St Paul's CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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16th October 2026

Dear Families

Just as the weather has turned a little colder, we have started the week with flu vaccinations. Sixth Form students went off for their retreat at Kintbury on Monday and returned yesterday. On Wednesday the day began with a Liturgy in the Chapel dedicated to those in prison. Our Politics Students enjoyed a visit to the Houses of Parliament and Year 12 and 13 went to the London Excel for the UCAS Create Your Future Discovery Event. In the afternoon we welcomed some of our Alumni to mentor identified students. On Wednesday evening the Resources and Personnel Committee of the Governing Board met for their first review of the budget for this academic year. Also on Wednesday, we welcomed the Lead Inspector from our last OFSTED visit. We have commissioned her to do some development work with us as we really valued her opinion of the school. Yesterday we celebrated the feast day of St Teresa of Avila with students in Teresa form groups having a non-uniform day. Last night we showcased our school in our Year 6 prospective students open evening. It was wonderful to see our school so vibrant with exciting displays and superb student helpers everywhere. I am very grateful to everyone for their hard work and dedication. If your child helped out last night, please ask them to see me for a Headteacher point.

Our basketball teams had two fixtures this week. On Tuesday the Year 9 boys welcomed Stantonbury to St Paul's, losing 29 – 38. Despite the result, the team showed great effort and determination throughout the fixture. Well done to all involved, particularly those representing the school for the first time. On Wednesday Year 11 boys hosted Webber Independent and delivered an outstanding performance to secure a convincing 58–17 victory. The team demonstrated excellent teamwork, skill, and determination from start to finish. Congratulations to all the players on a well-deserved win. St Paul's Year 9 and Year 10 girls' netball teams welcomed Watling Academy for their respective fixtures, with both teams unfortunately finishing on the losing side. Despite the results, the girls showed great effort, resilience and commitment throughout their matches. Well done to everyone involved for representing the school with such a positive attitude.

The PE Department would like to remind parents that next week is Burditt Cup week with lessons taking place on the MUGA or on the field. Girls will be doing netball, Year 7 and 8 boys will be doing rugby and Year 9 and 10 boys will be doing football.

It is hard to believe that next week is the final week of this half term. Time is flying past. We begin next week with a Kathakali Performance and Workshop. Kathakali is a major classical dance-drama from Kerala, India, that combines movement, music, and silent acting to tell epic stories. On Wednesday Year 9 Mathematicians are off to a Maths Challenge. Also on Wednesday, Year 9 are visiting the STEM

Headteacher:
Jo-Anne Hoarty

St Paul's Catholic School
Phoenix Drive
Leadenhall
Milton Keynes
MK6 5EN

Telephone
01908 669 735

Email
enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk

Web
www.st-pauls.org.uk

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festival in Middleton Hall. On both Wednesday and Thursday, Year 8 will enjoy a careers workout. Year 10 will get continued support for careers and work experience. Year 10 and 11 have the opportunity for flu jabs on Thursday. We have another of our SEND Parent tours on Thursday and on Friday the final Year 6 parent tour.

As I mentioned above, Our Year 12 Politics students enjoyed an inspiring visit to the UK Parliament, where they gained a fascinating insight into the heart of British democracy. During a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster, students explored some of its most historic and significant spaces, including the House of Lords, the voting lobbies, the House of Commons Lobby, St Stephen's Hall and the magnificent Westminster Hall. A highlight of the visit was witnessing the Speaker's Procession and seeing Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle make his ceremonial entrance into the House of Commons, providing students with a memorable glimpse of parliamentary tradition in action. The visit also included an engaging petitions workshop, where students learned how citizens can influence government policy and had the opportunity to present petitions on issues that mattered to them as young people. To round off the day, students took part in a walking tour of Parliament Square led by Ms. Markatos. The tour highlighted several important landmarks, including the UK Supreme Court and Westminster Abbey, helping students deepen their understanding of Britain's political and constitutional institutions. The trip was an excellent opportunity for students to connect their classroom learning with the real-world workings of government and democracy, bringing their studies to life in an unforgettable way.

The MK Lightning ice hockey team recently visited the Emmanuel Centre and have now offered the St Paul's community a 25% discount on tickets for their match against Peterborough Phantoms on 31st October. Tickets can be purchased via their website and you will need to quote the code 26StPauls27MKL

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

J A Hoarty

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Headteacher

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