

7th March 2025

Dear Families

We have enjoyed the week of sunshine at St. Paul's this week. It makes such a difference now spring is here.

There have been a number of activities on offer for National Careers Week. These have included 'Broadening Horizons' sessions for Year 10 and 'Get That Job' workshops for Year 9. I hope the children have enjoyed the opportunity to think about their futures and potential next steps towards this. On Tuesday Year 12 Politics students gave feedback to Parliament's select committee on Science, Innovation, and Technology. Students were asked by our local MP, Emily Darlington, to submit topics for the committee to investigate. The topics concern science, technology and innovations that need more regulation. Students met in small groups to brainstorm and come up with proposals. They were most concerned with finding ways to regulate fake news in the media and legislating the use of Artificial Intelligence going into the future. These ideas have been submitted to the committee for consideration. Politics students are hoping to meet with Ms Darlington later this year to discuss their submissions. Students are very excited to see how they can work with their local MP to have their views presented in Parliament and it is helping them to put what they are learning in the classroom into real world scenarios.

On Wednesday we marked the start of Lent with Mass for Ash Wednesday. This was a lovely occasion and it is always a joy when our community comes together for Mass. Our Lenten fundraising began on Wednesday and I know that Tutor groups are coming up with many imaginative ways of raising money. Today's non-uniform day will also go towards our Lenten charities. On Wednesday evening I really enjoyed visiting the Year 13 EPQ showcase. The wide range of exceptional projects on display was impressive and our students were incredibly articulate and indeed passionate about the projects they have devoted over 18 months to developing. Well done to all those who have completed an EPQ this year. Another highlight of our week has been the celebration of World Book Day. The costumes worn were superb and we have had great fun with a range of activities on offer. Thank you to everyone who participated and provided these opportunities for our students.

In line with our Catholic Social Teaching of Human Dignity, student leaders and student council launched their Lenten charity collection on Friday. Student leaders presented this information to the staff during briefing and the student council members have begun presenting to their form individual groups. Students are collecting gently used clothing for the MK Storehouse. This charity looks after our local community and particularly those who have had to leave their homes under duress. They are collecting clothes for all ages up until 28th of March. We will be delivering them personally to the MK

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



Storehouse in April so that the students can see the positive impact that they are having on the local community.

Next week Year 10 and Sixth Form Vocational learners have their PPE examinations. These are an excellent opportunity for Year 10 to practice their exam skills in a formal environment. They are an opportunity for them to do their best and demonstrate what they know and have learnt. I wish them every success next week. Please let pastoral teams know if you notice that your child is exhibiting signs of stress during the next week. On Monday student leaders will be going to the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey. On Tuesday, Year 11 have the opportunity to visit Cambridge University and on Wednesday Year 12 are visiting Oxford University.

As you can see there is lots on offer and plenty to keep us all occupied next week!

In line with the behaviour policy, on occasion, it is necessary for school to set pupils detentions. Up until now pupils have been provided destination slips for detentions. We are trialling a change in this process to support pupils to be more independent and also to streamline the administrative burden and costs of providing slips. Detentions are shown on ClassCharts and pupils and families can see these the day before; when looking for homework each night it would be very clear if a detention has been set. Pupils will also be notified by their tutors if they have a detention in the morning and can make a note in their handbook to remind themselves of the room. Pupils can also enquire with teaching staff who will be able to see through ClassCharts if pupils in their classes have a detention that day. The detention room list will be published around site in key places such as pastoral offices, main reception, and the canteens. The onus is very much on pupils to take responsibility for attending and we will be keeping this trial under review. If you do not have access to ClassCharts please email classcharts@st-pauls.org.uk

Congratulations to Cassie in Year 12 who has come in third place in the Columban's media competition which is given to schools across the country. She submitted a really lovely visual piece on the theme of hope and has won £100! This is a wonderful achievement! Lia Zaree, Year 13, has been invited to attend a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in May to celebrate her achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. We are very proud of her! Roshayne in Year 11 has had further good news week as he has been selected to play for the Jamaican U16s International Rugby team. What a fantastic talent! Finally, we had nine Year 11 Boys playing for Dunstable RUFC U16s in the Bedfordshire County Cup Final yesterday. Captained by George, Dunstable beat Amptill 27-19. Rylan scored three of the four tries and Ryan was awarded Man of the Match. The final is being played at Dunstable RUFC on Sunday 27th April against Bedford Blues. Congratulations to them all.

Please can I ask parents to ensure that you make a note in student handbooks if your child has to leave early for a medical appointment. This way the students can leave lessons with teacher's permission and not reliant on us finding someone to get them from the classrooms. We have seen a significant increase in parents asking us to collect students from lessons but we just don't have the reception staff available to leave reception to do this. Thank you for your support with this.

A reminder that if your child needs to get off at Bletchley Bus Station on their journey home they must get on the 604 duplicate bus.

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Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



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