

17th April 2026

Dear Families

I hope that you all had a lovely Easter break and that you enjoyed some precious time with your families. I have been in and out of school this week depending on when I have been required for jury service. I'm glad that I have been able to be in school for more time than I anticipated. The start of the Pentecost Term has started smoothly. We have noticed lots of jewellery being worn so please can I ask you to remind your children that this is not permitted. We have also noticed a significant increase in the number of squishy gel-filled fidget toys being brought into school. These have the potential to burst and the substance inside is very difficult to remove from carpets and surfaces. These are not allowed in school under any circumstances and will be confiscated.

This week Year 11 artists have completed their GCSE examinations and Year 10 linguists have their GCSE Speaking exams. On Tuesday and Thursday Year 11 geographers worked on their fieldwork components. During the day on Wednesday the medical team held a catch up vaccination session for Year 8. On Wednesday evening we held a Governors' Admissions and Safeguarding Committee meeting. There was also a STEM Lecture on the intriguing topic of 'Am I just my Brain?' Thank you to everyone who attended and a special thank you to Dr Sharon Dirckx for her excellent talk. We're hoping to expand our lecture series in the next academic year, so if anyone is interested in delivering a lecture on a science or STEM related topic, please contact Mr Ruprai for further details. Last night there was a Theatre Club Showcase, and I am told that there was some fantastic talent on display. It was a great opportunity for Year 12 and 13 students to lead an event and showcase performances from different year groups around the school. The evening raised over £150 for Year 12 and 13's Lenten charities. Today, Year 13 have been on a visit to Parliament and also enjoyed a walking tour of London.

We only had one fixture this week. Our Year 7 girls' netball team finished second in the plate competition at Watling Academy. This is a fantastic achievement for the girls who have been excellent in their first year in secondary school. A huge well done to them and we hope they enjoy having a rest from netball so that they are refreshed for the new season in Year 8.

Next week I continue my second week of jury service. Our A Level Art and Photography students will sit their examinations. Year 11 modern linguists have their GCSE Speaking Exams. Year 12 Level 2 students will be out on Work Experience for the week. On Monday to Thursday our Gold Duke of Edinburgh candidates are off on a practice expedition to the Chiltern Hills. Year 8 Days of Recollection will also be taking place next week. On Monday it is the Feast Day of St Rose of Lima so some of our Tutor groups will be celebrating this. On Tuesday there is a PTA meeting at 6pm. On Thursday evening

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Years 12, 10 & 8 have the first of two Mentoring Evenings with virtual appointments. Year 7 also have a 'Meet the Tutor' evening.

The Ben Kinsella Trust is hosting a free online workshop for parents and carers about topics such as the influence of social media, the signs and stages of exploitation, and how we can prevent young people being affected by knife crime as parents, carers and as a community. The workshop entitled 'Helping Our Children Stay Safe' is on Thursday 23rd April from 6 – 8pm via Zoom. You can book your space [here](#).

This half term we are focusing on solidarity and peace in our work with Catholic Social Teaching. Catholic Social Teaching calls us to recognise every person's dignity and to act in solidarity with one another, especially the most vulnerable. Through this shared responsibility, we work together to build peace rooted in justice, compassion, and the common good. Throughout this half term we will focus on how we can ensure that the community of St Paul's is working to promote solidarity and peace amongst all who we encounter, pupils will have the chance to reflect on the church's key teachings relating to solidarity and peace and consider how they can put their faith into action.

As you can see, there is quite a bit happening at St Paul's over the first few weeks of the Pentecost Term.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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