

18th September 2026

Dear Families

We have enjoyed our week at St Paul's. Thankfully our Bronze D of E students had lovely weather for their expedition from Monday to Tuesday – dry and not too hot. Year 12 got a lot from their visit to the University of Buckingham on Wednesday for a 'Lawfest'. The 'Techfest' yesterday was also interesting for them. I have enjoyed meeting with each Head of Department this week to discuss external examination results and lessons learned. The clear impression that I am getting from departments is that Year 11 and 13 are dedicated and focused on their studies. In fact, all year groups have made a very good start to the new academic year.

We have had a number of football fixtures. Year 11 boys welcomed Lord Grey for a competitive home fixture and showed excellent determination and discipline throughout the match, creating opportunities and working hard to maintain their advantage. Despite late pressure from the opposition, the boys held on to secure an important victory and continue their positive start to the season. Year 8 boys welcomed Kents Hill Park to St. Paul's and delivered an impressive attacking display. They played some excellent football, demonstrating good passing, movement and teamwork as they created numerous chances. Their efforts were rewarded with a convincing 7–2 victory, with every player contributing to a fantastic team performance. Year 11 boys played their second fixture of the season against Walton High (Brooklands) in another closely contested encounter. The team showed tremendous determination throughout the match and continued to push for a decisive goal right until the final stages. Their persistence paid off as they found a winner in the final five minutes to secure all three points and maintain their 100% record at the start of the season.

Our Year 11 girls' netball team had their opening fixture of the season against Denbigh and produced an excellent performance. The girls showed great resilience and teamwork throughout, battling hard in challenging conditions and adapting well to the difficult playing surface. Their efforts were rewarded with a fantastic 7–5 victory, providing an excellent start to what promises to be an exciting season.

Next week Year 11, 12 & 13 girls are taking part in the UK Maths Test Competition on Tuesday. We wish them well for this! All staff are attending Benedict's Law training on Tuesday. This focuses on dealing with allergic reactions in school. On Wednesday Year 12 Geographers will be off to Winterton to collect data for their NEAs. On Thursday Year 13 will be attending a UCAS Discovery event. We will be ending the week with a staff coffee morning for Macmillan. On Thursday and Friday I will be joining the Headteachers from the Milton Keynes Catholic Primary schools for our annual conference. I am looking forward to working with them all for the good of all of the children in our schools.

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At St Paul's, we are continually reviewing our practice to ensure that every pupil receives the most effective support to enable them to succeed. We will be introducing a revised approach to supporting pupils who experience difficulties with regulation during lessons. This forms part of our wider commitment to inclusive practice and follows recent staff training on regulation strategies and whole school development focus on our Shields. Research and experience tell us that many pupils are most successful when they are supported to regulate within the classroom, rather than routinely leaving lessons. Small adjustments made by teachers—such as movement opportunities, sensory strategies, adapted tasks and supportive adult interactions—often enable pupils to remain engaged in learning whilst developing greater independence over time. As a result, classroom-based regulation strategies will become our first response for the vast majority of pupils. A small number of pupils with the most significant and complex needs will continue to have access to specialist Time Out provision where this is identified as an appropriate reasonable adjustment through an individual review process. This change does not mean that support is being removed. Rather, it reflects a shift towards providing support at the earliest opportunity within lessons so that pupils can remain engaged in learning and continue to develop effective regulation skills.

As always, we remain committed to meeting the needs of all pupils and will continue to work closely with families where individual adjustments are required.

I'm delighted that so many students attended the auditions for our school show on Wednesday. I'm really looking forward to seeing so many of our talented students in Annie during the Lent Term.

The Leadenhall Residents Association have organised a litter pick, taking part on Saturday 19th at 10.30am (meeting outside Woughton Leisure Centre). You can find information on their Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/events/2113038589418700>

MK Breakers Basketball Club are offering community sessions designed to give young people the opportunity to get active, develop their basketball skills, build confidence, and most importantly, have fun in a positive and welcoming environment. A flyer giving details is attached.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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