

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Voluntary Academy



14 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to start by thanking all of you who either emailed or sent in words of condolence for Mrs Oliver RIP. As a community, we were all saddened by her passing. Mrs Oliver was a huge part of our school and our lives, and we miss her dearly. We held a beautiful service in school last week for her and Mrs Oliver's family attended. It was a lovely opportunity to come together to think about her and the impact she had on our lives here at Saint Paul's. Mrs Oliver's funeral takes place on the 21st of February at 10:30am at Great Glen Crematorium.

In this short half term, we have been very busy here at school. It is wonderful, as usual, to see so many young people get involved in extracurricular activities, sport and enrichment. Congratulations to all those students competing in teams. Mr Aston has produced a Sporting Success bulletin for you, you can read how fabulous our talented sports women and men are. My thanks to the PE Department for their commitment to sport and their encouragement of all our students to take part in clubs and enrichment.

This half term we held the semifinals of the annual St Thomas Aquinas public speaking competition, and we were delighted that three of our students out of the 10 chosen have made it through to the finals. Caragh, Davidzo and Dhruv I know will represent us well at the finals on the 20th of March. Davidzo is also representing St Paul's in the East Midlands heats of the national Catenian public speaking competition on Sunday 3rd March, and we wish her all the best with that. My thanks to all the staff who lead on enrichment, clubs and activities and who go out of their way in lessons and outside of lessons to offer opportunities to our young people.

GCSE and A Level teaching and preparation is very focused as we begin the approach to the public examinations. Revision classes and exam preparations having been going on for a few weeks and we will shortly be writing to Year 11 and 13 parents about our Easter revision school. Many members of staff will be giving up their time to come into school to work in order to deliver these sessions and I would appreciate your attention to the letter when it does come out. I would ask you to talk to your son or daughter if they are in these exam groups and encourage them to attend sessions where possible. Sixth form interviews took place on Tuesday 13th February, students will get their offers shortly.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the time of preparation for Easter. All students in the school had the opportunity to receive ashes in our services. My thanks to the sixth form students who assisted us in the ashing services and to Deacon Seamus for the organisation of them.

Sixth Form continue to be busy fundraising and have raised a lot of money for both their prom and are now fundraising for the Year 12 prom when they become Year 13. We are proud of the way they have applied themselves to this enrichment. Their pancake sale on Tuesday was popular! We have a non-uniform day on Friday 16th February to raise money for the Lourdes fundraising and for Sixth form projects. You can pay via ParentPay or send your child in with your donation.

The new school jumpers look great. We have placed a badge order with Schoolwear Solutions and as soon as they arrive in school, we will get them to those who have ordered them. Schoolwear Solutions do have the badged jumpers in stock currently in all sizes. Students without a badged jumper should still be wearing their blazer, please support us with that along with ensuring your daughter is either wearing the school skirt or tailored black trousers, wearing black leggings will result in a sanction.

Calendar items:

26th February - 8th March: Year 9 mocks Personalised timetables have been sent out to all students

26-27th February: GCSE Food practical exams

4-8th March: Spanish trip

11th March: GCSE Dance practical exam

11-13th March: Year 7 Briars retreat

13-15th March: Year 9 Briars retreat

13th-15th March: GCSE Drama practical and written examinations

20th March: Public speaking finals

22nd March: School closes for Easter at 3.10pm

Pentecost Term

8th April: Return to school and the Year 8 Options process starts

8th April -26th April Year 10 Mocks, timetables will be distributed shortly

16th April A Level Drama Examination

25th April: Year 8 Options Evening 5-7pm

29th April: GCSE and A Level French and Spanish speaking examinations start

8-9th May GCSE and A Level Art and Photography examinations

13th May GCSE and A Level written examinations start

Best wishes



Mrs S Conaghan
Principal