

7th February 2025

Dear Families

This week Year 8 pupils and their parents attended Options Evenings as part of the important decisions that they need to make for Years 9 and 10. Year 10 parents had the second opportunity to attend mentoring appointments and Sixth Form Theology students went on a residential retreat to the SPEC Centre. I enjoyed speaking to our Student Leaders about the nature of leadership at St. Paul's at their conference on Tuesday afternoon. It was a little scary that I was talking to them about the strategic plan for 2026-29 that I am currently writing! Student Leaders have the opportunity to feed their ideas into this plan over the coming year, as will parents, staff and Governors. On Friday morning we hosted a 'Learning with the Lords' Session with Baroness Fookes. This was a combined activity for the Year 12 History and Politics students. Students met with the Baroness virtually on Teams and she told them a bit about how the House of Lords works and then they had the opportunity to ask her direct questions.

As we hurtle towards half term, we have a very exciting week planned for next week. Our school show is on Wednesday and Thursday. Please do come at watch 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'. Tickets are available via WisePay. Our school productions are always excellent and I'm really looking forward to it. On Thursday Year 7 are having an after school Valentine's disco in the Maureen Grant Room. Tickets are available on WisePay. All proceeds are going towards July's Peru trip so we're grateful for all ticket sales.

Also next week we will be participating in National Apprenticeship Week with a range of activities planned for students to promote apprenticeships and a route beyond school. Congratulations to one of our Sixth Form students, Pedro Gieseke, who has secured an apprenticeship with PwC. A reminder to Year 10 parents that pupils have their English Spoken Language Assessments next week. Please enjoy listening to their presentations as they practice!

We had two basketball fixtures this week against Sir Herbert Leon School. Our Year 9 team lost 13 – 17. They played a hard fought match that went all the way to the wire with St Paul's narrowly losing the game by 4 points. Year 11 won by 43 – 2 and played a dominant and outstanding defensive game. The team set the tone from the start and continued all game with no let ups even when we rotated in all the players. Everyone did the team, themselves and our school proud.

Today, as part of our commitment to make Maths exciting and high profile in the school, we are taking part in a friendly competition involving schools in the UK to raise awareness for NSPCC Number Day. The competition runs until 7.30pm tonight and is all done online via play.trockstars.com.

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Please can I ask parents that if you take your child out for a medical appointment earlier on in the day, that children return to school afterwards rather than taking the whole day off. It is very important that we maximise learning and attendance.

We're excited to announce our participation in this year's National Safer Internet Day, themed "Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online." On Tuesday, 11th February, we will be engaging our students with valuable information and resources to help them navigate the digital world safely. We encourage you to join us in this initiative by accessing our online safety guides and information available on our school website, located in the safeguarding section. Together, let's empower our children to stay safe online and make informed decisions.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



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