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:financedepartment@st-pauls.org.uk)

I hope you have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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