

20th March 2026

Dear Families

It is hard to believe that there is only one more week left of the Lent Term. It has flown by.

This week our students and staff have had a fabulous time in Italy on the ski trip. They return tomorrow. Year 7 & 8 really enjoyed their time in Kintbury on retreat, returning yesterday. Year 9 took part in careers events on Tuesday and Thursday with activities based on 'Get that Job!'. I met with our Head of Careers on Monday and learned that our school is a shining light in our region in terms of provision of careers. We are being asked to support other schools in developing their careers provision. Our team are amazing and provide so many rich opportunities for our children to consider their future pathways. On Thursday, Year 11 went on an Oxbridge University trip to Trinity College. On Thursday evening we had the first of two mentoring evenings with appointments for Year 9 & 13 and those Year 12 students on Vocational Courses. Alongside this, there was a meeting of the Governors Resources and Personnel committee where we discussed the budget for 2026/7. This morning we had an anti-racism workshop for Years 7, 8 and 9. It was delivered by one of our alumni, Paul Olubayo. This afternoon, Year 8 have had their praise afternoon. On Thursday and Friday, we have welcomed our School Improvement Partner from the Local Authority in school conducting the Annual Evaluation and Safeguarding Audit. This went very well and I am pleased by the feedback we have received. We have continued our Lenten fundraising this week with bake sales and popcorn sales! We have one more week of Lent in school to raise as much money as possible for year group charities. All through the week all children will have had the opportunity to take part in prayers for reconciliation in tutor groups as part of our Lenten preparation.

We have had several fixtures this week. In football our Year 7 boys drew 2 – 2 against Oakgrove, Year 8 boys won 3 – 1 against Shenley Brook End and lost 3 – 1 to Lord Grey, Year 9 girls won 9 – 0 against Denbigh and Year 11 girls lost 6 – 5 to Denbigh. Our Year 8 netball team came second in their tournament winning one match, losing one and drawing one. Our Year 7 basketball team had a tough match against Shenley Brook End and lost 44 – 4. Well done to all the students who represented the school in these fixtures.

As we hurtle towards the Easter holidays, next week remains very busy at St. Paul's. On Monday the Emmaus Department have an Action for Youth Caldecotte Experience and in the evening, there is a parent meeting for Year 7 parents of children attending the Mendip Hills residential. On Tuesday it is the Feast Day of St. Oscar Romero and so our small number of Oscar tutor groups are welcome to come into school in non-uniform. On Wednesday evening we have a Full Governing Board meeting. It is Year 9's turn for a praise afternoon on Thursday and in the evening, there is the second mentoring

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evening for Year 9, 13 and those Year 12 students on Vocational Courses. On the last day of term, Year 9 are visiting Woad Farm.

We will be launching our work experience programme to Year 9 soon. If you would like to find out more about how to secure a work experience opportunity that you really want there is some very useful information for parents and students on a free webinar that is taking place on 21st April. You can register for the webinar [here](#). The webinar would also be useful for Year 12.

Please save the date for two events in April. On Wednesday 15th April at 6.15pm we have our next STEM lecture 'Am I Just My Brain?' and the following night, April 16th at 6.00pm, we have our Theatre Club showcase.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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