

23rd January 2026

Dear Families

Year 10 work experience and Year 13 PPEs have gone very well this week. Year 13 are really focused and determined to use the experience well. A small number of Year 10 are doing their work experience within departments at school and we have been incredibly impressed with them, particularly in terms of showing initiative. Staff will be continuing to visit every child in their work placement over the course of next week. I really look forward to hearing about what positive things employers have to say.

On Tuesday morning our Chair of Governors came in for a visit morning with a focus on our provision for SEND and Pupil Premium students. On Wednesday Year 11 visited the University of Northampton and our Year 11 Emmaus students visited MK College. On Wednesday afternoon Our Student Leaders and Student Council had a visit from Milton Keynes Hospital Charity who talked to them about the impact that their fundraising and donations had made on the Hospital. They explained how the donations had helped patients in the neonatal unit, children's wards, the cancer care centre, the cardiology waiting room, palliative care, through purchasing special equipment and for future dementia projects. Well done to the Student Leaders and Student Council for spearheading this initiative and thank you to our fantastic St Paul's community for your support.

Our Music department have taken groups of children to perform in our primary schools each morning this week and the feedback has been excellent. The Drama department took students to see Dear England at MK Theatre on Thursday. On Thursday evening the Resources and Personnel Committee of our Governing Board met, as did parents of children interested in the Camps International trip to Kenya 2027.

Our Year 7 and 8 girls' basketball team went to their first ever tournament for the Milton Keynes school area. They played five shortened games against the other schools in the competition and finished in third place. Well done to the team for such a great effort and for representing St Paul's so well.

Next week I will be out of school on Thursday and Friday leading a Catholic Schools' Inspection for the Diocese of Westminster. Year 10 work experience continues for the second week. We begin our Lent term 'temperature check'. The first week will be spent visiting lessons to monitor the level of challenge in lessons and how children are thinking hard. The second week will be spent monitoring how we create a calm and purposeful environment across the school. On Tuesday it is the Feast day of St Angela Merici and we will celebrate with a non-uniform day for all those in Angela tutor groups. Year 9 Days

of Recollection continue on Tuesday to Thursday. On Thursday a small number of our English Department will be attending a 'Reading for Life' conference with all other English departments from across the city. Staff will also begin completing the next progress checks for children.

Please can I remind parents (and staff!) not to park in our bus bays between 2pm and 4pm so that we can manage the traffic flow in our car park.

Thank you again, to all parents who continue to make contact with Z & S and the Council regarding the increasing bus fares. We are very grateful for your support. We are continuing discussions with other companies so please continue to pray for positive news. Hopefully you will have received a link to a very quick survey about your child's bus use. I would be grateful if as many of you as possible could complete this very quickly and would like to thank those of you who have already completed it. The anonymised data will be shared with alternative companies who need numbers so that they can make a decision about whether the opportunity is viable for them. I am very grateful for the time that you will take to do this as it will make a significant difference to the situation.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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