

2nd October 2026

Dear Families

This week at St Paul's senior staff have been conducting a 'temperature' check to see how well both students and teachers are responding to the introduction to our purple and gold shields. This continues next week as well. Our foodbank collections have swapped from Angela to Benedict form groups this week. Please give as generously as your circumstances allow. Year Groups have had presentations from Mr Abakah-Phillips this week focusing on what we are doing as a community to celebrate Black History Month. There are a wide range of events planned, so please do speak to your child about this. Yesterday, Year 12 Applied Science students visited Ouzel Valley Park. Last night, Year 7 parents had the opportunity to meet with their child's Form Tutor to discuss how he or she has settled in. All other year groups had virtual mentoring appointments. Today we have welcomed more Year 6 parents to visit our school and see our learning in action.

We had three sporting fixtures this week. On Tuesday the Year 11 girls travelled to Shenley Brook End School for a closely fought netball fixture. The team battled hard throughout the match and kept the scoreline very close but narrowly lost 7–6. Despite the result, the girls showed great determination and teamwork, with plenty of positives to take from the performance. On Wednesday the Year 8 boys travelled to Oakgrove for an exciting football fixture. In a closely contested match, both teams battled throughout, with plenty of goals and chances at either end. The game finished 3–3, with the boys showing excellent effort and resilience to secure a well-earned draw. On the same night the Year 9 girls welcomed Oakgrove to St Paul's for their netball fixture. The girls worked hard throughout the match and showed good teamwork and determination but, unfortunately, came away with a 10–5 defeat. There were some encouraging passages of play, and the team can take plenty of positives into their next fixture.

Next week we begin with our Year 10 and 11 Emmaus students going on a Park Ranger visit to Howe Park Wood. There is also a UAL discovery day where the University of Arts will talk to students about the range of D & T and creative industries courses they offer. In the evening our Governors' Curriculum and Teaching committee meeting takes place. Year 7 form groups have their days of Recollection over the next couple of weeks too. This is an excellent opportunity to explore what it means to be part of our community. We will be reviewing examination results as well as other items relating to the curriculum. On Tuesday evening parents are invited to a launch of our Duke of Edinburgh Programme. On Wednesday our Drama students are off to MK Theatre to see The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. On Thursday, Year 12 Geographers are off to collect more data for their NEA, this time at Kings Cross in London. That evening we continue with the second evening of mentoring

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appointments. On Friday we have a Sixth Form Student Leader Retreat and a group of our students and staff will be travelling to Dunstable to attend the Diocesan Schools' Mass.

Friday is a non-uniform day for our Advent charity. Please remind your child that our usual jewellery rules still apply.

Congratulations to Hillary Lam in Year 12 who has passed her grade 3 flute exam with merit.

After the Summer holidays we had a number of students who returned to school with new piercings, despite me writing to parents prior to the Summer holidays to advise that any new piercings were done in the first few days of the holidays to allow adequate healing time. I have been very clear about our expectations for jewellery on health and safety grounds and we will not allow piercings in school. I did not want children spending too much time in reflection for this reason and so I allowed flat plastic earrings for a short, fixed period of time. Subsequent to allowing this, I was advised that a number of students had new nose piercings which take up to six months to heal. I cannot allow clear plastic studs for this length of time due to health and safety. I would like to advise all parents that from half term, the rule will be enforced that no piercings are allowed and no clear plastic studs will be allowed. For context, only one secondary school in MK allows nose piercings. If children come to school with new piercings, then they will remain in the reflection room until they can be safely removed. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

This week we have also held Deputy Headteacher interviews. Mr Knight moves from being an Assistant Headteacher to a Deputy Head at St Paul's from January. I am delighted that Mr Knight will work alongside Mrs Eastwood as Deputy Headteachers, providing the excellent leadership that will continue to help improve our school. We are currently recruiting two Assistant Headteachers to provide additional capacity in leadership.

Our Careers team have a couple of messages. On 13th and 14th October there are two free online seminars for parents and students with an interest in Law (13th) and Business, Accounting & Finance (14th). Parents will learn how to support their child with applications, commercial awareness and degree apprenticeships. You can find more information [here](#).

The October Careers bulletin is attached for you. Next week we are launching the online careers platform Unifrog to Year 7 students. Parent/carer accounts for Unifrog will also be available for next week. These accounts will give you access to the platform, allowing you to explore the careers, university, apprenticeship and future pathway information available to your child. If you do not wish to have a parent/carer account created, please email careers@st-pauls.org.uk

Woughton Community Council are holding a free art exhibition tonight (6 – 8pm) and on Saturday (11am – 3pm) at Coffee Hall Community Centre. Working around the common theme of birds, members have produced paintings, drawings and mixed-media pieces in a huge variety of styles. The collection ranges from recognisable garden and water birds to owls, ravens, herons, penguins and more imaginative interpretations of the theme.

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The result is a colourful exhibition featuring dozens of individual works, demonstrating just how differently people can respond creatively to the same subject. Entry is completely free, and Woughton Community Council is inviting residents from Coffee Hall, the wider Woughton area and across Milton Keynes to come and see the exhibition.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely



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