

8th March 2024

Dear Families

This week we celebrated World Book Day. I hope you enjoyed all the pictures of the wonderful costumes and events surrounding this. The author visit went very well and I think children enjoyed meeting Lizzie Waterworth, perhaps best known as the voice of Horrid Henry. Lizzie captivated our students by talking about her career and also gave practical advice on how students can find their voice and boost confidence when speaking in front of other people.

Our Year 7 Design and Technology students have also enjoyed their trip to the Harry Potter Studios on Tuesday this week. Year 8 options meetings and Year 11 Sixth Form interviews have also taken place this week. We continue to be very impressed by the way that students have prepared for these meetings.

Yesterday we had our Annual Evaluation conducted by the Local Authority. This was a comprehensive review of our provision and I am very pleased with how it went, the feedback was excellent.

On Tuesday, our Year 7 – 9 students attended the 'Learning with the Sixth Form' workshop: 'What is Super Tuesday?' and it was a great success. Over 20 students signed up and attended the workshop, which shows their commitment to being lifelong learners. This provided an opportunity for a culture of learning at our school as the A level Politics students who did the presentation volunteered and the students who attended also came out of their own interest in the subject. Students left with a certificate of attendance and a working knowledge of presidential elections and the importance of Super Tuesday in the USA. The room was buzzing with political debate as to whether or not Donald Trump would be the Republican nominee which meant that they really learned the importance of the primaries in the electoral system. Our Sixth Form students were very proud of themselves both for their presentation and the knowledge that they imparted. Well done all!

We were nominated for the UK Parliament Week Champion of the Year award for all the work that we are doing to promote Politics in our school! We didn't win the award, but we were 'highly commended' by the UK Parliament, the Speaker of the House Rt. Hon Lindsay Hoyle, and the Lord Speaker Rt Hon Lord McFall of Alcuith. We are truly honoured and pleased that they have recognized our efforts, thank you to Miss Markatos for all she is doing.

As part of National Careers Week we have had a series of activities including a mini Work Related Learning session for Year 12 in our RISE lesson with guest speakers. Thank you to the RE Department for hosting this event. We also had two Get that Job sessions for our Year 9 students.

We have had a busy week of sporting fixtures. As you may have seen on our social media our U15 girls' football team won 7 – 0 in the National Cup and have progressed to the 4th round. We had two

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



fixtures at Milton Keynes Academy, with our Year 10 basketball team winning 43 – 41 and our Year 10 girls' netball team winning 11 – 6. The boys' football teams played against Oakgrove with both Year 10 and Year 9 losing 2 – 1 and Year 7 winning 2 - 0. Our Year 8 girls' netball team had two wins against Lord Grey and Radcliffe in the MK Netball tournament. Well done to all who took part.

Today, on International Women's Day, Year 8 students visited Nissan at Cranfield and were able to explore career path journeys for women in engineering. They found out about apprenticeships and work experience and had some useful conversations with Nissan staff.

Today and tomorrow Mrs Holmwood and I are in Liverpool at a Leadership Conference. It is very interesting to listen to a range of politicians talking about their priorities for education as we enter a period of preparation for an election. We are paying close attention because, whatever political party is in Government, there are always implications for schools and our children. We want to be as prepared as possible for this.

Next week I begin meetings with each Middle Leader in school focusing on their development planning and financial bids for 2024/5. I always enjoy these meetings and discussing the creative ways that they intend to meet our two priorities of ensuring that students:

- Take responsibility for their own learning through thinking hard.
- Take responsibility for their own behaviour by making good decisions.

On Tuesday, Year 11 students are visiting Cambridge University as part of our work to raise aspirations. On Wednesday a number of our students will be visiting the MK Dons stadium for the National Apprenticeships Show. In the evening on Wednesday, we welcome people to the Year 11 GCSE Drama Showcase. This will be a brilliant opportunity to see the talent of our students. Next week is British Science Week and many of our students will be going out to our primary schools to support Science work. I will be meeting primary headteachers on Wednesday to continue our crucial collaboration. Finally on Thursday we welcome representatives from Marshalls Aviation who are coming in to explore a potential collaboration with our Engineering course leaders. This is a very exciting initiative so hopefully we will have more information for you very soon.

On Thursday we will be celebrating Pi Day. Our Maths Department has suggested honouring Pi Day with a delicious family baking experience where you bake pies at home with your children and explore Maths concepts together. Some ideas include:

🔍 Learn ratios: Measure ingredients and discuss their proportions in the recipe.

🔪 Discover geometry: Calculate the diameter and circumference of your circular pie crust.

➕ Reinforce maths skills: Calculate the area of the pie crust using simple formulas.

👨🍳 Bake and enjoy: Have fun baking together and savour the tasty results!

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We'd love to hear about your family's baking adventure and how you explored Maths while making delicious pies. Please share your experience with your child's Maths teacher and create sweet memories with your family.

Matthew, Jua, Martin, Agata and Daniel, all Year 12 A Level Mathematicians, took part in the M3 Challenge on Saturday. This consisted of a range of challenging mathematical problems that required high levels of teamwork and thinking. They worked extremely hard during the 14 hour deadline and have submitted their solutions for this worldwide competition. We praise them for their excellent work and dedication to their Mathematics.

This week we shine our community support spotlight on our libraries across the city. Anyone can become a member of the Milton Keynes City Council libraries whether living in the borough or not. There is no age limit and registration is free. Join at any library and your card is valid at all of the libraries across Milton Keynes. MK libraries offer a range of facilities, they're not just for books anymore! Through the library you can borrow books, ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, foreign language books and many more resources. Members are also able to use the library computers and internet and in many of the libraries members can access printing, scanning and laminating facilities for a small fee. If you are looking for free to join events and activities the libraries in MK often offer storytime and visiting workshops for families and small children as well as reading groups and meet-up groups for adults.

Finally next week, Year 10 and Sixth Form vocational learners have their PPEs. This is an important opportunity for students to practise their examination skills and to demonstrate everything they have learnt so far. I would ask, as usual, that parents let us know if their child experiences any concerns or undue worries. We have many strategies to support children with this.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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