

23rd May 2025

Dear Families

It has been much calmer here at St Paul's this week. We began the week with a Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition to the Dunstable Downs from Monday to Wednesday. Also on Monday, our RE team took students to St Thomas More School in Bedford for a Pilgrims of Hope conference for the Jubilee year. On Tuesday pupils supported at the St Thomas Aquinas Sports Day, and again at Bishop Parker's on Thursday. On Wednesday we held a Careers Fair for Years 9, 10 and 12 and Year 10 Geographers went out on Geography fieldwork on Wednesday and Thursday. Also, on Thursday Years 7 to 9 pupils went to Trent Bridge to the Test Match. On Wednesday and Thursday Year 10 and 12 Drama students and Year 10 English students went to MK Theatre to see An Inspector Calls. I also hope that Year 8 parents found their mentoring appointments last night beneficial.

This week we have also participated in TVP's 'Knife Crime Awareness Week' and as part of this initiative, our school's officer came into school on Monday to talk to our pupils. They were available at all lunchtimes with an information stand, providing support and a chance for all pupils to ask questions. Our school's officer was hugely impressed by our children sharing that 'the pupils were all very welcoming, naturally curious and polite. A credit to you all'.

Today we launched our Photography Wellness Competition to students. The theme is Getting Out Into Nature This Spring/Summer and we're asking children to take photos that reflect the beauty of nature in their local area. Photographs should be submitted to Mrs Dalkin via ClassCharts by Friday 27th June to be in with a chance to win shopping vouchers. We usually get some wonderful entries and half term would be a great opportunity to get out and about taking pictures.

After half term we begin by praying for Daniel Flanagan's family as they hold his funeral. Many staff from St Paul's will be attending and I am grateful to all those staff who are giving up their time to cover lessons to enable this to happen.

On Monday a group of Year 10 are going on a visit to Loughborough University. The next day another group are off to Oxford Brookes University for a visit. On Wednesday we welcome Year 5s from our Catholic primary schools for the start of their annual taster days. This is an important part of our recruitment and familiarisation so that families are ready to select St Paul's as their child's secondary school and continue their education within a Catholic School. On Thursday and Friday our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh candidates are going on a practice expedition to Cosgrove Park. I hope the weather is kind!

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As we break up for half term I would like to ask parents to ensure that their children have their school blazers with them on the first day back. I am concerned that some children think that these are optional and prefer to wear jumpers instead. This is not the case. Jumpers are optional and should not be worn instead of blazers.

Thank you all for your support and prayers this half term. I am reminded each day that our community is extremely special. Have a lovely half term and I look forward to welcoming your children back on Monday 2nd June.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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