



29 March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach Easter we reflect on all that has been going on this half term. We remember staff, students and parents who are currently fasting during the holy month of Ramadan. As Christians, we stand alongside them as we journey through Lent.

We were delighted with our final published Ofsted report but there were so many other things to highlight and feel proud of too:

62 Year 7 and 30 Year 9 who went on the Briars retreats with Deacon Seamus, Kieran, Miss McManus, Mrs Rutter and Miss Cunningham; these retreats have a reflective theme where students are asked to consider their place in the world and their contribution to it.



We also took 40 students to Rome. This amazing experience allowed our young people and staff to visit a city important not just for the Catholic faith but a country of great history and architecture. Thank you to Deacon Seamus, Mr Cockcroft, Mrs Bosworth and Mrs Orton for helping to make the trip happen.

Other enrichment activities have included:

- The first St Thomas Aquinas Public Speaking competition – Dolores (pictured right) in Year 8 represented St Paul's in the Junior category and finished 2nd! A remarkable achievement!
- BSL Sign Language course – held every Wednesday
- Science Club including Potions and Dissection
- PE/Sports Teams – a big 'Well done' to the Year 8 boys basketball team, winning the County Cup again!
- D & T club
- Debating Society and so much more!



We will be establishing a Diversity Committee after Easter with the motto "to educate we celebrate". I have had applications from a number of young people and staff representing all areas of diversity and we are excited to start planning our strategy for the rest of this year and next year.

Exams

Year 11 and Year 13 students have been busy preparing for the upcoming exams which start on Monday 15th May. Practical exams in Dance, Drama Product Design, Food Studies and Art have already taken place; the MFL oral exams take place at the beginning of May. We have a number of revision classes running throughout the Easter holidays - students have already signed up for these. My thanks to all our staff for their hard work and commitment to date and for the work still to come. Individual GCSE and A Level timetables will be distributed to students after Easter.

School Transport

We were pleased for both parents and ourselves that we have secured the school buses for next year. 230 parents have indicated that they would like school transport next year; we have now passed all the

geographical areas on to Confidence and they will now create the routes. The final stage will be to get these routes on their website along with details of sign up. Confidence will fully manage the service and this includes the passes and payments.

In addition, the school minibus will pick up in Fleckney, Kibworth, Great G, Schoolwear Solutions and outside Immaculate Conception Church in Oadby. We will get the booking out for this service after Easter. Places cost £675 for both Confidence and the school minibus.

School Skirt

We have also had success with the new school skirt. The final version was delivered last week and I am really pleased with it, as were Governors when I shared it with them. The skirt shown here, will be available to purchase for the new school year from Schoolwear Solutions.

In addition, we will offer new Year 7 parents the chance to buy it alongside our other items of uniform at the new Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 5th July. Schoolwear Solutions are also willing to host a 'pop up shop' at school for parent's convenience. This date will follow. The skirt will be the only skirt that students can wear from August; black straight leg trousers may be worn as an alternative but no leggings, jeggings or skinny trousers will be allowed. The skirt will cost £22.99 (if purchased before 5th September 2023) then the price will revert to £23.99. There will be a subsidy for parents of students going into Year 11; I will write to Year 11 parents separately about this.



The skirt will transform how our uniform looks and eliminate the tension that exists at home and school around the skirt lengths. In the meantime, can I ask that your child is wearing the correct school skirt for the rest of this school year. **Short, stretchy skirts are not allowed.** Other items not permitted are:

- Black sweatshirts
- Hoodies
- Facial piecing of any kind

Thank you in advance for your support.

Detentions

In other reminders, school detentions are an important part of our behaviour systems. If your child is set a detention, you will get an email. It is important that you ensure that your son/daughter attends otherwise it gets escalated to the next stage. The Arbor App is a very convenient way of seeing your child's behaviour overview. Those with the App can get 'In-App' notifications if you have this enabled.

If your child travels on the school bus, parents will need to make alternative arrangements home if the student is in detention.

Non Uniform Day

We will have a non uniform day on Friday with proceeds going to 'Change for Action, 'Daft as a Brush' (Mr Chapman will be taking part in the Great North Run and all money raised will go to this charity) and the RSPCA Woodside Animal Shelter. All donations can be made via ParentPay and students can bring in cash on the day.

Staffing

We wish Miss Sansone all the very best as she gets married over Easter

Mr Loakes leaves us on Friday as Operations Manager and will be replaced by Mr Weston.

Mrs Thraves will be taking over the role as Data and Exams Officer after Easter.

We also have the following positions available if you know anyone who would be interested:

- Teacher of English
- Teacher of History
- Cover Manager

Full details of all our vacancies can be found on the school website - <https://www.st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk/vacancies/>.

Term Dates

We have had a number of queries about term dates. Dates for the next 3 years can be found on our website under the 'Parent' tab <https://www.st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk/parents/term-dates-3/>. As a general rule, the first day back in August is reserved for Year 7 and Year 12 induction with all other students returning on the next school day. I will confirm final arrangements for 2023 – 2024 with you next term.

Sports Club - Summer Term

The PE department will be running the following sessions from the beginning of next term:

- Monday - Football Mr Fowell
- Tuesday - Examination catch up Mr Aston and Mr Bickerdike
- Wednesday - Girls football Year 7-9 Miss Patel and Mr Chapman
- Thursday Athletics Miss Pinel

After the May half term we will be introducing cricket and rounders for students to attend. Details of this will be sent out later next half term.

If any club cannot run during the summer term due to the weather we will communicate to parents and students can attend the homework club if they cannot get home before the prior arranged time.

Holidays during Term Time

I have recently received a large number of requests for holidays during term time. Please can I remind parents that I will only grant a leave of absence in **exceptional circumstances**.

Should you wish to request a leave of absence please ensure that the 'Leave of Absence' form is submitted to myself 2 weeks before the absence along with any supporting evidence.

Full details of our attendance policy can be found on the school website - <https://www.st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2022/11/Attendance-Policy-Nov-2022.pdf>

Safeguarding over the Easter holidays

If you are concerned about the safety or well-being of a child during the school holidays, please contact children's social care: Duty and Advice; 0116 454 1004.

If you think a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999 or call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 straight away.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 31st March – School closes for Easter

Monday 17th April - School opens for Pentecost Term

w/c 17th April – Year 10 Mock Exams

w/c 24th April – Year 10 Mock Exams

Monday 1st May - May Day. School closed

Thursday 4th May – Year 8 Options Evening

Monday 8th May – Coronation Bank Holiday. School closed

w/c Monday 15th May – GCSE and A Level written papers start

Monday 15th May – Year 8 Options - Tutor Interviews

Friday 26th May – School closes for Half Term

Wishing you a peaceful Easter.



Mrs S Conaghan
Principal