



17 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you well. It has been a very full and busy half term and staff and students alike are looking forward to the holiday!

We are still waiting for the final Ofsted report and I will share it with you once I receive it. Once again, thank you for your comments on the Ofsted Parent survey; it was a pleasure to see so many of you would recommend St Paul's to another parent. As always, if you feel there are things we could do better do let us know. It is important to me that we keep looking at ways to improve. With this in mind, I would like to re-establish our Parent Forum. This is an opportunity for some of you to represent the parent body and meet with me termly with a set agenda agreed between us. If you would like to be part of our Parent Forum, please send an email to my PA, Mrs Oliver holiver@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk by Wednesday 1st March. It is anticipated the Parent Forum will also lead on fundraising amongst other things so I encourage people with an interest in that area to get involved.

This term has allowed many of our students to celebrate in lots of ways. Our sports teams continue to reign supreme with notable success:

Netball

Y7 netball came 2nd in the County finals
Y11 Won the league

Cross country

Amazing achievement from the following girls that made it to the inter school's county finals. Scarlett, Freya, Fionnula and Miami (who picked up a silver medal). The team gained a gold medal.



Sportshall Athletics

Y7 & 8 Won the area and due to compete in the counties on 30th March

Rugby

Year 7/8 Boys Rugby
First festival of the year 3 wins from 3 games

Football

Yr 7 East Leicester final
Yr 10 current county quarter finalists



Basketball

Year 7 boys
City Final Winners
Knocked out in the County Quarter Finals
Year 8 boys
City Finals Winners
Currently in the quarter finals of the County
Have won 2 games from 2 fixtures in the National League Basketball Competition
Year 9 boys

City Final Winners
Knocked out in the County Quarter Finals
Year 10 boys
East City Finals Runners Up
Year 11 boys
City Finals Winners
Currently in the quarter finals of the County
Year 10 and 11 Girls Basketball
Won 3 games from 3 fixtures at the East City Tournament

Coming Up

- Gaelic football
- Girls Rugby

Full details will follow after half term from the PE department



Another huge success was our school production of Frozen. With over 100 students involved and sell out performances, we are incredibly proud of all those involved. Our feeder primary schools enjoyed the dress rehearsal immensely too. My thanks to all the staff for their time and energy putting the show together.

Our DofE goes from strength to strength with 3 students undertaking their Gold award, 24 Silver and 46 Bronze. Ms Pinel leads on this and the staff who support her on expeditions do a great job. Recruitment for the Bronze award will start again in the Summer Term for the next academic year.

We were delighted to interview 187 of our Year 11 students and 40 external students for our Sixth Form next year. The quality of the interviews was excellent and it was incredibly rewarding to hear all those young people talk about their ambitions for themselves and how St Paul's can help them reach them. Offer letters have gone out and Year 11 can now focus on their upcoming GCSE's. A number of Year 11's have also had their college interviews and offers and they too should be very proud of themselves.

Sixth Form mock exams have gone well and all students have been working hard on assessments in class. The next set of mocks will be Year 9 at the end of February and then Year 11 core mocks in March.

A number of our Year 11 went on a trip to Oxford in order to inspire them for university choices.

These young people, known as our 'Golden Graduates', have the potential to get the top grades needed at GCSE and A Level in order to apply for Oxford and Cambridge. My thanks to Ms Warrilow and Mrs Bhana for organising the initiative and the trip and to Mrs Gahir and Mr Bottoms for accompanying them. The group will continue to be monitored and supported towards this goal should they wish to take it.



School Skirt Update

The final fabric and design have been chosen and we await the prototype due in late March. I will share a video once it arrives and give you an opportunity to see it in due course. There are no other changes to the school uniform for next year.

Diversity Week

Diversity Week again was a chance to celebrate who we are as individuals and as a community. Our speakers included:

Monday - Eva Echo - Eva is an activist, writer and public speaker with a focus on transgender rights and mental health

Tuesday - Audrey Pantelis – Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Wednesday - Margaret Mizen - following the death of her son, Jimmy, she shared her story in school with the message of forgiveness, peace and hope impacting the lives of countless people and inspiring many to build safer, more peaceful communities.

Thursday - Roma Dhameja - Business & Economics teacher. Author of “What young people need to know about money”.

The students and staff enjoyed a varied menu in the restaurant every day. Our ‘This is me’ showcase on Friday was stunning. What a lovely way to see the many cultures our school represents. Thanks to Mr White and Deacon Seamus for helping to organise the week.

Lourdes Pilgrimage – July 2024

I shared with students in Years 9-12 the CMAT plan to run the pilgrimage to Lourdes in July 2024. The idea is that students from each of the 4 secondary schools can sign up to go and will fundraise to help pay for the trip. Anticipated costs are £840 and full details can be found in the letter; students who are interested can collect one from me.

School transport

We have put our request out to tender and the various companies are looking at it. We have included the need to pick up at the end of the day at 3.15pm. Once I know where we are and who our provider will be, I will be in touch about signing up and payment.

Valentine’s Day

Love was in the air on Valentine’s Day as the Sixth Form delivered all the flowers, cookies and chocolates that staff and students had pre-ordered. This was a Sixth Form fundraising project with money going towards Sixth Form projects. Thanks to Ms Warrilow and the Sixth Form students for organising. Also lovely on Valentine’s Day was the celebration of love and friendship amongst students. Galentine’s Day allowed lots of students to show their love and friendship for each other; truly lovely to see.

Public Speaking Competition

This term saw the launch of the first STA Public Speaking Competition. Organised by myself, I wanted to have an annual event where our young people across our 4 secondary schools, developed their oracy and confidence and get to meet each other. We each had our heats in January with the semi-finals earlier this month. I was delighted that over 40 St Paul’s students took part in the heats and each school then took 4 students to the semi-finals. Competition was tough and only 2 juniors and 2 seniors were selected for the final. We are delighted that Dolores Pye in 8T got first place in the junior section with her speech entitled “Honesty is not always the best policy”. She will go through to the grand final on 20th March to be held here at St Paul’s. This competition will run every year and we are determined to have a junior and senior finalist! Good luck to Dolores in the final and well done to the other semi-finalists Zahraya, Caragh and Jonathan.

School Governors

Our Governors do a wonderful job of supporting me and our school. As a reminder, our Governors and their contact details can be found below:

Mrs Fiona Harris (Joint Chair of Governors) - FHarris@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

Mrs Terri Warzynski (Joint Chair of Governors) - TWarzynski@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

Fr Michael Moore – mmoore@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

Mrs Gabby Newman – gnewman@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

Mrs Funmi Obembe – fobembe@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

Mr Martin Fitzwilliam – mfitzwilliam@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

Fr David Cain – dcain@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

ParentPay

Just a polite reminder that we are no longer able to take cash at the school office. A number of parents have continued to send their children with cash to top up accounts and we have subsequently received a number of counterfeit notes.

All payments for school items including non uniform days, ties, lockers, gum shields, revision guides and lanyards should be made via ParentPay.

If you need any help setting up ParentPay, please contact the school office.

Staffing

We welcomed in January:

- Mrs M Rivera Galicia as Teacher of MFL
- Miss Laws as a social worker for the Family Society (formerly Faith in Families)

Returning after half term:

- Mrs Yassin – Science
- Mrs Amanji – English
- Mrs Morjaria – Science

This week we say goodbye to:

- Mrs Crane who has been our Catering Manager for 9 years
- Mrs Omerjee who has been covering for our Maternity leave in Science

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

Spiritual Life

- Year 7 celebrated their Saints Day jointly run with the help of the Year 10 Peer mentors. Amazing participation and reflections on the lives of Don Bosco, St Kateri Tekakwitha, St Josephine Bakhita, St Oscar Romero, Bl Isidore Bakanja & St Maria Goretti. Through voting, St Kateri Tekakwitha a native American young saint was chosen as their Patron Saint.
- During the CMAT Inset day the Chaplain led two sessions with staff on 'What you would like to know about working in a Catholic School but were afraid to ask!'
- We hosted a day in school for students from the school Council and Eco-Reco Team with the Plastic Clever School scheme. We are the first secondary school to sign up for the scheme. A film and amazing photos were produced on the day – and agreements to reduce the one use plastic of cookie wrappers and plastic bottles were agreed by the school.
- We continue our weekly schedule of Liturgies with classes in the Chapel with Lectio Divina on Monday & Wednesdays, Encounter with Benediction on Tuesdays, a Liturgy of encouragement with Year 11 on a Friday and the celebration of Mass with a class on Thursdays. Thanks to our Deanery clergy Fr David, Fr Prince and Fr Michael for offering these Masses with us. We welcome next week Fr Joseph Mugara - who is on a year sabbatical from his diocese in Zimbabwe - resident at Sacred Heart & Our Lady's who will join our clergy team.
- Year 7 received their Bibles from the 'Good News for all' society (formerly Gideons) during a special assembly this week
- Year 12 & 13 Internal Retreat hosted by the Briars team and organised by Mrs Witchard

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

Strike Day – Wednesday 1st March

The finalised arrangements for Wednesday 1st March are as follows:

- Year 7, 9 and 13 are in school as normal
- Years 8, 10, 11 and 12 will access on line learning at home

Full details are in the accompanying letter

Dates for your diary:

Friday 17th February -School closes for half term

Monday 27th February - School re-opens

Monday 27th February – Year 9 mock exams begin

Wednesday 1st March – Strike Day. School closed to Years 8, 10, 11 and 12

Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day. Students can come to school dressed as a book character

Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th March – Yr 11 GCSE Food practical exam

Monday 6th March - Wednesday 8th March – Year 9 to the Briars

Wednesday 8th March - Friday 10th March - Year 7 to the Briars

Friday 10th March – ‘Move It’ Dance trip to London

Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th – Yr 11 GCSE Food practical exam

Friday 17th March – Year 12 HE fair at the King Power Stadium

w/b Monday 20th March – Yr 11 GCSE Drama exam

Tuesday 21st March - Friday 24th March - Rome Trip

Wednesday 29th March – Yr 11 GCSE Dance exam

Friday 31st March – School closes for Easter

Wishing you a restful half term.



Mrs S Conaghan
Principal