



17 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we make our way through Advent we are reminded of the need to prepare for the coming of the birth of Jesus. The Church asks us to spend time in prayer and thinking of others. Both of these things can be seen in abundance in St Paul's over the last few weeks. It has been a challenging time with illness, staff absence as a result of family illness and a national shortage of supply teachers. I would like to thank the students and parents in Years 11 & 12 for their understanding as both year groups have had to study from home at various points over the last 2 weeks freeing up teachers to do cover. Your understanding and support has been appreciated. Staff have also gone the extra mile this term by doing extra duties and covering lessons and I am grateful to all of them for their commitment and willingness to help out when they can.

We have also had lots of moments of joy. The Advent services have been beautiful as was the day we recorded the Carol Service. This recording will be sent out to all of you early next week. Last night many of you will have enjoyed watching the Snowcase. I was struck by the variety and talent of each student; what a wonderful celebration of gifts and hard work! If you have not seen it, please do watch it. – it is available for a short time only. <https://youtu.be/QDu1OjtaG8M>

My thanks to the Performing Arts staff and Gilroy for recording it.

Year 11 and 13 have been working hard this half term getting their TAG assessments completed. There is still much uncertainty around the summer exams and both year groups have been incredibly mature and aware that these assessments could be used to decide their GCSE and A Level grades. Both year groups have also been busy completing PS16 and UCAS applications. Year 11 return to us on Monday for their Sixth Form Taster Day and Futures Event.

#### Praise & Reward

Good news events this term include lots of students receiving subject badges, Principal's Pens and Bebras awards. We have also been running a Praise Points competition for all year groups with the winning form in each year half having the reward of wearing their own clothes next Tuesday. Winning forms are:

- 7L & 7P
- 8s & 8U
- 9S & 9L
- 10S & 10U

Well done to all these form groups. As a reward for Snowcase, those students involved can also wear their own clothes on Tuesday.

#### Staffing Updates

In staffing news, more to celebrate! After many advertisements, we have now appointed:

- Miss Khalifa - English
- Mr Clarkson – Physics (from Easter)
- Mrs Bali – Science
- Mr Buck - Science
- Mr Patience – Science (until July)

This means we are now full staffed for January.

We welcome Mrs Tutla to St Paul's as our new librarian. We are incredibly impressed with the large increase in students borrowing books from the library and reading as a result of the time we have spent into promoting positive reading habits and the numerous benefits to students. Studies also show that children who receive books for Christmas as a stocking filler are far more likely to take up the habit if it is presented to them in the form of a brand new book or book series. Some great new releases can be found on Amazon - particular authors that teens are reading currently are: Patrick Ness; Markus Zusack, Jenny Han, Lauren Olivier and Maureen Johnson to name but a few.

We say farewell to Mr Gerighty, who leaves us after 3 years to pursue hobbies and interests and we wish him all the best for the future.

### School Buses

Kura will be in touch with you with regards to school transport after Christmas. We are pleased that Ausden Clark will continue as our transport provider and will be managed by Kura.

### Safeguarding & HSB

Thank you for your feedback on our HSB Charter. This area of safeguarding has been a key focus for us this term. Students have had assemblies and we have done a number of student voice sessions. We have been really pleased with comments like "I feel safe", "I know who I can talk to if I was worried about someone" and "I chose to stay for A Levels because I am happy here".

The feedback has allowed us to amend the Charter and it is now in form rooms with posters in toilets and on corridors.

[https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/?utm\\_source=16%20December%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/?utm_source=16%20December%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

A copy of our safeguarding policy and HSB Charter documents can be found here: <https://www.st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding/>

### COVID update

I am aware of the Press and media reports around next term and how schools might be affected. At this point, we are expecting students to be back on 6<sup>th</sup> January. If this changes I will, of course, let you know. Please ensure that we have your up to date contact details: you can email the school office [office@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk) with any changes. In case of the worst case scenario and we are asked to go to remote learning, your child would need a tablet or laptop to access lessons. If you know this will be an issue, please email Ms Warrilow [swarrilow@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:swarrilow@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk) as it is possible we could help by loaning you a laptop. Whatever happens, those taking exams in January will still sit them.

We will be distributing more Covid test kits to students this week. It is very important you continue to ensure that your child is testing twice weekly over the Christmas holiday and the results are reported via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. If you have been unable to book a slot for the in school testing on 5<sup>th</sup> January, please can you ensure that your child has completed a test the night before they are due to return to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

### Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December - School closes at 12.20pm
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - School open for **pre-booked** Covid testing ONLY
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January – School re-opens for all
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January/Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January – School Performance TBC
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January - Year 11 Sixth Form Interviews
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January - Year 7 Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm Remote
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Year 8 Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm Remote

Term Dates for the next 4 years can be found on our school website: <https://www.st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk/parents/term-dates-3/>

So as we approach the end of term, despite the challenges, we are grateful for the community we have here at St Paul's, for the wonderful students, staff, Governors, Trust and all of you parents and grandparents. I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Best wishes



Mrs S Conaghan  
Principal

