



9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you well. We continue to be busy here at school getting on with the business of school and normality. We have, of course, been affected by Covid and I thought you might be interested in the statistics.

- Students - % absence due to Covid – 2% December 2021/12% January 2022
- Staff % absent due to Covid - 1.4% December 2021/9.1% January 2022

Although we have been relatively fortunate with low numbers of staff testing positive for Covid in school, we have been affected by absence due to general illness and staff's children nesting positive/being ill. Science staffing remains our biggest area but I am pleased that all issues have been resolved with staffing becoming more stable. Science staffing nationally is quite a concern and I thank you for your patience if your child has been affected.

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/secondary/physics-teacher-shortage-needs-urgent-action-dfe-told>

Thank you for ensuring your child continues to test at home and for supporting the mask wearing. Although restrictions around mask wearing in schools has lifted, I support any student or staff member who chooses to continue to wear one. The vaccination team were here on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January for Covid and flu vaccinations and administered 479 vaccinations in total. If your child has not been vaccinated against Covid yet and is aged between 12 and 15, they can go the NHS booking site - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or any drop in centre - <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site>.

The Year 8 HPV vaccinations that were cancelled last year took place on Monday of this week. The nurses had just under 300 students to vaccinate on the day. Any child missed for whatever reason, will be identified in the next round of HPV vaccinations to be held in school later in the year.

We now have our Parent Forum panel – thank you to all those who volunteered. If you have any agenda items you would like us to discuss, please email Mrs Oliver [hooliver@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:hooliver@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk). The first meeting is on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and I will send out the minutes after that.

The parent questionnaires received 89 responses. I was pleased that 85% said that their child felt happy and safe in school.

- 80% said their child had received education in safeguarding including HSB with another 19% not being sure.
- 90% were happy with the religious life at the school with 9% being neutral
- 97% agreed that their child could access extra curricular activities
- 85% felt St Paul's had high expectations of behaviour with 9 parents being neutral and 1 disagreeing

Things that I would like to work on include more parents completing the questionnaire and responses moving from neutral to agree. The staff and I are very committed to making St Paul's even better than what it already is and we welcome suggestions. Thank you for all the positive feedback; we really appreciate it.

Just before the first lockdown I took parent and student voice on a summer blouse/shirt. The response for both was overwhelmingly positive and I would like to pursue the idea. I am conscious that our parent and student body has changed so I intend bringing the blouse/shirt the first parent forum as well as showing them to students. I will keep you updated. I have also responded to student voice and had a PE skort designed. I will also bring this along to the Parent Forum. Both the blouse/shirt and skort will be optional items of uniform and available to purchase directly from Schoolwear Solutions.

In staffing news we are delighted to welcome:

- Kian Fowell as a full time Cover Supervisor
- Kenji Natividad as a part time Cover Supervisor
- Sejal Pala – Student Support Officer

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Patel, our Attendance Officer, who left us this week after 9 years. We wish her well.

We will be holding a Diversity Week for staff and students between 21<sup>st</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup> February to tie in with Black History Month and LGBT Month. St Paul's is an incredibly diverse community. We want to celebrate that through a series of talks, fundraising events and assemblies all culminating in a "This is me" non uniform day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February. (Non uniform can also include traditional cultural dress as well as International sports kit or a sports kit that they identify with). The full timetable of the day and details can be found attached and on our website. Amongst our visitors for the day includes Sarah Hagger Holt who will deliver a series of talks and workshops. <https://sarahhaggerholt.com/> Sarah will bring with her some books for our library and books to sell should your child wish to purchase one. As well as this, lots of students will be bringing in cultural foods they enjoy at home. If you do not wish your child to sample these foods, please ensure that you have this conversation with them prior to Diversity Week. If you are happy for your child to bring in some of these food items, please ask them to email their form tutor and Head of Year telling them they will bring food in. Food should be labelled for allergies. Students have also been told they can make, bring in and sell other cultural based items but again they should ensure they email their form tutor and Head of Year. All monies raised will go to their chosen charity.

The Government has now published its exam information for Year 11 and Year 13 students. We have gone through this with both year groups and you can find the information here for you to read - [Subject-by-subject support for GCSE, AS and A level students in 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022). Both year groups will continue completing TAG's until May.

Our spiritual life remains at the heart of all we do and this half term we continue to celebrate Mass every Thursday as well as hold reflections and services in the Chapel for form classes on the 4 other days. We are enjoying having our Chaplaincy apprentice Kieran with us to help with all of these. After half term assemblies face to face resume in the Theatre. Year 12 have had a lovely wellbeing retreat afternoon and we continue to celebrate Encounter (Adoration) and Class Masses weekly in the Chapel.

Our Blessing of the Chapel with Bishop Patrick was a memorable day for the school community- with the Mass live-streamed to all Form Rooms.

Year 7-9 Advent Liturgies took place in the Chapel and our Carol Service was recorded in the Chapel. We livestreamed the Epiphany Mass on the first day back in school after the Christmas Holidays.

Lent starts on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and all students will be offered ashes in school in the Lent Services; services and reflections will continue through Lent. We are grateful to Fr Michael, Fr Simon and Fr. John for supporting us with our spiritual life in school. The Diocese have shared the following resources with us that you might like to look at:

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Family-Activities-for-Lent-Poster.pdf>

A piece of commissioned Bible artwork, **Mosaic Experience** gives you a 360° tour of this stunning **Little Bits of God** artwork <https://art.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Mrs Sally Walker RIP (former Food Technology teacher) was laid to rest at Countesthorpe Crematorium on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Sally's funeral was streamed live to the School Chapel for those who could not attend the service. At the staff service after her death, we gathered to give thanks for everything Sally gave to St Paul's and the lives of the students, parents and colleagues that she touched.

Finally, in our spiritual life update, we have now raised enough money for our stained glass widows in the Chapel. We chose the final design from Phoebe and Bianca's ideas and we are excited to see it made up and installed some time in the Pentecost Term.

#### Sixth Form Interviews

Students from Year 11 were interviewed on Wednesday for a place in Sixth Form. They were all very well prepared and would be an asset to our Sixth Form offer letters will go out at the end of this week.

#### Keeping in touch

We keep our website up to date with recent news and this is also a good place to start if you have any queries about safeguarding, our curriculum, school policies or general information such as school uniform. We also post frequently on Twitter – follow us at @StpaulsLeic.

#### School buses

Any student who travels on the school bus will be issued with a fob during this week. This will become their bus pass and students must use it every time they get on.

Any fob lost or misplaced can be replaced in school at a charge of £10 per replacement.

If you have questions about the bus service for St Paul's please contact Kura [stpaulsleicester@ridekura.com](mailto:stpaulsleicester@ridekura.com).

#### COVID Testing

We will be distributing more Covid test kits to students after half term. It is very important you continue to ensure that your child is testing twice weekly over the half term and the results are reported via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

#### **Dates for your diary:**

- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February - School close for half term
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February - School reopens
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Diversity week
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February – “This is me” non uniform day
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Year 11 Parents Evening. This will be a remote session.
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February – School Performance ‘Beauty and the Beast’ Tickets £5. Tickets can be purchased via ParentPay
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day. Dress as your favourite literary character. Prizes for the best.
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Year 12/13 Parents Evening
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March Year 8 Briars Retreat
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March Year 7 Briars Retreat
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Year 12 UK University Search trip to the King Power Stadium

Best wishes



Mrs S Conaghan  
Principal