



ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



18 December 2024

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, sports fixtures, theatre trips, Snowcase, Advent fundraising, the Public Speaking Competition and a Trust school review amongst so many more things.

Mock examinations

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 exams very seriously and I hope the results inform the next steps for them to ensure great success in the Summer exams. All mock grades have helped to inform the OCTA grades on the latest report. Year 12 & 13 will be preparing for their mocks coming up in January and February.

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.

All Year group 'snapshots' for key stage 3-5, will be available on Go4Schools from 5pm on Wednesday 18th December.

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. You can find a link for all subject pages and their related enrichment activities here:

<https://aquinascmat.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



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as possible, in order to grow and develop outside the classroom. Please do encourage your child to get involved.

Pre-loved

Thanks to your continued donation our sales of pre-loved uniform, continues to flourish. I really appreciate you all donating uniform to our shop as the help it provides to so many families, is invaluable. We now have over 12 skirts in stock priced at £15 each and an increased stock of blazers, priced at £10 each, trousers, shirts and PE kit items are also in stock. Our pre-loved shop will be open at our Christmas market today. Alternatively, you can always ring the school office to enquire about sizes and stock.

Annual School Review

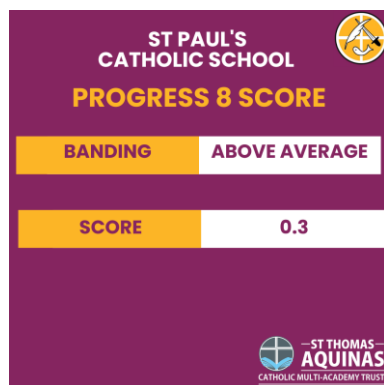
We were pleased to host 3 of our Trust colleagues to conduct our annual school review. The 'mini Ofsted' looks at all aspects of school life including:

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

It is always a pleasure showcasing our school and the report reflected all the hard work that goes on here at St Paul's, which makes us a great school. The report was incredibly positive and there was so much to show how far St Paul's has come. We all continue to be very ambitious for our students and our school.

Progress 8

Our growth is illustrated in our data and we are so very pleased to share our newly published Progress 8 Scores. 'Progress 8' is the academic progress that students make from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4 and is based on 8 qualifications. A score of 0 means students have achieved what they should have done, anything above 0 means students have done better than expected. To get 'above average' puts us in the top 20 schools in Leicester and Leicestershire. Our collective ambition for our students, departments and the whole school continues to drive our progress forward. Our thanks to all students, staff, parents and carers, a truly combined and unified team effort. We are super proud of this achievement.





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Admissions

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. If you have not yet completed the school survey, you can access it here <https://forms.office.com/e/ViTrV3A8vc>

Staffing

We say goodbye and thank you to the following staff who leave us at the end of this term:

Dr. Pye – Teacher of Science

And hello and a warm welcome to the following new staff members who join us at the start of the new term:

Mrs. E Rimeike Data and Assessment Manager

Mrs. Felistar Durrance Teacher of Science

Ms. Maryam Metha Second in Science

Ms. Kamau Teaching Assistant

Mr Gerighty will take over Miss Wood's English classes, whilst she is on maternity leave.

Miss Boyle leaves at February half term to go on adoptive leave. We are so pleased for Miss Boyle and her partner and we wish her all the best. Mr Phil Saxon, Trust SENDCO will join us a day a week from February, to support us and he will be in next half term to meet the students and parents and to do a handover, with Miss Boyle. Mrs Mpye and Mrs Zamir will manage SEND until Miss Boyle comes back.

Fundraising

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

- Shoe box appeal. Our thanks to all who contributed in any way, to the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal. The Big Shed Covenant Life Church were most grateful.





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- Food Bank. Leicester South Foodbank came to collect all items donated so far, in October.



The winning form were 13P. Our sincere thanks for all your donations; it really does make a difference to those in need. If you wish to donate items, please drop in to the school office.

- Non-uniform day in October raised £404 for CAFOD
- Halloween Hamper raffle raised £96.22 and Samosa sale raised £359.92 for our school projects fund
- Macmillan Coffee morning raised £73.30
- Sixth Form also hosted the Christmas movie night for the Year 13 Prom and other Sixth Form projects

My thanks also to all the staff for the regular donations to the food bank and a special thank you, to Mrs O Reilly and Sixth Form for co-ordinating this. I will give you an update on final totals raised from our fundraising after Christmas. We also have a number of charities we have committed to support after Christmas and I will update you on these, in my February newsletter.

Menphys Catholic School Carol Concert 2024

On Friday 6th December, 21 students from St. Paul's performed at the Annual Catholic Schools Carol Concert at 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 – 'Oh Come all ye Faithful', with English Martyrs' Catholic school, which was an amazing experience. A big thank you to all students that performed and the staff who supported them. They were fantastic!





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Reminders

Term finishes on Friday 20th December at 12:30pm. It is non-uniform day and there will be no charge. Students can wear Christmas jumpers/festive wear, if they wish. 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.

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

Next Term

Term starts on Monday 6th January. Our school musical 'Oliver' is on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th January with our primary schools visiting and watching the dress rehearsal, on Wednesday 29th. Tickets are on sale via ParentPay.

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

School Opens	6 th January
Year 11 Parents Evening	8 th January 3:40-6pm (in person)
Year 13 Mock exams	13 th – Friday 24 th January
Year 7 Parents Evening	22 nd January 3:40-6pm (in person)
Year 12 Work Experience Week	27 th – Friday 31 st January
CMAT Feast Day and non-uniform day	28th January
'Oliver' school musical	29 th + 30 th January – evening performances
Start of Lent- Ash Wednesday	5 th February
Year 11 Sixth Form Interviews	12 th February 2- 6pm
Year 13 Parents Evening	12 th February 3:40-6pm (in person)
School closes for half term	14 th February
School opens	24 th February

Year 11 and Year 13 Prom dates

Year 11 19th June
Year 13 20th June

Safeguarding over the Christmas break

If you are concerned about the safety or well-being of a child during the Christmas 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 and blessed Christmas from myself and all the staff at St Paul's

Mrs S Conaghan
Principal



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