



ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

13 February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy half term with so many things happening. Parents evenings for years 7, 8, 11 and 13; our school musical, Sister Act; year 13 Mock exams; the CMAT Feast Day; Invacuation Drill; Sixth Form Taster day and sixth form interviews, the Year 8 options process starting, staff recruitment and interviews and our celebration fundraiser, remembering Harrison's birthday, for PASIC – Cancer Support for Children and Young People where, with your amazing generosity, we raised over £1200! Thank you as always for supporting our fundraising events.



As we get closer to Lent with Ash Wednesday falling during half-term, we give thanks in our school, homes, communities and places of worship, for all those who give us hope in our lives. 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."

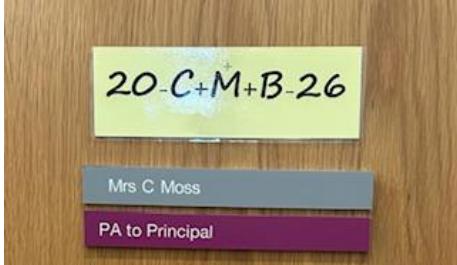
Spiritual life

Deacon Seamus distributed the 2025 blessing door signage and blessed the doors, with holy water throughout the first week of this half term; this means, we are all blessed as we walk through our school doors. The door to our home is a holy threshold. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the first two numbers of the year + C + M + B + the last two numbers of the year- 20 + C + M + B + 26.

Our Trust Feast Day Mass was celebrated on 28th January, at English Martyrs school with myself, Deacon Seamus and a small group of students, servers, readers, banner carrier, representing our school.



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Our prayers this half term, have looked at Diversity, Inspiration and in the build up to our Feast Day, as Missionaries of Hope. This week, is the World Day of Prayer for the sick and we have been thinking of those who are ill, who need our prayers. Pope Leo's intention for this month, is especially for children who have incurable diseases.

Sister Act

It was an absolute pleasure to watch our school musical, Sister Act 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 all our students you are amazing!



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 seeing a 16% increase on the previous year.

We have ranked 414 applications and I will offer 185 places; those offers will go out nationally, on 2nd March. The increase in applications reflect the attendance numbers at our Open Evening back in September and the very positive and supportive feedback we received on the night. It is



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hugely rewarding to see our popularity and reputation continue to grow, which is due to our wonderful and dedicated staff, having high expectations, excellent GCSE outcomes ranking in the top 6 schools in the City and County for 2025 outcomes! 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 over 165 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 27th April with the MFL Orals. GCSE written papers start on 8th May (Sociology); A Level live exams start on 5th May. We keep all of those young people, families and their teachers in our prayers at this time.

Year 11 support

Our programme of support for Year 11 includes

- After school revision sessions
- Sixth Form Tutoring – Year 12 students who achieved very high GCSE grades have been matched with Year 11's in the same subject; tutoring sessions, are personalised and may be in small groups.
- Mock Exams, core subjects in the Sports Hall 2nd – 6th March, all others in classes
- Easter School 30th March – 1st April, staff delivering structured and targeted revision

Mrs Laidler has written to year 11 parents separately, with the full information schedule

School Council

This year, due to so many students wanting to join the council, we have established a Junior and Senior Council, with a SLT lead for both councils. Junior SLT lead, is Miss Boyle and Senior Council lead, is Mrs. Hodgson. Representatives from both the Junior and Senior Council will form the School council, led by me.

We are very much looking forward to working with our council members and supporting their ideas and initiatives.

Sporting Achievements

We continue to celebrate huge success with our sports in Football; Basketball; Netball and Athletics; Congratulations to both students and staff. To date, the achievements are:

Sporting Achievements	
Year 7 Boys Football	Leicester City Champions and County Semi-Finalists after beating Loughborough Grammar 2-1



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Sporting Achievements contd.	
Year 8 Boys Football	Leicester City Finalists
Year 9 Boys Football	Leicester City Finalists
Year 11 Boys football	Leicester City Champions
Year 7 Girls Football	Leicester City Champions and County quarter final to be played
Year 8/9 Girls Football	Leicester City Finalists
Year 7 Boys Basketball	Leicester City Finalists
Year 8 Boys Basketball	Leicester City Finalists
Year 9 Boys Basketball	Semi finalists of the County cup
Year 10 Boys Basketball	Leicester City Finalists
Year 11 Boys Basketball	Semi finalists of the County Cup
Year 7 Netball A Team	Leicester City Champions
Year 7 Netball B Team	Leicester City Runners up
Year 8 Netball	Leicester City Champions
Year 9 Netball	Leicester City Finalists
Year 7 Boys and Girls Athletics	Leicester City Champions and through to County Finals
Year 8 Boys and Girls Athletics	Leicester City Champions and through to County Finals
Year 8 and 9 Girls Football	Leicester City Finalists (to be played)
Year 7 Girls Basketball	Leicester City Tournament 1 Winners
Year 8 Girls Basketball	County Cup finalists

DofE Programme and Fundraising Update

This year, 105 students have signed up to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme, with a further 10 students interested in joining at Gold level. Through DofE, pupils gain new skills, challenge themselves physically, and contribute to their communities. The programme builds confidence and supports the development of vital life skills such as teamwork, organisation, self-reliance, and interpersonal skills across all sections of the award.



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Bronze Award (2025–2026)

We currently have spaces available in both boys' and girls' groups:

- Training Expedition: 23 April
- Qualifying Expedition: 24–25 April
- Location: Tilton on the Hill (for both expeditions)

Silver Award (2025–2026)

There are two spaces available across one boys' group and one girls' group:

- Training Expedition: 17–19 June
- Qualifying Expedition: September
- Location: Peak District (for both expeditions)

We have been running fundraising activities to support equipment purchases and to help pupils who may struggle with the cost of accessing the DofE programme. Funds raised to date:

- Parental contributions: £60, plus £260 set aside to fund a place for a pupil requiring financial support (yet to be allocated)
- “Guess the Jellybeans” (Christmas): £10
- DofE Tuck Shop: £2,131 raised year to date

Equipment purchased so far:

- 70 rucksacks: £1,500

We are currently looking to purchase 20 Trangia stoves, costing £70 each. As we continue to build our own stock of equipment, the overall cost of running the DofE programme will reduce, helping to make it more accessible for pupils in future years.

How You Can Support

We are always grateful for support from parents and local businesses. This can include:

- Equipment donations
- Financial support
- Volunteering on expedition days as checkpoint leaders

If you are able to help in any way, your support would make a real difference to our pupils' DofE experience, please contact our DofE Manager, Miss Pinel @ SPinel@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

Further information about the DofE programme can be accessed on our school website [Duke of Edinburgh Award - St Paul's Catholic School](#)

Sustainability Spring is (hopefully) just around the corner. After a lot of long, dark, cold, wet days, our spring flowers have started to show themselves with many more to follow. We've also had 5 new native trees planted around the site, including fruit and nut trees such as Damson and so far, the new Scots Pine is doing well.



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Huge thanks to the Green family who have not only offered their expertise and advice, but also made a much-appreciated donation of an automated watering system for our Polytunnel which can only result in a more successful year ahead, when it comes to growing our own produce. Here's what we hope it will look like!



Further donations of seeds or seedlings (tomatoes etc.) would be greatly received and appreciated. You can reach out to me via email @ MOstler@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

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



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

Fundraising Update

Thank you for your support and attendance at our Christmas Market in December. It was so lovely to see so many of you join us and stay for the Carol concert. Our Year 11's and 13's are very busy raising funds for their respective Proms in June this year. We will have an Easter raffle after half-term. We will add this to Arbor where you can purchase tickets, £1 for a strip of 5 or 25p per ticket. All funds raised will go towards our school project for this year, building the 'The Good Shepherd school' in Burkina Faso, Africa. Thank you and good luck!

Leicester Community Safety Partnership- Important Information for Parents and Carers

As the school term comes to an end, we want to make sure our students stay safe. The attached letter from Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police, talks about an increase in risky behaviour, especially on the last day of term. To help prevent this, they are asking families to talk about the risks of antisocial behaviour and how to stay safe. Please also watch the recording message from Superintendent Schofield [Message from Superintendent Schofield](#)

Staffing

Mrs Witchard was appointed as Assistant principal for the 2026-27 school year. She takes up her 1-year temporary post in August and will continue to manage RE, alongside her SLT responsibilities. Mrs Godber-Scott returns from maternity leave in March.

St. Paul's 50th Golden Jubilee

St. Paul's is 50 in September 2027. We are starting to promote this milestone on social media and with staff and parents in termly newsletters and for those of you on Facebook, there are St. Paul's groups that you can request to join. One of the celebrations is to host an exhibition, 'St. Paul's through the decades', with photos of past staff and students, year books and various items of memorabilia. If you can contribute to the exhibition, please send any items to Mrs. Moss. We promise to take very good care of everything.

Governing Body

I am pleased to introduce our new Foundation and Parent Governors to you:

Foundation Governor - Mrs Ann Sebastian

"I am thrilled to have been appointed as a Foundation Governor at St Paul's. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be part of the team supporting the school and look forward to contributing to this wonderful community".



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Parent Governor - Mrs Arvinder Thandi

"I am absolutely delighted and deeply honoured to have been appointed as a Parent Governor. I am truly grateful for the trust placed in me, and I look forward to working in partnership with the school, fellow governors, staff, and families to support the continued growth and success of our wonderful school community".

Mobile Phones in School

You may have seen on social media or in the news, that the Department of Education, has revised and shared their mobile phone guidance with all schools. The guidance makes it clear that it is expected, all schools revise their current mobile phone policies to reflect the new published guidance. You can view and access the DfE guidance here [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/mobile-phones-in-schools) . This guidance is expected to become law in the next few weeks.

I am currently revising the school mobile phone policy (in line with the DfE published guidance) and will incorporate this, into our full behaviour policy. I will write to you again, sharing the new policy w/c 23rd February. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions about the changes.

Online Safety

Please see attached a one-page, information and guidance sheet for parents/carers about keeping their children safe online. This version is aimed at parents/carers knowing how to keep their child/ young people safe on devices.

Trust Family Info Sheet

Please find attached with ideas on things to do during the half-term break and keeping costs I hope you find of use.

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](https://www.st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk/term-dates-school-day-st-pauls-catholic-school)

Key dates for your diary

LENT TERM

School closes for half term	Friday 13th February
School opens for Lent term 2	Monday 23rd February
Yr 11 Core Mocks 2 (all week)	Monday 2nd – Friday 6 th March
Sixth Form welcome event for external students	Tuesday 3 rd March 4-6pm
Year 8 Option Evening	Wednesday 4 th March 5-7pm
LGB Marketplace/LGB Lent 2	Tuesday 17 th March 3:25-4:25pm & 4:30pm
School closes for the Easter holiday	Friday 27th March
Easter School – Year 11	Monday 30 th March – Wednesday 1 st April



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Pentecost Term

School opens for Pentecost term 1	Monday 13 th April
Year 10 Mocks week 1	Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th April
Year 11 & 13 Thanksgiving Mass	Friday 1 st May
Year 9 Core Mocks	Tuesday 5 th – Friday 8 th May
GCSE Written Exams (start)	Monday 11 th May
LGB Pentecost 1	Tuesday 12 th May 4:30pm
School closes for half term	Friday 22 nd May
School opens for Pentecost term 2	Monday 1 st June
Year 13 Parents Evening	Wednesday 3 rd June 3:40-6:40pm
Year 7 26-27 Parents Induction Evening	Thursday 11 th June 5-6:30pm
Year 12 Mocks – week 1	Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th June
Year 12 Mocks – week 2	Monday 22 nd – Friday 26 th June
Year 11 Prom	Thursday 18 th June -King Power Stadium
Year 13 Prom	Friday 19 th June – The Belmont Hotel
LGB Pentecost 2	Tuesday 23 rd June – 4:30pm
Yr's 7 & 8 School Awards Evening	Thursday 25 th June 4:30-6pm
Yr's 9 & 10 School Awards Evening	Wednesday 1 st July 4:30-6pm
Feast Day Mass	Friday 3 rd July 10:30am
School Uniform pop-up shop and Summer Fayre	Saturday 4 th July 9:30am-12:30pm

Reminders

Thank you for your support with students being off site by 4.30pm. There are still a number of students in school after this time and as we cannot have students hanging around the school building unsupervised, students will be asked to wait for parents outside the front of the school, or at the school gates.

Please remember that you 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

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.



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As the start of Lent falls in half term, I leave you with this prayer.

Prayer for Lent

Loving God,

As the season of Lent unfolds, you call us to return again and again.

As you invite us to reflect on your love made visible in the person of Jesus, align our lives more closely with you through prayer, fasting and generous giving.

Bless our desire to accompany Jesus' suffering here and now in the crucified people of our world.

With your grace, may we live Lent fully and move with transformed hearts into the abundant life of Easter morning.

 Amen.

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

S Conaghan

Mrs S Conaghan
Principal