

21st November 2025

Dear Families

Year 11 began their PPEs this week and continue into next week. It is clear that the vast majority of the year group have approached their exams incredibly well, and evidence of revision is clear. One or two have found the exams quite stressful and have admitted that a lack of thorough preparation has hindered them. PPEs are a very good opportunity to make mistakes and to learn from them. All we ask is that students try their very best and prepare thoroughly. Hopefully the learning from this is that preparation for the final examinations begins now!

This week students have also enjoyed lots of activities to celebrate Maths Week. I am very grateful to the Maths department for providing so many engaging activities for everyone. We have continued to host Stem X events as part of our Careers provision this week. We are pleased that so many students have had the opportunity to take part. Many of our students took part in MK Lit Fest on Thursday. This was a day of writing workshops from two professional authors — award-winning YA author Nathanael Lessore and rising star and St Paul's alumna Maureen Onwunali.

Also on Thursday, in celebration of UK Parliament Week, A-level Politics students ran a workshop for lower school students to teach them about government. Students led the session on the parts of Parliament, how it works to pass laws, how PMs are elected, how the PM picks his cabinet, and even held a bit of a debate on whether the voting age should be lowered to 16. Lower school students enthusiastically participated by answering questions and entered into respectful debate. In the end, they did in fact vote to lower the voting age to 16. Year 12 were grateful to have this opportunity to share their political knowledge but also to gain life experience and confidence by presenting to a large group as over 150 students signed up to attend. Workshops like this relate directly to our Catholic School Teaching of Rights and Responsibilities and students are eager to begin planning future sessions.

Today, our Year 12 and 13 A-level RE pupils are attending the Athens or Jerusalem Candle Conference in London. Led by theologian Peter Vardy, it is an opportunity to deepen pupils' understanding of philosophy topics studied with Miss Hickey. The conference will explore topics such as evil and suffering, the existence of God, and the nature of religious experience. This is a great opportunity for students to consolidate their learning while providing stretch and challenge beyond the classroom.

Headteacher:
Jo-Anne Hoarty

St Paul's Catholic School
Phoenix Drive
Leadenhall
Milton Keynes
MK6 5EN

Telephone
01908 669 735

Email
enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk

Web
www.st-pauls.org.uk



This week we had two girls' netball fixtures against Hazeley Academy. Year 7 lost 5 – 4 in a close game and Year 9 won 6 – 4. It was a fantastic effort from both year groups who battled the cold weather to represent the school in such a positive manner.

Next week Year 11 PPEs continue. On Wednesday there is a Full Governing Board meeting. That day, Year 10 students are attending a Broadening Horizons' Careers event. Our primary school student councils have a full meeting that afternoon too with our Student Leaders supporting.

Following last week's Network Rail event, a group of Year 8 pupils have been selected to attend the finals event at Network Rail's Headquarters at The Quadrant, where they will take part in the inter-school finals competition. Well done to everyone who took part!

On Wednesday 3rd December, we will be hosting a Careers Fair for Year 11 - 13 students. They will have the opportunity to talk to people from universities, companies that offer apprenticeships and other pathways into work. They will be able to ask questions about qualifications needed and different careers within their sector. We will be opening the Careers Fair to Parents and Carers to attend after school from 3.50pm -5pm. There is a QR code on the attached poster for you to sign up for the event.

A few children have brought hot water bottles into school this week. I appreciate that it is cold, but we cannot allow these in school.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents that our neighbours continue to contact me about parking in the vicinity of the school. Please consider our neighbours when collecting your children. Thank you for your support with this.

Have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely



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