

16th January 2026

Dear Families

This week we began with an excellent Pastoral Leaders' Conference on Monday. On Monday evening there was a Governors' Curriculum and Teaching Committee meeting as well as Mentoring appointments for Year 11 and 12. Also on Monday, Year 12 enjoyed a careers focused trip to clean energy technology company Accelera by Cummins. The visit started with workshops, facilitated by WorkTree, which covered applying for jobs and interview skills. After this there was an opportunity to tour Accelera's premises, meet staff and learn about their roles. On Tuesday evening our PTA met together. On Thursday evening I really enjoyed speaking to so many of our Year 11 families about study at Sixth Form at St Paul's. There was quite a bit of excitement about our plans for our brand new Sixth Form building which will open in time for September 2026. I will keep you updated about how the work progresses.

Our Year 8 basketball team played Walton High but, unfortunately, lost their match. It was the first time a lot of the students were representing the school, and they did it with great spirit. We will be looking to build on this moving forward as a team. The Year 8 netball team played well, winning 3 – 1 against Stantonbury. The Year 10 netball team also played Stantonbury on the same evening and won 4 - 2. Year 10 team also had an away fixture at Ousedale's Newport campus with a score of 16 – 5 in favour of Ousedale. Thank you to all the students who represented the school this week.

Our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students recently took part in the Winter Battle of the Bands competition on Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS), showing fantastic enthusiasm, determination and a clear willingness to keep their times tables and numerical skills sharp throughout the competition. The top three pupils in each classroom have been awarded certificates in recognition of their efforts via their class teachers. In addition, the overall winners for each year group, who achieved the highest number of points, received both a certificate and a vending machine coin as a special reward. Congratulations to Stefan Brasoveanu in Year 7 with 20,722 points, Rosie-Mae Hoare in Year 8 with 25,756 points and Agnelle Assan in Year 9 with 54,249 points for their outstanding achievements.

Next week our Year 10 students begin two weeks of work experience placements. These are really valuable opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the world of work. As such, we expect your child will find the two weeks absolutely exhausting as the working environment is very different for them. We usually find that the experience inspires them to come back to school with a renewed effort and focus. I hope they all really enjoy their experiences. On Tuesday morning members of our Governing Board are visiting school with a focus on our provision for SEND and Pupil Premium students. On Wednesday there is a Year 11 visit to the University of Northampton and a Year 12 trip

focusing on Oxbridge applications. Our Music department are leading groups of children to perform in our primary schools each morning next week and the Drama department is taking students to see Dear England at MK Theatre on Thursday. On Thursday evening the Resources and Personnel Committee of our Governing Board is meeting and there is a parent information evening for parents of children interested in the Camps International trip to Kenya 2027.

On Wednesday, 22 new Student Leaders across Years 7 to 10 were inducted into our programme. Students were selected by members of staff, year leaders, and pastoral teams because they exhibited leadership qualities. Student Leaders strive to lead as Jesus led through our school motto of 'Love, Serve, and do the best that is possible.' The induction included training on having a growth mindset, long and short-term goal setting, and thinking about what we can do to have a positive impact on our school and local community as well as the world as a whole. Current Student Leaders presented activities that we have done in the past and then led discussions with the new inductees. Students were very excited to receive their yellow badges and are displaying them proudly on their blazers. Congratulations to all new Student Leaders.

Parents will have received the disappointing information about Z & S Transport's decision to withdraw from the MK Move All-in One Card. I just wanted to reassure parents that we are working tirelessly to advocate for our families and find a solution to this significant challenge that we are all facing with transport to school. Thank you to all those parents who have demonstrated their understanding of our position and who are taking the time to make their feelings known to Z & S and the Council.

Finally, I wanted to ask parents of Year 11 students to spend time discussing the subject choices open to them in our Sixth Form. It is vitally important that every student continues to work as hard as they can and follow a structured revision programme in the remaining months up to the examinations. One of the key messages is that all of their current subjects count at the moment, not just Maths and English GCSEs. To be accepted onto A-level study, students must have met the entry requirements which are that the entry requirement for the individual subject must be met (this varies from a Grade 4 to a Grade 6 depending on the subject) and the average GCSE Grade across 8 subjects must be a Grade 4+. It is crucial, therefore, that students continue to do their very best across the curriculum, avoiding the temptation to 'zone out' of revising for particular subjects because 'they aren't important' to them'. Thank you for your continued support with this.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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