

Headteacher's Newsletter – Easter Term

Dear Parents, carers and friends of our school

As we approach the Easter break, it has been a very busy term for our staff and students and we look forward to this chance to relax and reenergise!

Work continues however during the Easter break for Years 11 and 13 who will be focusing on revision for their public examinations, as well as Year 10 who will sit mock examinations when we return. This term Mrs Grundy has been training staff and students in scientifically proven revision strategies. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents/carers and students to the revision evening hosted by Mrs Grundy this week. For those of you who were unable to attend the session, we have uploaded a PowerPoint Presentation and booklet with a range of these strategies which we hope you will find useful for supporting your child. A key message we have shared with our exam students is that their revision timetable should include structured rest and activity breaks!

During Lent we have reflected on the work of Cafod in caring for those most in need and protecting the world, our common home. Our students celebrated the service of Stations of the Cross on Wednesday focusing on 'Sacrifice', using the example of St Maximilian Kolbe and those who sacrificed their lives to rescue Private Ryan during World War II.

Although we probably will never be called to sacrifice our lives in such a dramatic way, St Paul reminds us that we are to be a 'living sacrifice' because of Jesus' death and resurrection. In this way through small actions of kindness, generosity, we will become more perfect and grow as Jesus' disciples.

Sports Roundup

We have yet another exciting term of sporting success at St Paul's.

Our Year 7 and 8 boy's rugby team have extended their unbeaten run by winning all 5 games during this week's rugby tournament. That is an impressive 14 games unbeaten, 12 wins and 2 draws.

Year 8 boys went through to the finals of the County basketball, narrowly losing to Rushey Mead by 1 point!

Year 11 basketball got through to the quarter finals but lost, Year 7 boys, year 7 girls, year 9 boys and year 10 boys all got through to the semi-finals but sadly lost.

We are very proud of our Year 7 boys who competed with such determination, coming second in the county finals for indoor athletics, while our sixth form football team beat English Martyrs 6-1.

Years 7 & 8 Sportshall Athletics team made it to the level 3 county finals at Uppingham. The Year 7 boys came 2nd.



News Week Activities - School Newspaper



Monday 4th March saw the English faculty undertake a newspaper focus week, culminating in the creation of our first school newspaper.

Throughout the week, students of all ages were challenged to reflect on their personal relationship with the press, and contemplate the ongoing issues that the press face. Discussions ranged from the criminalisation of fake news, to the personal responses of students to examples of this misleading information. Alongside this,

Year 7 and 8 students undertook a detailed lesson on the issues surrounding the news; considering what the news is, how stories become 'news worthy', and how to characterise 'fake news' as an ongoing problem in contemporary society.

On Thursday 7th March, a select group of Year 8 students were tasked with the challenge of creating a newspaper, from sourcing stories and reliable information, to interviewing, drafting, and publishing their final pieces. All of the students worked incredibly hard to complete the task, making the St Paul's community incredibly proud of their exemplary effort and professionalism throughout the creation of the Newspaper.

The overall aim of the activity was to tackle the ongoing issue of the contemporary media and give students the information and tools they need to keep themselves safe. With heightened access to the internet, young people are increasingly vulnerable to misleading information, and the week's activities have sought to put ideas in place to help further protect them.

Their Editor for the day, Mrs Sansone, was very proud of the press team: Logan, Ellie-Mae, Declan, Hamza, Calvin, Summer, Sky, Abdullah, Mahari, Alice, Abigail, Oluwatoni, Jasmin, Rosie-Mae, Ruby and Tamzid.

St Paul's School Musical

This year's school Musical 'Mahthildis' was inspired by Roald Dahl's novel 'Matilda'. The show ran over two nights in the school theatre to a very appreciative audience of over 400 people. 'Mahthildis' was a truly eclectic piece of Musical Theatre incorporating drama, dance, music and singing. The 60 strong cast made up of students from every year at St Paul's excelled themselves, producing a wonderfully engaging and creative show. A massive thank you has to go to all of the staff who gave up their free time to help facilitate this amazing experience for the young people of St Paul's.



Parents and carers played a huge role in making sure their children were able to participate in the show; offering lifts during holiday rehearsals, providing costumes and supporting with pre-

show nerves! A massive thank you goes out to them. We are blessed with amazingly talented students here at St Paul's, and we thank them for the performance skills, confidence and commitment they demonstrated by taking part in the show. Well done to them! Watch out for audition information (September 2019) for next year's show.

Primary Dance Festival:

In February St Paul's the Dance department hosted 18 primary schools from Leicestershire. Each school presented a dance piece that echoed themes related to a country from the Rugby world cup. The standard of the dance and choreography was extremely high this year! 15 St Paul's students acted as 'Dance Leaders' on the day to support the Primary schools and presented their own work to help inspire them. This was a fantastic contribution to their 'Level 1 Dance Leader' qualification they are completing this year.

'Move It' dance trip:



25 GCSE Dance students accompanied their Dance teachers to the London Excel annual 'Move It', Britain's largest and most prodigious dance event. Here they got to watch many inspiring dance pieces and take part in dance workshops. One of our students got 'scouted' by a scholarship group, which just shows how talented our students are!

Year 7 STEM workshop

The workshop, 'Tomorrow's Engineers', was thoroughly enjoyed by students from 7S, 7U, 7R and 7C. Each form engaged in a 2-hour session in which they explored various types of engineering, renewable and non-renewable energy resources. With great enthusiasm they embarked on the Electric Car Challenge - building and testing their own electric cars. This helped develop their problem solving skills and resilience, which are the key characteristics of being a successful engineer. Some students, like Eleri, came up with innovative ideas for future inventions and are planning to enter a national competition in the near future. Mrs Ndoh was extremely proud of our Year 11 students, for rising to the challenges presented to them. Very well done - look out for St Paul's budding Scientists and Engineers of the future!



Berlin Trip

25 students and 3 staff have left for Berlin in the early hours of this morning for an intensive weekend including visits to the Reichstag building, Checkpoint Charlie, The Brandenburg Gate and the Jewish museum. Follow them on Twitter @StpaulsLeicYR8.

Revision Evening and Exam Prep

Mrs Grundy delivered a scientifically proven revision techniques session to parents on Tuesday 9th April. This was extremely well received and I hope that you will join us supporting your child through the upcoming exam process.

I have attached a copy of the Mrs Grundy's presentation

Key updates and Reminders for parents

- Thank you to all parents who observe our important requests not to drive on to the school site before 3.30pm if picking students up in the afternoon. Those who still do (and I'm sorry to say that there are some) create difficulties for the buses to move freely up and down the drive and compromise safety of staff and students as a result.
- I would respectfully remind all parents and carers of the schools' uniform expectations which, as ever, are clearly laid out on the school website.
- A recent local circular has highlighted the dangers of wearing lanyards in the front seats of cars where airbags have been deployed as the result of an accident. If your child is a passenger or, in the case of some of our sixth formers, drive their own cars to school, please do not wear your lanyard if you are in the front seat.
- **Cyber security:** From Friday 10th May, students will not be able to use USB sticks or hard drives in school. This is due to new laws about confidentiality (GDPR) and cyber security advice. Please encourage your child to save all their work to the school's OneDrive, a very secure site, over the Easter holidays. A step by step guidance sheet will be on the school website shortly to advise students how to upload their work to the OneDrive. If your child is taking an exam this Summer, please ensure that all the relevant work is copied onto the OneDrive
- Polite reminder, our school day starts at 8:45am. If your child arrives after the register is closed they will be marked as an unauthorised absence. The significance of this is that high levels of unauthorised absences will result in a referral to the Educational Welfare Service which could lead to legal action being taken, resulting in a fine.

I hope that you and your family have a relaxing and joyful Easter break, and I look forward to welcoming our students and staff back, ready to take on the new Pentecost term.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Mrs M Gillespie
Headteacher