

Dear Parents and Carers,

It doesn't seem like yesterday since term was just starting and here we are at half term. It has been a wonderfully busy and positive start to the school year with so many things going on.

We enjoyed meeting many of you at the Information Evenings during September. The school year is busy with many key things happening for each year group. It was useful to share these with you. Mrs Oliver and I had some very productive mornings visiting all the Year 6 students and parents in our CMAT feeder primary schools. I enjoyed telling them all about St Paul's and answering **all** their questions. We took two Year 7 students to each of the visits who had just come from that particular primary school. It was heart warming to see the lovely relationships that continue to exist between our students and their primary schools and I look forward to building up our primary links over the next few years.

We were delighted to open our doors to our next potential group of parents and students at our Open Evening. We hosted almost 300 families and we were pleased to hear such lovely comments about the evening and the young people and staff they met. I was very proud of all those students who volunteered to help out; they were amazing ambassadors for St Paul's. My thanks goes to all those involved in the evening in any way. Applications to the school for the new Year 7 cohort closes on 31st October.

Student leadership has been further developed this term with the new Senior Student Leadership Team (SSLT) comprising Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputies and Senior Prefects. The Senior Prefects manage teams in Chaplaincy, Charity Events and Sport. We congratulate Blessing Adebayo and Troy Mason as Head Girl and Head Boy and Indiah Parmar and Afzal Hisham as Deputies. Senior Prefects Hanna Chikawawawa, Godson Ajieh, Jenessa Cueto, Harry Mason, Kesna Philip, Aiden Clayton-Crosse, Ogie Imoedemhe and Eulalia D'Souza.



Also appointed this term is our new Hospitality Team. These wonderful young people applied, were interviewed and appointed to the Team and many 'worked' on their first job at Open Evening. The Team will 'work' at school events, meeting and greeting visitors, serving refreshments and helping staff. The Team will gain many valuable skills and experience in order to help them with real jobs in the future. The Team photo in their Hospitality uniform can be seen here. Mrs Orton is the Team Manager.

Another piece of Work Related Learning (WRL) is going on with Year 8 who are all taking a turn with Student Reception duty. Their jobs vary but can include filing, delivering messages to students and completing administration jobs for the school office.

Our students are wonderful young people to be around. Occasionally they do things that are very special. Some things this half term that deserve a special mention are:

Year 13 students who have completed a Nuffield Research placement during the summer. They all attended the celebration event at De Montfort University with Mr Cockcroft where they were presented with their Gold Crest Award. Congratulations to Tariro, Jeevan, Nidah, Kurran, Afzal, Rose and Kesna.



Congratulations also go to Chelsea Watts in Year 10. Chelsea came 2nd place in the prestigious Sue Townsend Creative Writers Award hosted and sponsored by De Montfort University. Her writing was described as “beautifully crafted and imaginative” and was well received by the judging panel which was chaired by Bali Rai.

Thanks to Mr Lissaman for being there to see Chelsea receive her award.

Sporting Congratulations go to two of our Year 10 students:

- Roisin who has won a place to play in the tennis championships over in China representing her age group
- Deneao who represented England in Tbilisi, Georgia over the summer to box in the European Championships. He now holds the school European championship title, along with his GB and England title, which means he has achieved the highest level in boxing for his age!



The student’s lives are enriched by many extra-curricular opportunities and clubs. Our basketball, football and netball teams are doing brilliantly in their matches and tournaments. More about the successes in these next half term!

We were very pleased to have a Teaching and Learning consultant in with us to look at both Years 7 – 11 and Sixth Form. One of the aspects of his work was to take Student voice. I was delighted to hear about young people who are “natural” and “engaged” in their learning and who spoke of their learning and school in such a positive way. They all felt Show My Homework was helping them be more organised and prepared for their lessons. I hope you are too seeing the benefits of Show My Homework. I would ask for those of you who haven’t yet logged on yet to do so. 100% of our students in Years 7-13 have done so and are using it well.

Our staff and students spiritual well-being has been enriched by our Think Days, Encounter sessions and our voluntary mass in the Chapel every Thursday morning where in excess of 60 young people come to celebrate the sacrament. Thanks to Deacon Seamus and our priests for making this possible. October has been declared as the month for Homelessness Awareness by Bishop Patrick. The Sixth Form charities team made an excellent start to this when they had a collection of dry foods to donate to "One Roof – Leicester"



The staff and the student body came together to raise money for Macmillan – thank you to those who came in to join us for coffee and cake - £600 was raised in total. On Cafod Harvest Fast Day we held a non-uniform day to 'brighten up' the life of someone in need - raising £765 to provide medical teams and clean water supplies to our brothers and sisters in the developing world.



Eleven of our Year 10 students spent the day at the National Holocaust Centre with students from four other schools for a day sponsored by the 'Not to Hate' campaign. During the day students heard from a former EDL member and from the SOPHIE foundation. Students then produced a 2 minute film to be shown in schools highlighting what to do to be an upstander if they witness a hate crime and signed the pledge on behalf of the school.

Year 7 and 11 have taken part in their Think Days at the Rosmini Centre- glorious days of sunshine in the countryside- Year 11 looked at ways to look after themselves in this important year and Year 7 took part in activities looking at building community through using the gifts God has given them.

At this time last year, we sadly had the death of Allen Joseph in Year 12. We have been proud of how the present Year 13's and their pastoral team have cared and ministered to one another. It was very fitting then to celebrate with his family the First Anniversary Mass in school and to gather to share memories and food afterwards. Allen was a promising mathematician and so we have named the Maths trophy in his honour and soon new plaques will be installed in the Theatre listing the award winners under the title 'In memory of Allen Joseph RIP'. Therefore, St Paul's words that Deacon Seamus gave to the congregation at his funeral will be evident. 'You have a permanent place in my heart.'

Thank you for all your patience with the issues we have been experiencing with the SP1 bus. Confidence have now agreed to make this route an 81 seater which means all students will now have a seat. Students who should get the SP4 should continue to do so, rather than get the SP1. Those students who should get the public bus on Spencefield Lane should not get the SP1. We will continue to monitor the buses to ensure student's safety at all times.

Student safety and well-being are paramount to us and as such we want to raise awareness of these with our young people and yourselves. We are committed to the agreed city-wide School-Police partnership protocols which mean the police will have a greater presence in and around

school; meeting our students, delivering talks and answering questions on a wide variety of topics. We will keep you informed of the programme of talks as the year progresses. I have agreed with the police that they will deliver a parent workshop on "Keeping your child safe online". This will run on Tuesday 26th November 5pm – 6pm in the Theatre. I will email after half term with sign up details.

Finally, a thank you to all of you for the support you give to the staff at St Paul's and for your sons and daughters who make the school such a wonderful place to be in. I will be re-instating the Parent Forum next half term. If you would like to be part of this, please email my PA – Mrs Oliver at holiver@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk – and I will be in touch. Meetings will be held termly 4pm-5pm.

Events next half term include:

- Year 11 & Year 12 Progression Evening – 23rd October 5pm-7pm
- Year 9 Parents Evening - 29th October 4.30pm – 7pm
- Year 11 Parents Evening - 7th November 4.30pm – 7pm
- Year 7 Parents Evening - 14th November 4.30pm – 7pm
- Year 11 Mock exams 25th November – 6th December (revision class schedule exam timetable will be distributed after half term)
- 'Keeping your child safe online' workshop 26th November 5pm – 6pm
- Snowcase – 10th – 11th December
- Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper Day – 18th December
- School Carol Service – 18th December 6pm
- School Carol Service for students and end of term – 20th December (School closes at 1pm)

- Term starts Tuesday 7th January for all years

I will see many of you at the events after half term. Invitations to Snowcase and the School Carol Service will go out after the half term holiday.

With best wishes



Mrs S Conaghan
Principal