

19th December 2025

Dear Families

We have finally reached the end of a very long term. We are all really ready for our Christmas holiday. It has remained extremely busy at St Paul's this week. On Monday, A-level Politics students went on a tour of Parliament in Westminster. I was very fortunate to be able to join them and it was a superb trip. We had a tour that included both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Students were able to admire these incredibly beautiful and historic rooms and stand in the corridors of power. After our tour of the Parliamentary estate, students met with our MP Emily Darlington in Westminster Hall. She spoke to them about the importance of serving your constituents and answered questions. The students discussed with her the privatisation of buses, what the new metro bus will look like and what she is doing to help the homeless. We are very grateful to Ms. Darlington for taking the time to see our students and bring the politics that we are learning in the classroom to life. Students enjoyed the day and were grateful for the opportunity to visit the Palace of Westminster to enhance their study of Politics.

On Tuesday our Student Council and Leaders showed outstanding generosity this Christmas by donating a large collection of gifts to Milton Keynes Hospital for both elderly patients and children staying on the wards over the festive season. The gift appeal, organised in the lead-up to Christmas, encouraged students to donate presents to help bring comfort and happiness to those who will be in hospital for Christmas. Thanks to the kindness of the school community, a wide range of gifts was collected, ensuring that these patients felt remembered and cared for during this special time of year. The donations were delivered to the hospital in time for Christmas, where staff expressed their gratitude for the thoughtfulness shown by the students and assured them the gifts helped bring smiles and moments of joy to the patients. The hospital staff were so overcome with the gifts, they have offered to come into school after the holidays to show students the impact that they have had. The gift appeal is reflective of the school's commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the values of human dignity, solidarity, and service to the common good. By supporting those who are sick and vulnerable, students put their faith into action and follow Jesus' teaching to love and care for others. The staff at the hospital praised the students for their compassion and were very appreciative of the speeches students made while giving the donations. Students also acknowledged the staff who will be in the hospital to care for the patients during the holidays by giving them tins of muffins and sweets. This project gave students the opportunity to reflect on the care they receive from their own families and the love they have for their grandparents, inspiring them to show the same kindness to others in the wider community. Whilst students were presenting their gifts, several members of the public stopped to listen, comment, and complimented our students for their generosity and thoughtfulness which was

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wonderful. The Christmas appeal is just a small reminder that even small acts of generosity can make a big difference in our local community. Through their donations, the students have helped spread hope, joy, and the true spirit of Christmas to those who needed it most.

Many of our Emmaus pupils enjoyed a visit to Climb Quest on Tuesday. A great time was had by all with one student describing it as an 'amazing morning'! On Wednesday Safari Stu visited Emmaus as a Christmas treat and the week has ended with some praise afternoons for Year 9 and 10. Year 7 will follow after Christmas. Today, as part of their Advent fundraising Year 7 have been creating a line of coins and made one just under 100 metres long. Well done Year 7 for this enterprising initiative.

We are pleased that St Paul's has been selected as one of 50 schools, special schools, and colleges nationwide to take part in the Careers Impact National System Review: Impactful Models of Work Experience Addressing Young People's Barriers to Opportunity through our Online Research Forum.

We were chosen because of:

- Our self-evaluation from the Careers Impact internal leadership review
- Known practice in providing meaningful work experience for all learners

This is an excellent acknowledgement of the hard work of our Careers team. Please take a look at the attached Careers newsletter and the Careers bulletin for January to see some of the exciting things that have happened and are planned.

As we approach the formal exam season, it is imperative that pupils have their ID cards with them in school every day. Pupils are required to place their school ID card clearly on their exam desk for the duration of each examination. This serves as a formal method of identification and is an essential part of exam regulations. Pupils who arrive without their ID card may experience delays or require additional checks before being allowed to sit the examination. We kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child brings their ID card to school every day and to every examination.

If your child does not have an ID card a replacement can be purchased via WisePay:

- General Products
- There are two options: replace ID card and replace Lanyard
- The cost is £5 for card and £1.50 for the lanyard.
- Once purchased, pupils can collect their new ID card from the IT office in F Block and can collect a new Lanyard from the Finance office in A block

We have added some new online safety guides to the website, you can find them [here](#). You may find them useful as during the holidays your children might be spending more time online.

We return to school for training days on the 5th & 6th January. Pupils return to school on Wednesday 7th January. On Thursday 8th January, Year 11 & 12 have mentoring appointments in the evening. The Year 7 information evening for 7th January is being rescheduled. Governors are also meeting for the

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Admissions and Safeguarding meeting. On Friday 9th January, subject leaders are attending an academic conference where they will plan critical developments to enhance the impact of the curriculum in the classroom. Also that day, it is the Feast of St John Neumann and so all children in Neumann form groups can wear non-uniform that day.

A last reminder that from 1st February the MK All in 1 card will no longer be valid or accepted on public transport. If you haven't already ordered the new MK Move All in 1 smart card, please make sure you do so as soon as possible. You can find details on the school website [here](#).

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and support this term. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely



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