



20 December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

When we came back to school in August, December seemed a very long way off and yet here we are! It has been a busy 9 weeks since half term filled with mock exams, enrichment trips and visits, Snowcase, Advent fundraising, the Public Speaking Competition and a Trust school review amongst so many more things.

My congratulations to Year 11 and their teachers for the preparations, conduct during and marking of the mock exams. The year group have taken these very seriously and I hope the results inform the next steps for them to ensure great success in the Summer exams.

Year 12 & 13 will be preparing for their mocks coming up in January and February.

Enrichment and Opportunities

Our students at St Paul's embrace the opportunities given to them; we have seen so many of them compete in sporting fixtures and clubs, enrichment after school and lunchtime, day and residential trips, Menphys, the Public Speaking Competition and of course, Snowcase last week. Mrs Khalifa (Head of Computer Science) has been coordinating our enrichment offer and you can find a link for all subject pages and their related enrichment activities here <https://aquinasmat.sharepoint.com/teams/Enrichment/SitePages/HOME.aspx>

It will require the student to log in to view it. We encourage our students to get involved in as much as possible in order to grow and develop outside the classroom. Please do encourage your child to get involved.

Uniform

As previously notified, the new optional school jumper is available to pre-order via Schoolwear Solutions - [St Pauls Catholic School - Schoolwear Solutions](#). Student can start wearing them immediately and the jumper with the badge can be worn instead of the blazer OR under the blazer. The jumper is unisex.

There is an option to purchase the badge from the school if you wish to sew it on to an existing black V neck jumper. These are £6 can be purchased via ParentPay or from the school office. These will be available from February. Please note if you are buying one from the school office, we do not have card machine so you will need to pay by cash.

False eyelashes, acrylic nails and nose studs are not part of our uniform. Students should not be wearing these in school and anyone with any of these things will receive sanctions.

Leggings or skinny black trousers are not permitted. Trousers should be straight legged.

Annual School Review

We were pleased to host 3 of our Trust colleagues to conduct our annual school review. The 'mini Ofsted' looks at all aspects of school life including:

- Safeguarding
- Teaching and learning
- Behaviour and culture
- Leadership and management

It is always a pleasure showing our school off and the report reflected all the hard work that goes on here at St Paul's to make us a great school. It is gratifying to see the number of applications for Year 7 grow year on year with almost 400 families applying for 180 places. We are never complacent, and we strive to continue to improve providing the best education and pastoral care for your children. If there is something you think we can help you or your child with, please do get in touch.

Fundraising

Much of our fundraising this Advent has been geared towards a few things:

- Sixth Form have raised £370 for CAFOD who are supporting those affected by the troubles in Israel/Palestine.
- Sixth Form also hosted the Christmas movie night for the Year 13 Prom and other Sixth Form projects raising £425.

- Christmas non uniform day, the teddy raffle and donations for tea/coffee at Snowcase raised £400 for students going to Lourdes next July.
- The Christmas market, raffle and sealed bids for the LCFC shirt raised £1,460! All for school projects, thank you for your support.

My thanks to all the staff for the regular donations to the food and clothes banks this term and a special thank to Mrs O Riley for co-ordinating this. Fundraising for Lourdes continues after the holiday. Thank you for all your support with our fundraising efforts this term.

Year 11 Mocks

Thank you to parents and students for all your support during the Year 11 Mock Exam period. Over the three weeks of exams, students participated in up to two exams a day. This was very successful, which enabled teachers to assess student's attainment in a formal setting, and students to experience exams under formal exam conditions at St. Paul's.

Year 11 Mock grades will be available on Go4Schools from Friday 22 December. Please email Mr Miskelly, Assistant Principal, if you need any support with this process - kmiskelly@stpauls.leicester.sch.uk.

Parent Evenings

This year saw the return of 'In School' Parents' Evenings at St. Paul's. There was a real 'Buzz' around the school. Thank you for the 'Parent Feedback', with 83% of parents welcoming the return of parents' evenings back to St. Paul's. We will use this feedback to shape the future of parents' evenings at St. Paul's for the next academic year. For the rest of this year, we will continue with a hybrid approach of 'In School' and 'Virtual Evenings'.

Please email Mr Miskelly if you have questions about this - kmiskelly@stpauls.leicester.sch.uk.

Key Stage 3 – 5 End of Term Assessments

Students have been busy completing their end of term assessments across the school. This will give teachers a picture of students' current attainment, and we will use the data from these assessments to shape our curriculum next term and to ensure that all students reach their full potential.

Go4Schools Reports

Student Reports will be sent out via email by Friday 22 December.

Year 7 Report Explained

Progress Level – shows the progress that students make according to their ability range (calculated from their KS2 SATS score for English and Maths). This will be reported as the following:

- Emerging – working towards students expected attainment.
- Expected – working at students expected attainment.
- Exceeding – working in greater depth.

Learning Profile - is designed to capture the pupil's attitude and motivation to their studies.

Menphys Catholic School Carol Concert 2023



On Friday 1st December 2023, 21 students from St. Paul's performed at the Annual Catholic Schools Carol Concert in De Montfort Hall, Leicester. This was a combined concert with schools across the St. Thomas Aquinas Multi Academy Trust. St. Paul's students were absolutely fabulous. We performed a joint choir piece – 'Mary Did You Know' with English



Martyrs' Catholic School, which was an amazing experience. For the first time in St. Paul's history we had three soloists performing a Christmas Rap and four students playing in the concert orchestra.

A big thank you to all students that performed and the staff who supported them. They were fantastic.

Reminders

All students should be off site by 4.30pm. We cannot have students hanging around unsupervised. Any student waiting for parents can do so at the front of the school or at the school gates.

Term finishes on Friday 22nd December at 12.30pm. It is a non-uniform day and there will be no charge. **Buses are booked for 12.30pm departure from school and there is no facility to stay longer so please ensure you have made arrangements for your child to get home.**

Next Term

Term starts on Monday 8th January. Our school musical 'Into the Woods' is on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th January. Tickets are £5 and are on sale via ParentPay or from the school office. Our primary schools visit us on Monday 16th January for the dress rehearsal.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th January - 'Into the Woods' – School musical

Friday 19th January Year 11 Sixth form Taster Day. **Year 12 and 13 studying from home**

Monday 22nd January – Year 12 Work Experience begins

Monday 22nd January – Year 13 Mocks begin

Wednesday 24th January - Year 7 Parents Evening in school

Wednesday 31st January - Year 8 virtual Parents Evening

Thursday 1st February - Meningitis vaccinations – Years 9 – 11

Friday 2nd February - 7S, T, P & A Trip to Mosque, Gurdwara and Mandir

Tuesday 6th February – 7U, L, R & C Trip Mosque, Gurdwara and Mandir

Wednesday 7th February - Years 12 & 13 Parents Evening in school

Friday 9th February – Semi Final of the St Thomas Aquinas Public Speaking Competition at De Lisle College

Tuesday 13th February – Year 11 Sixth Form Interviews 2pm – 6pm

Wednesday 14th February - Year 11 Parents Evening in school

Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday

Friday 16th February – school closes for half term

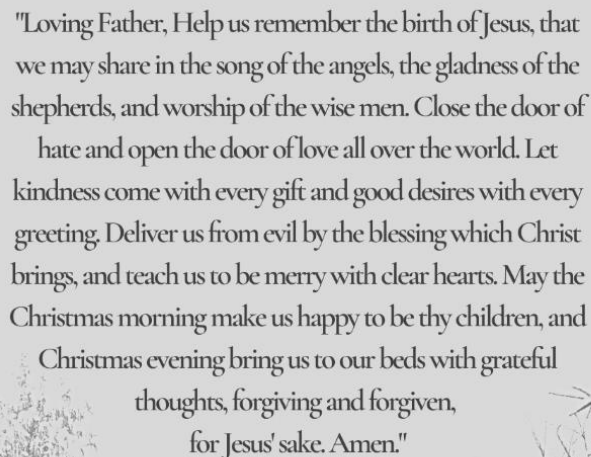
Monday 26th February - School opens

The link here may be of use to lots of families [Christmas 2023 - family info sheet.pdf](#)

With all best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas



Mrs S Conaghan
Principal



"Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

— Robert Louis Stevenson.