

19th September 2025

Dear Families

We have had a lovely week at St. Paul's. Your children have been working really hard, taking responsibility for their own learning by thinking hard. It has been lovely to see as I wander around classrooms. I have spent the majority of this week meeting with all Heads of subject to discuss their external examination results and key learning that we can take from these outcomes to benefit current Year 11 and 13. It was good to hear about all the exciting developments that departments have planned to ensure that Year 11 and 13 are successful next year. On Monday, there was a catch-up vaccination clinic for Year 11. We held a parents' information evening for those going on the Ski trip in 2026. On Tuesday Year 7 form groups began their Days of recollection. Also on Tuesday, a group of Sixth Form students went to the Globe Theatre in London for a tour and to see Twelfth Night. On Wednesday there was a Year 12 information evening which focused on the transition to Sixth Form. On Thursday evening Year 13 parents attended virtual mentoring appointments. In person appointments are next Thursday. Today Year 11 Animal Care students visited Woad Farm and Emily Darlington, MP, visited school to see the work of our trainee teachers in our Tommy Flowers SCITT.

On Monday it is the deadline for staff to have discussed UCAS grades with Year 13 students. Do speak to your son or daughter about these important grades. On Wednesday we are hosting the KS3 Awards evening. I'm really looking forward to recognising all of the achievements of our younger students. On Thursday and Friday, I will be out of school at the Milton Keynes Catholic Schools Annual Conference. It is a real privilege to spend time with the primary headteachers and plan improvements in the Catholic education that we provide. On Thursday evening it is the second round of Year 13 mentoring appointments and a Year 7 parents' information evening.

It has been lovely to have students visit my office this week to collect their Headteacher certificates. If you receive notification that your child has received a Headteacher's award for getting 60 green points, then please do send them to see me.

In football Year 11 lost in the first round of the county cup 3-2 away at Ousedale on Tuesday night. They also played on Thursday kickstarting their defence of the league title and drew 2-2 against Shenley Brook End. Well done to Leighton Boon who scored in both games and led by example as the captain of the team.

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Year 10 boys won 4-2 away at Watling, with Enrico scoring a hat trick. The Year 9 boys' football team won 6-2 away at Ousedale and a special mention to Kieran Opoku who played his first game for the school and managed to score.

We are pleased to introduce a weekly SENDCO Parent Drop-In, held online via Microsoft Teams. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to speak directly with the SENDCO or Deputy SENDCO about any concerns, questions, or support needs.

How it works:

- One online drop-in session will run each week.
- Parents can request an appointment by completing the online form below.
- All requests will be triaged, and parents will then be contacted with their allocated appointment time.
- A confirmation email and Teams link will be sent once your appointment has been scheduled.
- If, during your appointment, we feel that more time or a face-to-face meeting would be beneficial, a member of staff will be in touch to arrange this.

This service is designed to make it easier for families to access advice and support in a convenient, flexible way. To take part in the drop in please fill in the online form [here](#).

During half term, on 27th October, Network Rail is holding a one day employability workshop for 15 – 16 year olds to help young people build confidence, essential life and work skills while exploring future education and career pathways. A poster is attached – just scan the QR code to register your interest.

If your child is part of the Doodle Programme, they've been registered by our Maths Department to take part in Doodle's Back to School Competition, which runs from 19th September to 2nd October. This initiative is designed to help pupils build up their numerical skills through short, daily bursts of practice.

To take part, pupils simply need to stay in the green zone on Doodle for 14 consecutive days. This means reaching their daily target — around 10 minutes of practice a day — to help strengthen their understanding, fill learning gaps, and build confident learning habits. As a bonus, they'll earn a virtual back-to-school badge to celebrate their consistency and hard work.

Research shows that over 60% of pupils who complete a seven day streak go on to reach 14 days, adding up to around five extra hours of learning per month. Parents of participating pupils will have received a launch letter or reminder, including guidance on how to link their own account to their child's. Your encouragement at home can make a big difference — simply reminding them to stay in the green zone each day is enough! Please note if your child has started a new baseline assessment during the competition period, they will need to complete that first — otherwise, that will prevent them from collecting stars toward their streak until the assessment is finished. Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home!

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Congratulations to Tomi in Year 9 who was presented with an award for volunteering at Milton Keynes library over the summer holidays. He helped primary school aged children with the reading challenge. We are all very proud of him.

Last term our Careers Department arranged for some of our Year 13 students to help out with our summer school. This was to give the students a short work experience and for them to meet our new Year 7 students giving them familiar faces to recognise when they started school in September. We heard that our Year 13s did a fantastic job and received praise such as "The students who attended Summer School across both days were exceptional. All were punctual, involved and incredibly helpful and supportive to both staff and students. They were a real credit!"

Thank you to Adrian Borkowski, Godwin Asante, Lesley Boateng, Stephanie Wyatt and Bobby Bennett-Moore for volunteering and doing such a marvellous job. The Careers Department would also like to say well done to Gideon Arthur who completed some independent work experience over the summer and has been asked to continue working with the employer to build a course for that industry. Congratulations also to Nathan McCormick for being the only student to be accepted for work experience last week with Collins Aerospace.

Please can we remind you to purchase a lanyard and ID Card if your child no longer has one. We will be issuing detentions next week if your child no longer has one as they are an essential part of their school equipment.

We have been informed that the Arriva bus strikes planned for September and October are not going ahead.

If anyone is interested in taking up softball outside of school and would like to learn more about the game, the Code Breakers Cup is taking place at Radcliffe School on Saturday from 9am – 6.30pm. Any students interested in softball can also speak to our PE Department or to Ms Markatos who is a coach for the Greek national team.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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