



8 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. Here we are again at the end of another term.

Uniform

We have been working very hard on uniform standards and I would like to thank you for your support in ensuring your child comes to school properly dressed in the full school uniform. I was pleased to hear from the uniform supplier that a number of you have placed orders for school skirts and blazers over the last couple of weeks. We continue to run a very successful "Preloved" uniform shop and I ask if you are in need of an item of school uniform including PE kit that you contact the school office and we can let you know what we have in stock. As you may remember, I told you that students were keen to have a skort introduced into the PE kit and I am delighted to tell you that these will be available from Schoolwear Solutions from Easter. Students can wear the skort to replace the black leggings. The skorts are not compulsory, they are optional and can be worn all year round should your child wish.

Please ensure that your child's uniform complies with our expectations upon their return to school on Monday 25th April. As a reminder false nails are not allowed so if your child has had these applied over Easter, please ensure they are removed before their return to school.

Staffing

Miss Teal, who has been with us for a number of years as SENDCO is leaving us just after Easter. We have appointed Miss Boyle, who many of you will know as a Head of Year, as our new SENDCO. She will take over this role after Easter followed by oversight for Year 7 once her year group leave. Miss Boyle will be working with the Trust and other SENDCO's locally in order to get fully up to speed to support the young people at St Paul's. In order to support Miss Boyle, we will also appoint a full time assistant Head of Year and in addition, Mrs Chavda will be looking after transition from primary to secondary school for our incoming Year 7 students when she returns from maternity leave.

After a rigorous process, we have also appointed Mr Kieran Miskelly as Assistant Principal. Mr Miskelly joins us from Soar Valley College and will start with us in August. He will be responsible for assessments in the curriculum, targets, tracking and examinations amongst other things. You will get to meet him over the course of next year. We have also appointed a new receptionist; Mrs Godber who was with us for two years has returned to her passion of charity work and in her place, we have appointed Mrs Mulla. Mrs Mulla starts with us after Easter along with Mrs Bates who is our new Attendance Officer.

Arbor

After Easter we will begin to use a new school system which will be rolled out across the entire Trust and it is called Arbor. Over the next 12 months Arbor will eventually take over our all our school systems replacing G4S, Teachers to Parents, texts and emails and Satchel. Initially we will use it for attendance and to communicate texts and emails to you with behaviour and assessments following after that. We will be in touch about parent logins so you can access your child's attendance.

Dining

Over the last few weeks, we've also been monitoring how things are going in our cafe and restaurant. We've been absolutely delighted with the amount of students who are eating in both spaces. We are aware that at times the queue in the Cafe area is long and we have reviewed this and put additional staffing in place. As the exam groups leave, there will be more capacity in both of these spaces at lunchtime. Can I please remind all parents that their child's ParentPay account must be kept in credit to allow their child to eat in either of these areas; we will be in touch should your child's account go into debit. If you think you may qualify for free school meals full details are available on the following link: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/grants-and-allowances/free-school-meals/>.

Year 11 and 13

Our Year 11 and 13 students are working incredibly hard with their teachers in order to prepare for the upcoming GCSE and A level examinations. Some courses continue to be taught, but in the main, students are now revising. Year 11 and 13 students and parents will be fully aware that traditional study leave no longer exists and students will return to us for a full program of revision for two full weeks after the May half term. Once most exams are completed, students will just come in for the remaining papers. For GCSE students that will be from Monday 20th June. A Level students will come in until they have sat their last A Level paper. Year 11 Dance, Drama and Art students completed their practical assessments over the last 2 weeks. My thanks go to Miss Rodwell, Miss Stevenson, Mr Hayes, Miss Gillespie Mendes, Mr Hillier and Mrs Knapp for their preparation and we hope that all students have done well. Both Mr Cockcroft and Miss Boyle have been organizing Thanksgiving masses and Proms for both year groups, and we would ask, please, if students have not bought and reserved their tickets for their respective Prom that they do so by Friday 8th April. We will need to confirm numbers with both venues imminently. Should we not get the minimum required numbers, we may have to cancel.

Trips

It was lovely to see Years 7 and 8 go off to the Briars in recent weeks. Both year groups had a fantastic time! My thanks to Deacon Seamus and the staff for being there with our students.

We also had huge success with the DofE. Miss Pinel has recruited approximately 84 into DofE this year and the headed off in the snow last week for their Bronze expedition. The photos look great and I am told they had a fantastic time - thank goodness the weather improved! My thanks to the students and staff who are involved in DofE this year and to all you as parents for supporting them.

Covid

The latest guidance is that we no longer will be distributing test kits to staff or students since neither are obliged to test any more. The guidance says:

“Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. Adults with a positive Covid-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is three days”.

Transport

After the Easter holidays our school bus transport provider will be changing. The provider for the SP1, SP2 and SP3 will now be Teulu Travel and the SP4 service will be run by Phoenix Coaches.

All buses will be plain white and the route clearly marked. There will be no other changes to the bus service; the routes and current times remain unchanged for the remainder of the school year.



Fasting Day

On Friday 8th April, we invited anyone who wanted to participate to join us in our fasting fellowship. As a school community, we are committed to recognising and celebrating our diversity. So, during Lent and Ramadan, we hosted a sponsored fast and social get together. The donations from our sponsored fast will be split between CAFOD and Islamic Relief.

Attendance

Full attendance is extremely important to each student's success and we expect students to attend fully during term time. **All** students, including Sixth Form, should be on site by 8.45am. In the case of genuine illness, please can we remind parents to telephone the school office on 0116 2414057, Option 1 'Absences', **before 9am**. If your child is ill for more than one day, it is important that you ring school each morning they are not in.

Dates for your diary:

W/c 25th April - Year 10 mock exams

Monday 2nd May – May Day **SCHOOL CLOSED**

Thursday 5th May – Year 8 Options Evening

Monday 16th May – GCSE and A Level exams start

Friday 27th May – School closes for Half Term

Easter Message

Students have received ashes and the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school during this period of Lent. As we look forward to the resurrection of our Lord, we remember the sacrifice he made for us and the Good News his resurrection brings.

Resurrection Light

*Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us
may your dawn beckon.*

*When fear paralyses us
may your touch release us.*

*When grief torments us
may your peace enfold us.*

*When memories haunt us
may your presence heal us.*

*When justice fails us
may your anger ignite us.*

*When apathy stagnates us
may your challenge renew us.*

*When courage leaves us
may your spirit inspire us.*

*When despair grips us
may your hope restore us.*

*And when death threatens us
may your resurrection light lead us.*

Amen.

Wishing you a restful Easter,



Mrs S Conaghan
Principal