St Paul's CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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13th November 2026

Dear Families

It has been a very exciting week at St Paul's this week. Today our Politics students have been on a visit to 10 Downing Street! Apparently, they are even visiting the Cabinet Room and are hoping to spot politicians! I'm looking forward to hearing all about it and I'll include an update next week!

This week we have been celebrating Tomorrow's Engineers week with a range of activities. Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting event with Network Rail, learning about bridge construction, railway safety, signalling and railway crossings. They also took part in hands on activities, building construction models using gears and exploring the science behind engineering. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and the opportunity to learn about the railway industry. A big thank you to Network Rail for a fantastic experience! Not quite as exciting, Year 9 students had catch up vaccinations on Wednesday. On Thursday evening Year 8 parents attended an information evening in the MGR. Today we marked the beginning of Maths Week. There have been a range of activities for us to celebrate.

Next week, we continue with activities to further celebrate Maths Week. On Monday, Year 12 will attend a Falmouth University Creative Arts portfolios workshop. On Tuesday it is the feast day of St Elizabeth of Hungary. Children in Elizabeth form groups may wear non-uniform to mark this feast day. Also on Tuesday, Year 12 and 13 Drama, Film Studies and English Literature students are visiting the cinema. Other Year 12 and 13 students will enjoy a Careers Logistics event. On Tuesday evening, parents of children going on the Mendip residential are invited to an information evening. On Wednesday evening there is a meeting of the Full Governing Board. On Friday, there is a Student Leaders' trip to MK Youth Summit and a debating event at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School.

It is also the beginning of the Year 11 PPEs next week. Please can I ask Year 11 parents to keep a close eye on their children and alert form tutors to any signs of excessive examination stress. These examinations are an opportunity for children to do their best and to demonstrate everything they have learned. It is also an opportunity for them to make mistakes in a safe environment. Please reassure your child of this but do encourage them to do as much revision as possible!

Next week we will be marking Anti-Bullying Week, organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. As a school, we continue to promote our city-wide definition of bullying and work collaboratively with wider schools to ensure a consistent approach to bullying is achieved. This year's theme, 'Break the Silence', encourages young people to speak up if they experience or witness bullying and to seek support when needed. We will launch the week by taking part in the national Odd Socks Day on Monday, and we encourage all pupils to wear odd socks to celebrate individuality and what makes each of us unique.

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During tutor time next week, our Student Leaders will deliver an anti-bullying presentation, promoting the theme of 'Break the Silence' and reminding pupils of the different ways they can report concerns in school. You can see a parent/carer information pack, which highlights the importance of Anti-Bullying Week and provides additional guidance and support for families, on our website here.

We had several sporting fixtures this week. On Tuesday at Watling Academy Year 11 boys lost their football match by 2 – 1, Year 10 basketball won by 32 – 24 and Year 8 basketball lost 16 – 14. On Wednesday, our Year 10 and 11 girls' football team played Denbigh and won 4 – 2. Year 8 girls played Glebe Farm at netball and won 14 -6 and the Year 7 girls lost 7 – 1 at netball. Congratulations to all the students who represented our school so well.

As a part of the Black History Month celebrations, students were challenged by the RE department to create a creative piece to recognise the contributions made by a person of Black heritage to the world of religion. After judging the entries of poems, posters and paintings, the winner was Leonora Lloyd-Jhala with her painting of Rebecca Proctor. Well done to Leonora.

Our annual Careers Fair will take place on Wednesday 2nd December 2026, and parents are warmly invited to attend from 3.35pm till 5pm. With a wide range of employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges, and universities attending, this is an excellent opportunity to explore future pathways and gain valuable careers information. Whether your child is considering university, an apprenticeship or another post-16 or post-18 route, representatives will be available to discuss entry requirements, recommended subjects, courses, and career opportunities. It is also a great chance to ask questions, gather advice and build connections with organisations from a variety of industries

Finally, we'd like to let you know about an upcoming change to the way you shop for our school uniform online. Over the coming months, our current online uniform shop with **SWI** will be moving to **Monkhouse**, one of the UK's leading schoolwear specialists and part of the Banner Group.

What's changing?
The website you'll use to purchase our school uniform will change from SWI to Monkhouse.

What's staying the same?
Please be assured that this change **does not affect our approved school uniform**.
You'll continue to purchase the same high-quality uniform and sportswear, with the same approved products for our school.

What you'll need to do
When our school's Monkhouse shop goes live, simply visit **monkhouse.com** and search for our school. You **do not need an account to browse** or view prices. When you're ready to place your first order, you'll simply need to create a new Monkhouse account during checkout.

Benefits of the new website
The move to Monkhouse brings a number of improvements to make shopping easier and more convenient, including:

✓ Browse school uniform without logging in
✓ Faster and simpler checkout
✓ Apple Pay and Google Pay
✓ Klarna for flexible payment options
✓ Improved school search to help you find our uniform more quickly
✓ Smarter school pages with easier navigation
✓ Better order updates and communication throughout your shopping journey
✓ Simple returns options
✓ Access to an even wider range of schoolwear, footwear, accessories and stationery
✓ The same offers and promotions you're used to

When is this happening?
We'll let you know as soon as our school's Monkhouse shop is live and ready for you to start shopping. There's nothing you need to do until then.

We're excited about the improvements this change will bring and look forward to continuing to provide you with a simple, convenient way to purchase our school uniform.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

J A Hoarty

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