



13 December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your support this term. It has been incredibly busy and we cannot do what we do without your support.

Celebrations

We have showcased so many gifts and talents this term and it is a delight to have huge numbers of our young people being involved in extra curricular activities including sport, productions and competitions. A particular big well done to all the major sporting successes as below:

- Year 7 Boys Basketball East City Champions
- Year 8 Boys Basketball East City Champions
- Year 9 Boys Basketball East City Champions
- Year 11 Boys Basketball East City Champions
- Year 7 Girls Indoor Athletics Leicester City Champions
- Year 7 Boys Indoor Athletics Leicester City Champions
- Year 8 Girls Indoor Athletics Leicester City Champions
- Year 8 Boys Indoor Athletics Leicester City Champions
- Year 9 Girls Netball Leicester City Champions
- Cross Country Runners have made it through to the county rounds.



Year 11 Girls Netball Leicester City Champions (have won every year since year 7!)

And a huge well done to all those involved in Snowcase and thanks to the Performing Arts staff Mr Hayes, Mrs Gillespie Mendes, Miss Rodwell, Miss Stevenson and Mr Hannaford.



More thanks to all those involved in the Menphys concert at the DeMontfort Hall. The collaboration with English Martyrs' resulted in a stunning performance of 'O Holy Night' - <https://www.instagram.com/p/ClyArZ3prSS/>



I launched the first St Thomas Aquinas public speaking competition this term. Each of the 4 secondary schools in our Trust will compete for the trophies. We had 30 students from St Paul's enter Round 1 and my congratulations go to Zahraya, Caragh, Delores and Jonathan. These finalists will go through to the next stage after Christmas where they will compete against 4 students from the other 3 secondary schools.

The grand final will take place in early March. I have been fortunate to have the help of both Miss Sansone and Miss Coggins in school as well the Catenians to help judge. The Catenians have also donated £250 of prize money to use as we wish. I will write again next term with updates.

Preparations for "Frozen" are well underway! There are round 100 students involved this year. Show dates are Wednesday 11th January and Thursday 12th January with a performance to our primary schools on Tuesday 10th January. Tickets are £5 and are available on ParentPay.

Amongst all the business of school life we have also taken time to reflect on Advent and the coming of our Saviour. Advent services and assemblies have been going on in the Chapel as well as reflections in form time. We continue to celebrating weekly Mass every Thursday in the Chapel - Fr David Cain, newly appointed parish priest at Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary, is now working with us and we are grateful to him, Fr Michael Moore and Fr Prince for helping strengthen our spiritual life in school. The Trust Travelling Nativity made its way to us on Monday 12th December from De Lisle and will be passed onto St Thomas More.



It has been our great pleasure to work with our St Paul's family of schools - St John Fisher, Sacred Heart, St Joseph's Leicester and St Thomas More - to offer hampers of food and gifts/toys to our families who need them the most. We were truly humbled by the volume of donations that came in from each of our primary schools and consequently we have been able to put together 32 hampers, 37 essential food bags and 247 presents for children of all ages. Mr Gallagher, Mrs Dedman, Mrs Crosse and Mrs Hayles were delighted to collect their allocations to distribute.



A very special thanks to the owners of Accor Hotel, Leicester for their incredible donation of £500 to help. This will be divided up as vouchers and distributed to those families who need them most. Each school had around 6 hampers and 5 foodbags; if you need one of these, please drop my PA, Mrs Oliver - [holiver@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:hooliver@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk) an email and we will be in touch.

Other Updates

Traffic

Cllr Adam Clarke came out early morning on Monday 5th December by invitation from myself and Mr Koorichh (Head of Krishna Avanti PS). We are all committed to improving the traffic and parking situation on Spencefield Lane and the school site. Cllr Clarke could see just how bad things were and is on board with funding solutions. In the short term he has committed to reinstating the ANPR camera on Spencefield Lane and instigating spot check traffic wardens over the coming weeks. In the longer term, there will be discussions about 'Park and Stride' as well as restrictions to turning into the school drive. In the meantime, **please can I remind all parents that they are not allowed to drive down the school drive and that the school entrance is not a turning point to drop students off.** There are plenty of side streets where students can be safely dropped off and collected in the morning and afternoon.

School Transport

We continue to liaise with the Trust about school transport for 2023/2024. If you have not yet completed the short school transport survey we sent out recently, can I ask that you do so by 16th December.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6X6A372YaE24KJDKnNKQ_V0ZMhw8zEtMtG7iJdYeG9hURtdGMkZEOTBLSU9GUTBMUw3M1BZREtRRS4u

The Trust will be in touch next term with proposals.

School Uniform

There has been a buzz around my office in the last few weeks as I put a prototype new school skirt on a mannequin. I have extensive student voice and despite some reservations the feedback has been positive. The prototype is not the colourway we want so we are having one made for us and once I have this, I will share a picture with you all; this is anticipated to be around February. The new skirt will be in stock for purchase from July ready for the new school year. My rationale for introducing the new skirt is unlikely to need explaining but for clarity it is because, despite warnings and sanctions, a large number of girls continue to wear the wrong school skirt, and in many cases, skirts that are unacceptably short. I will be in touch next term with more information including stockists and prices. Girls can continue to choose to wear tailored school trousers should they wish – this does not include leggings, jeggings or jean type trousers.

Miss Warrilow and myself are also exploring options for the Sixth Form dress code and we will be in touch about this shortly.

We do have many items of preloved uniform available to purchase at a reasonable price – please contact Mrs Mulla in the school office for details of stock. Also, if you have any blazers or school skirts you would like to donate, please drop them into reception any time.

Staffing

We have said farewells to the following staff this half term:

- Mrs Cartwright who has joined the Sacred Heart Presbytery as their Office Manager
- Mr Robinson who has relocated back to the West Midlands. Mr Fowell will take over his role as Assistant Head of Year for Year 8.

And this week we say goodbye to:

- Mr Hillier who leaves us to take up a position as Head of Art at Lutterworth College. Mrs Bosworth will take over duties as acting Head of Department
- Miss Tinson Shaw who is taking a break from teaching

We thank them for their service to St Paul's and wish them all the best.

We welcome in January:

- Mrs Jones as Teacher of History
- Miss Henshaw as Pastoral Manager
- Mrs Khatun as Temporary Teacher of Art & Photography

Safeguarding

Please find attached our new safeguarding newsletter for your information. We will share one of these termly with you to keep you up to date with the work we do on safeguarding. In school. Please note in particular what to do if you are concerned about a child during the holidays.

Change to Term Dates 2023/2024

There is a slight revision to the 2023-24 term dates that are currently published. It is a real difficulty for the secondary schools having an INSET day on GCSE results day in August as I am sure everyone will appreciate. We will therefore be moving the INSET days to Friday 25th and Tuesday 29th August 2023, rather than Thursday 24th and Friday 25th August as they are currently published. School will then close on Friday 12th July 2024, rather than finishing on Thursday 11th July 2024 as published.

Keeping up to date...

You can keep up to date with all our news via:

- Website – www.st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk
- Twitter - @StpaulsLeic
- Instagram – www.instagram.com/stpaulsleicester

Dates for your diary:

Friday 16th December – Christmas Jumper/non school uniform day – closes at 12.30pm

Wednesday 4th January – school open to all students

Wednesday 11th January/Thursday 12th January - “Frozen” 6pm

Wednesday 18th January – Year 7 Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm (Virtual)

Friday 20th January – Flu Vaccinations in school

Wednesday 25th January – Year 8 Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm (Virtual)

Wednesday 1st February – Year 12/13 Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm (Virtual)

Wednesday 15th February – Year 11 Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm (Virtual)

Friday 17th February – school closes for half term

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas.

S Conaghan

Mrs S Conaghan
Principal

