

13th March 2026

Dear Families

Thank you for all of your support last week with the very difficult rumours about potential conflicts between all schools in Milton Keynes. I am pleased to say that our children listened carefully and did not engage in anything. Managing that situation took a great deal of time, but we have managed to focus on other things this week. On Monday, a group of Year 8 students visited the Spinal Injuries Association. On Tuesday, Year 12 A-level RE students attended the Candle Conference which was focused on Human Nature this year. In the evening the Heads and Chairs of Governors of all Milton Keynes Catholic schools joined together for our termly discussion. On Wednesday evening we had the Drama GCSE Showcase in the theatre which was a fantastic way to celebrate everything these students have achieved during their course. On Thursday, Year 8 took part in the MK Maths Challenge and Years 11 to 13 attended a debating competition against Thornton College. Today we celebrated Pi Day with the Maths team. There were many Pi themed outfits seen around the school and delicious fruit tarts served at break. Please encourage your children to get baking this weekend and send in a photo of their pies – the best looking pie will be displayed on the numeracy board next week. We have also been celebrating British Science Week this week with a wide range of activities.

On Friday evening last week, we hosted the Milton Keynes Parliamentary Schools debate contest in the Maureen Grant Room. Students from 14 schools in the city came to debate questions from 'should we lower the voting age to 16' to 'we should raise the minimum age for social media accounts' among others. This competition was not only an exciting way for students to practise their public speaking, researching and debating skills, but also an opportunity for them to engage with their local representatives. MPs Emily Darlington, Chris Curtis, and Callum Anderson were all in attendance and listened carefully to the debates and engaged with the students. Emily Darlington commented that "it was genuinely inspiring to see the standard of debate from your students. They spoke with confidence, listened carefully, and engaged with each other respectfully, even when discussing challenging subjects." Students were thrilled to get such wonderful feedback. Round one of the competition was won by Oakgrove. Many congratulations to them and they will be hosting round two later this month. All of the students who participated have been invited to Parliament on 24<sup>th</sup> of April to watch the final. We are very proud of the students who debated so eloquently for our school and for the skills that they have now acquired. We look forward to the visit to Parliament.

We've completed our Primary Science Week visits—an enjoyable two weeks working with Year 5 and 6 pupils on some fun science experiments. Thank you to our Year 9 helpers who supported the visits; they were impeccable. We're now looking forward to celebrating on 18th March, when the Science department will be dressing up as their favourite elements from the periodic table!

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In observance of National Techognition Day on Friday, Student Leaders took time to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our dedicated technical staff. Pupils thoughtfully created and wrote thank-you cards expressing their appreciation for the Art Technicians, Design & Technology Technicians, IT Technicians, Science Technicians and Reprographics Department, whose expertise and behind-the-scenes support make so many learning experiences possible. From preparing materials and maintaining equipment to supporting creative projects and scientific investigations, these staff members play a vital role in daily school life and deserve to be recognised. The initiative provided students with an opportunity to reflect on teamwork, gratitude, and the many people who help bring their learning to life who are behind the scenes. We are very grateful to have them in our school community!

There were a number of sporting fixtures this week. On Tuesday the Year 9 boys' football team were away to Walton High Brooklands and secured a 4 – 1 win. Our Year 10 boys played Brooklands at home and had a 1 – 0 win. On Wednesday the Year 7 boys' football team were away at Hazeley Academy and won by 1 – 0. The Year 9 boys were at home to Hazeley and drew 1 – 1. Also on Wednesday our Year 9 girls' netball team played in a tournament at Watling Academy. They played exceptionally well on the night and secured the runners-up slot in the plate competition. On Thursday our Year 9 and 11 girls' football teams played at Stantonbury, winning both their matches. The Year 10 boys' football team played at home against Hazeley with Hazeley winning 1 – 0. Well done to all the students who took part in these fixtures, they represented the school very well.

Next week is full of exciting opportunities for our students. On Saturday, our pupils and staff are off to Italy on a Ski trip for the week. Year 7 & 8 are off on retreat to Kintbury on Monday to Thursday. On Tuesday and Thursday, Year 9 have careers activities based on 'Get that Job!' On Wednesday we have activities relating to STEM X in the MGR all day. During the day on Thursday, Year 11 have an Oxbridge University trip to Trinity College. On Thursday evening we have mentoring appointments for Year 9 & 13 and those Year 12 students on Vocational Courses. Alongside this, there is a meeting of the Governors Resources and Personnel committee. On Thursday and Friday next week we have our School Improvement Partner from the Local Authority in school conducting the Annual Evaluation and Safeguarding Audit. All through the week all children will have the opportunity to take part in prayers for reconciliation in tutor groups as part of our Lenten preparation.

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, a number of pupils who study our vocational programmes will be receiving their January examination results. Pupils in Year 10 and 11 will receive their results during their lessons and will discuss their overall points score with their teacher. Pupils in Year 12 and 13 will be able to collect their results from the Tuck Inn from 8.30am – 10.30am. Results will then be available to collect from the Sixth Form office during the day. We wish all pupils the very best with their exam results.

Amazing Apprenticeships, in partnership with the South Midlands Careers Hub, is hosting Opportunities on Your Doorstep, a virtual careers fair on Tuesday 12th May 2026, 5.30pm–7.00pm. Parents, carers and students in Years 10–13 are invited to explore local Apprenticeship and T Level opportunities, hear from employers and training providers, and learn about application processes.

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Register by Friday 8th May 2026 to secure a free place. To register or find out more, visit: [tinyurl.com/Opportunities-On-Your-Doorstep](https://tinyurl.com/Opportunities-On-Your-Doorstep)

The Careers team would like to share the latest Labour Market Information for the South Midlands 'Get Britain Working Plan'. The plan aligns with the government's plan for change and the Great Britain working White paper, which aspires to raise the national employment rate to 80%. Click on the [link](#) to find out more and have access to the data, the working plan and much more. This enables you to have access to the latest data for Milton Keynes and the wider region.

A huge thank you and well done to all the students that participated in the Show Racism the Red Card Competition. The finalists were:

- **Artwork** – Tia 11 Cha, Elisabetta 11 Via, Gloria 11 Neu (group)
- **Creative writing** – Lexi 7 Ros
- **Film** – Riley 12 Via, Raymond 12 Ben and Joseph 12 Ter (group)
- **Music** – Charlie 7 Ter
- **Design a Football Boot** – Noah 11 Neu
- **Design a T-Shirt** – Leonora 9 Cha

We have a winning entry in the film category. The film made and produced by Riley, Joseph & Raymond in Year 12. They will be invited to an official awards ceremony.

We wish to emphasise the vital importance of your child arriving at school on time each day. The first bell rings at 8.47am which is a signal for pupils to walk to their tutor rooms. At 8.50am the bell rings which then signals the start of tutor time and the school day. When children miss the start of the school day, they can miss important messages which are shared by their form tutor. In addition, it can cause children to feel unsettled throughout the day, impacting on their learning. We ask that your child arrives by 8.47am so that they can be at their tutor room for a prompt 8.50am start to registration. We are here to support you if there are any barriers preventing your child from arriving on time, so please do get in touch with us if you need help.

Finally, congratulations to Cian in Year 13 who has achieved a fantastic Grade 8 in both Clarinet (Merit) and Saxophone (Distinction). This is a significant achievement and we are so proud of him. It is also important to note that high level gradings in music can count towards UCAS points for university courses. Well done Cian! I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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