St Paul's CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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20th November 2026

Dear Families

This week we have enjoyed a range of activities to celebrate Maths week. On Monday, Year 12 attended a Falmouth University Creative Arts portfolios workshop. On Tuesday we celebrated the feast day of St Elizabeth of Hungary. Also on Tuesday, Year 12 & 13 Drama, Film Studies and English Literature students went on a cinema trip. Other Year 12 & 13 students enjoyed a Careers logistics event, 'Unboxing the Future', delivered by Inspiring the Future and Tritax Big Box. Students gained valuable insights into the diverse careers available within logistics and real estate investment, helping them broaden their understanding of an industry that plays a vital role in our everyday lives. The session encouraged students to explore new career pathways, learn about the skills employers value, and consider how their current studies can connect to future opportunities. We are grateful to everyone involved for inspiring the next generation and helping our students make informed decisions about their futures.

On Tuesday evening, parents of children going on the Mendip residential attended an information evening. On Wednesday evening there was a meeting of the Full Governing Board. Today our Student Leaders have gone on a trip to MK Youth Summit and a debating event at St Thomas Aquinas primary school. We have also been focusing on anti-bullying this week with a wide range of activities. The message is clear, we will not tolerate bullying at St Paul's. We will remain vigilant and we will deal with it robustly. Everyone deserves to be safe and happy at school. Our Catholic Social Teaching also reminds us that we are all made in God's image and have a right to be treated with dignity and respect.

The newly elected Student Council Leadership has been busy volunteering this week. They have been helping Mrs Apostu with all the lovely Maths Week activities taking place in the Maureen Grant Room. They are very pleased to be able to volunteer to help within the school community with both their fellow students and their teachers. Student Council is also collecting donations for the elderly and children's wards at Milton Keynes hospital which they will be dropping off in early December as part of the school's Catholic Social Teaching of Option for the Poor. The council members are very excited to go to the hospital and give these gifts plus thank the hospital staff for their hard work. Well done Student Council Leadership!

Year 11s have also made an excellent start to their PPE examinations this week. I have seen lots of children take these very seriously and lots of revision cards are on display!

On Friday 9th November a group of fabulous students visited 10 Downing Street and enjoyed a lovely bus tour of London. The highlight of the visit came when students entered the Cabinet Room to take part in their very own government debate on how to allocate a budget surplus. Taking on the roles of different government departments, students passionately advocated for their respective priorities,

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making the case for why their departments deserved additional funding. It was a truly fantastic day and a wonderful opportunity for students to put their classroom learning into practice while experiencing first-hand the kind of debate, responsibility and decision-making that takes place at the very heart of British government. Many students commented that the most important thing they would take away from the visit was how it had deepened their understanding of politics and government beyond what can be learned in the classroom.

On Tuesday Year 7 boys travelled to Watling Academy and won 2 – 1 in a very close and well played football match. On Wednesday Year 7,8, 9 and 10 students were at cross-country at Campbell Park. They all performed really well and we must give a special mention to Jocelyne E-G who finished third in the year 7 girls race and has qualified to represent MK in the national championships in March. Our Year 9 and 10 netball teams played Ousedale, with Ousedale winning both matches. Well done to all the students who represented the school so well this week.

St Paul's, and Year 9 in particular, have been selected to work with Bucks Fire and Rescue Service to help produce a communications campaign about the danger of lithium batteries in E bikes. The campaign will go live next summer, and our students will help determine the content, production and social media platforms to ensure it engages young people and gets the message across.

Next week we hope to send home your child's most recent progress checks. Year 7s are also continuing their Days of Recollection. On Tuesday I will be meeting with the Headteachers from our Milton Keynes Catholic primary schools. Our Sixth Form Theology students are off to a conference that day. On Wednesday we will welcome Governors into school for a morning visit. The focus is safeguarding at St Paul's. They will be meeting with a wide range of students and staff. On Thursday, Uk Parliament Week School's Day will be marked by a visit to Big Ben and Elizabeth Tower by our Student Leaders.

The Ben Kinsella Trust is hosting a free online workshop for parents and carers about knife crime, exploitation, gangs and online harms. The workshop is on Thursday 3rd December and you can sign up here.

I am sorry that you have been unable to access ClassCharts for a significant number of days. I am pleased to say that everything is now up and running and normal service has resumed.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

J A Hoarty

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