



# ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

12 February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we get closer to Lent, we give thanks in our school, homes, communities and places of worship, for all those who give us hope in our lives. Hope is the central message in this Jubilee year, but it is the message, as always, in Lent. Hope is the confident expectation of God's blessing and I would like to invite you, to pray for all those in our school, your families and communities who need hope right now. St. Paul says "Hope does not disappoint because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

In school, our assemblies and recent spiritual life focus has been around the Jubilee year. Each of our form rooms have 'Doors of Hope' decorated by tutors and students and on 28<sup>th</sup> January, a group of 15 students accompanied myself and Deacon Seamus to English Martyrs school, to celebrate the Feast Day Mass and Trust launch, of the Jubilee year.



It was an absolute pleasure to watch our school musical, Oliver! this term; the cast performed to two full houses as well as to our feeder primary children and staff. Over 100 students were involved in the production from across all year groups and my thanks to all the staff involved. A special thanks and well done to those students for whom this was their last ever school show because they leave St. Paul's at the end of this year: Matilda, Gianne, Ewan, Tanatswa, Weronika, Godiva, Cassandra and Sarah.





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## Admissions

I update you every year on Year 7 applications and I am pleased that yet again, we have had so many applications for a place in our new Year 7 in August. This year, we have had just under 400 applications and I will offer 185 places; those offers will go out on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Our growing popularity and reputation is due to our wonderful and dedicated staff, having high expectations, excellent outcomes and of course none of that is possible without you, our supportive parents. We all continue to push St. Paul's to be the very best!

We interviewed 260 Year 11 students on Tuesday this week for a place in our Sixth Form and I have approximately 125 places to offer. Those interviewed, were from St. Paul's and from many schools in the City and County. All offers are conditional and subject to GCSE results; we wish all of those interviewed, the very best in their up-coming exams.

## GCSE's

GCSE Exam season starts on 7<sup>th</sup> April with the Languages Orals. GCSE written papers start on 9<sup>th</sup> May with Business Studies and Sociology; A Levels start on 13<sup>th</sup> May. We keep all of those young people, families and their teachers in our prayers at this time.

## School Council

Our school council has been established with collective members represented across year 7-12. Members have been introducing themselves in assemblies to their year groups. The council meetings take place, the first Wednesday of every month. Outcomes from meetings 1 and 2 include the creation of a Christian Union group, discussions around eliminating plastic waste, a book recycling scheme in the library and the establishment of the Sixth Form tutoring programme. I look forward to many more initiatives the council will lead on.



## Year QA Day

A Year 11 QA day took place in January with myself and the Trust, Director of Performance and Standards. The report also shared with Governors talked about the high quality of teaching and learning in the lessons visited. Key features included the precision of the material being taught



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and used, use of exam reports, mark schemes and specifications and student expectations that lessons progress their expertise/learning. Students were all incredibly appreciative of the teaching, the work that is going on in lessons and for revision for the support they receive.

## Sporting Achievements

We wish our Year 8 boys the very best of luck, for the City football final against Judgemeanow Community College tomorrow. We have celebrated huge success with our sports in Football; Basketball; Netball and Athletics; Congratulations to both students and staff. To date, the achievements are:

Year 7 Boys Football	City Finalists
Year 8 Boys Football	Reached City Final (To be played 13 February)
Year 7 Boys Basketball	East Finalists
Year 8 Boys Basketball	County Semi Final (To be played)
Year 9 Boys Basketball	City Finalists
Year 10 Boys Basketball	East Finalists
Year 11 Boys Basketball	City Finalists
Year 7 Girls Basketball	County semi-final (To be played)
Year 7 Netball	County Semi Finalists
Year 9 Netball	County Semi Finalists
Year 7 Boys and Girls Athletics	First in City – Moving to County now
Year 8 Boys and Girls Athletics	First in City – Moving to County now
Year 8 and 9 Girls Football	City Finalists
KS4 Girls Basketball	East Finalists

## DofE Updates

### Bronze 24/25

We have 1 space available in both boy and girl groups. The training expedition takes place on 1st May and the qualifying expedition takes place on the 2-3rd May; the location for both expeditions is Tilton on the Hill.

### DofE Silver 24/25

We have 2 spaces available in the boys group. The training expedition takes place on 18-20th June and the qualifying expeditions takes place in September; the location for both expeditions is the Peak District.



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DofE participants gain new skills, push themselves physically and help others. The scheme builds confidence and gives young people the opportunity to develop life-skills such as teamwork, organisation, self-reliance and inter-personal skills through the sections of the award.

For further information and to secure one of the available places, please contact Ms. Pinel, our school DofE Manager or access our school website [Duke of Edinburgh Award - St Paul's Catholic School](#)

## Enrichment

Our latest enrichment offer can be found on our school website. Our Sixth Form continue to engage in a huge variety of activities on a Tuesday afternoon, including:

- working with SEND students
- tutoring
- reading buddies
- library mentors
- primary school support
- care home support
- working in reprographics
- independent student led societies such as cultural/religious/finance

## Coffee Machine

A new coffee machine has been purchased and installed in the Sixth Form common room. This is following feedback from student voice that a coffee machine with features such as hot drinks and iced coffee, was the most desirable feature that they wanted in the Sixth Form area. With all drinks priced at £2.50, everyone is delighted with the new addition to the common room kitchen area, including our staff!

## Parent and Trust Survey

My thanks to all of you who took the time to complete and submit the school parent survey and the Trust survey. I will follow up with a detailed compilation of scores; responses; comments and feedback after the half-term break.

## Fundraising Update

The grand total raised from our Christmas Market in December was £1500 which supports our School Project Fund to have artwork added to our Maths, English and PE subject areas. We have had some wonderful designs and ideas submitted by local artists and I will provide a further update on progress, next term.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> is non-uniform day and the last day of this half-term. Students can bring £1 into school which will be collected in form time. Donations can also be made via ParentPay. All money



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raised will support the following charities:

- transport cost for the annual Menphys School Carol Concert in December
- Trust charity which allows schools to request financial support for students to go on trips and so on.

My thanks again to you all, for your continued support with our charity fundraising. The school council will be working on our fundraising strategy from now until the summer, identifying which charities to support.

## Staffing

Miss Boyle, Head of Year 7 and St. Paul's SENDCo, starts her adoptive leave at the end of this half term and Mrs. Chavda, will become the new interim Head of Year 7 working alongside Miss Cunningham, the Assistant Head of Year. Mrs. Chavda already works closely with our pastoral team to support students' transition to secondary school, giving her a good knowledge of the Year 7 students. Mr. Saxton Trust SENDCO and Ms. Zamir, will manage SEND in Miss Boyle's absence.

We say thank you and goodbye to Mr. Rhodes who leaves us at the end of this half term, to take up a new position at English Martyrs.

We wish both Miss Boyle and Mr. Rhodes the very best. We will shortly be advertising for two Teaching Assistant (TA) posts. Further information can be found on our website under vacancies [Vacancies - St Paul's Catholic School](#)

## Term Dates

Full Term Dates can be found on our website under the 'Parent' tab, Term Dates/School Day [Term Dates / School Day - St Paul's Catholic School](#)

## Key dates for your diary

<b>School closes for half term</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>School opens for Lent term 2</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Year 8 Options Evening</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Sixth Form Welcome Event (external students)</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 8 Parents Evening</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>World Book Day</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 9 Briars Retreat</b>	10th-12 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 7 Briars Retreat</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 11 Core Mocks 2</b>	20th-24 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Deadline for Year 8 Options</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Year 10 Parents Evening</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 11 Core Mocks 2 Data on Go 4 Schools</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>GCSE Exam Language Orals</b>	w/c 7 <sup>th</sup> April



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<b>School closes for Easter holiday</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>School opens for Pentecost (Summer Term 1)</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Year 11 + 13 Mass of Thanksgiving</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May

## Year 11 and Year 13 Prom dates

Year 11      19th June  
Year 13      20th June

## Reminders

Whilst I understand this might be inconvenient, I must remind you that the rule about parents not driving onto the school site is still in place. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up outside the school (Spencefield Lane) and to not drive onto the school site. Only those parents who have been issued with a pass, are permitted to drive onto the school site; these passes are only issued upon certified medical evidence. If you feel that your child meets the criteria for a pass, then please contact my PA, Mrs. Moss [cmoss@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:cmoss@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk) The number of cars driving through causes a huge safety risk to the students. If a member of staff asks you to move your car off site, then please do so. We really must work together to ensure the safety of our young people. Additionally, when collecting students from after school clubs, after 4pm, parents should not be parking along the kerb outside reception; car park spaces should be available at this time so please use them.

All students should be off site by 4.30pm. We cannot have students hanging around the school building unsupervised. Any student waiting for parents after 4:30pm, can do so outside the front of the school, or at the school gates.

## Safeguarding over the half-term break

If you are concerned about the safety or well-being of a child during the half-term break, 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.

With all best wishes for a happy half-term from myself and all the staff at St Paul's

Mrs S Conaghan  
**Principal**