



St Paul's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Annual *Report*



View from the Head

I am delighted to introduce this year's annual report. It provides an excellent snapshot of a year in the life of our St Paul's community. It offers a wonderful opportunity for us all to review what amazing things our community has experienced and achieved during the last academic year. The wide range of experiences really encapsulate what St Paul's strives to provide for the children in our care; a truly holistic education

that is designed to nurture the unique gifts and talents that each individual has been blessed with. I continue to feel an immense sense of pride when I look through this annual report. I offer my thanks and appreciation to each member of our community for continuing to make St Paul's such a special place to learn.

J. A. Hoarty



Please check our website st-pauls.org.uk for news and information about the school. Keep in touch through social media. We're on Facebook/stpaulsmk, X/stpauls_mk, YouTube (St Paul's Catholic School Milton Keynes) and LinkedIn (St Paul's Catholic School Milton Keynes).

GCSE results recognise students' hard work and commitment

St Paul's Catholic School is delighted to report some outstanding individual achievements by its students in their GCSE qualifications this summer.

Jo-Anne Hoarty, Headteacher at St Paul's Catholic School, said: "We were very happy to welcome Year 11 students to collect their GCSE results. The grades they received reflected a great deal of hard work and commitment over the last five years. We are so pleased with their results and they are thoroughly deserved."

Congratulations to every individual who has secured such excellent grades today. We are particularly impressed by the achievements of:

Ariana Bean, Crystal Boaf, Matthew Broad, Hanna Charlton, Phoebe Dietsch, Jakub Dudaniec, Abigail Forbie-Alpha, Roxana Haseeb, Victoria Ibeh, Ander Miles Casanova, Junior Mowavingi, Isaac Navin, Blossom Nyambi, Claire Sinnett, Franek Swiatek-Brzezinski, Rokas Vaitelis and Eunice Wong. Between them, these students achieved 51 grade 9s 44 grade 8s and 41 grade 7s.

A special mention goes to Jacob Fowler who has exceeded expectations and will be going on to study animation and visual effects.

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Jo-Anne added: We are very proud of all our students for making the most of the opportunities offered by St Paul's and are especially pleased that so many of them have chosen to continue their education in our excellent Sixth Form.”



A level results were impressive too, with students going on to study a range of subjects leading to careers in areas including Law, Medicine, Human Resources, Engineering, Games Art and Design and Finance.



Work related learning day

Work Related Learning Day, where students in Years 7 to 10, and in Year 12, participate in activities designed to prepare them for the world of work, is one of the most popular days in school.

Year 7 students enjoyed mindfulness, smoothie making, art for wellbeing and Duke of Edinburgh style challenges. They also took part in sporting activities including table tennis, football fitness, boxing and frisbee.

Year 8 loved their STEM activities which included launching rockets on the school field, meeting exotic animals, practising medical procedures, doing Maths challenges and learning about space travel in an inflatable planetarium. We are grateful to organisations including Red Bull, Teaching Talons and Medical Mavericks for providing such fantastic experiences.

Year 9 had a Steps into Work Day and did fun team challenges where they built towers with newspapers, had 'find your job' workshops and took part in virtual career workouts with employers. Thank you to Worktree for helping to arrange the workshops and activities and to the employers for giving students such a valuable insight into their jobs.

Year 10 teams created, manufactured and marketed a soap brand in a Soap Enterprise Challenge. They made a range of sweet smelling, fun products and launched them to their classmates.



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Mrs Palmiero, Head of Careers at St Paul's, said: "Work Related Learning Day is one of the most popular days of the year and we are delighted to be able to provide such a rich variety of experiences for students. The day was enjoyed by all."



Culture day recognises our diverse community

With over 60 native languages spoken at the school St Paul's is a truly diverse and inclusive community. Every year we celebrate this with a joyful Day of Culture where students and staff are invited to wear their national costume or some clothing or accessories that represent a culture they identify with.

Highlights of this year included some amazing cultural dance performances, a steel drum session, DJ sets from one of our former students at break times and some wonderful national flags displayed around the school. Our catering team also created some tasty menus so that students could enjoy foods from around the world.



The atmosphere was electric and demonstrated what a vibrant global community we have. We're already looking forward to next year!



Amazon donates outdoor equipment to DofE students

We are very fortunate that through Chris Dachtler, a former student at St Paul's, we were able to order some equipment from Amazon for our Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Amazon kindly donated £1000 of equipment including hiking boots, tents and an air event shelter. Thank you to Chris for organising this generous donation and to Robby (pictured with Mrs Hoarty and Mrs Parkins) for dropping the items off to us. These will really help our DofE students and we're grateful to Amazon for helping their local community.



Increasing the biodiversity of the school site



St Paul's is working to increase the biodiversity of the school site with the aid of generous funding from a National Education Nature Park Grant.

The school has purchased pots and planters and our Student Leaders volunteered to help our Site and Finance teams identify suitable locations to place them around the grounds. They then worked with the Finance team to select flowers for each pot and helped to plant them. For some, it was their first time planting flowers and they really enjoyed it.



One student commented how this will not only help to make the school more beautiful but has helped with mental wellbeing too. Alongside the Site team, Student Leaders delivered the new pots to each social zone where they have been placed near food huts and in corners that needed brightening up. Bedding plants have also been added to other areas of the school and we were able to buy some handmade planters from local charity Men in Sheds MK.

The planters and bedding plants are part of an ongoing project that will deliver a positive impact for students and nature by creating more biodiverse habitats over the coming year.



Students have a great adventure in Peru

Students from Years 10 to 13 embarked on a huge adventure when they went to Peru this summer. Local company Warmup generously donated t shirts for our intrepid explorers to wear on their expedition.

On their first full day in Peru our team were met with a welcome dance and then started working on a project to repair a wall at the entrance to a school. This involved taking out broken and fallen rocks and rebuilding the wall. They then moved on to repairing the school's driveway. The Head of Camps International in Peru said he has never known a group to work as hard as ours and to achieve what we had in four days!



They moved to the Sacred Valley and stayed in a lovely hacienda surrounded by mountains. Whilst there they worked at a waterfall project where they created a rest area for hikers at 3000m above sea level!

Students also enjoyed teaching local schoolchildren interactive songs – we think we have some budding teachers in the making.

An unforgettable part of the trip was visiting the beautiful lost Incan city of Machu Picchu where the group were able to walk around its many terraces, temples and plazas.

On their last day in Cusco they visited a temple, museum and market before moving on to Camp Moray, their final camp, which is high in the Andes at nearly 4000m. They stayed in tents and did some more project work in the community before getting their long flight home.

What an adventure for them all.

Student Council and Student Leaders demonstrate service to the school community

Our Student Leaders and members of our Student Council had a busy year demonstrating how they could follow Jesus' example as servant leaders and serve the school community.

In December they visited Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to drop off over 100 gifts for older people and children who were spending Christmas in hospital. Our Year 7 and Year 9 student Heads of Year explained to hospital staff how they had collected their donations and it was lovely to see how appreciative they were of our students' charitable activities. They impressed upon the children how what they are doing is making a difference and how very special it is that they took the time to come and deliver the gifts themselves.



Later in the year our students visited local charity MK Storehouse to deliver bags of clothing collected in our Great Spring Clean Out. Rachel from MK Storehouse explained how our donations will have a positive impact on the local community. She told them how clothing donations could help anyone from people who are in trouble to refugees that are invited to come and see which items might suit them. Students were excited to see the difference that the donations would make.



Students Leaders also visited the Houses of Parliament where they met with local MP, Emily Darlington and took part in the Milton Keynes Youth Summit. They showed service to the school by undertaking litter picks and also helped with planting pots of flowers around the school site. Under the guidance of Ms Markatos we look forward to another exciting year of student leadership.



Nadia publishes her first novel

We were excited for our Year 9 student Nadia, who wrote and published a book on Amazon.

Nadia gave a presentation to her classmates about her book, *Amethyst (1) (Time and Time Again)* - a fascinating tale of time travel and friendship. The Year 9 team were so impressed by her presentation that they have asked her to present to Year 7 and Year 8 and to staff at one of their briefings. BBC 3 Counties Radio also interviewed Nadia and she proved to be a confident speaker.

Miss Vousden, Head of Year 9, said: "We're all very proud of Nadia's achievements and she has been so brave to stand up and speak about her book in front of over 200 of her year group." Huge congratulations to Nadia on becoming an author.



Art on Display at the Royal Academy

Our Year 8 student Kseniia had a piece of her artwork chosen to go on display at the Royal Academy in London as part of their Young Artists Summer Exhibition. This is a tremendous achievement as over 23,000 entries were submitted this year. Speaking about her beautiful and moving artwork, Christmas Eve, Kseniia said: "This work shows my dreams of peace in Ukraine. I want to return to my peaceful home and sleep in my bed, waiting for the holiday."

Art Teacher, Mrs White (whose young daughter also had her artwork on display) saw Kseniia at the private view and was thrilled to be able to celebrate with her and her family.



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