

25th April 2025

Dear Families

I hope that you all had a lovely Easter Holiday. We started the week with the very sad news about the death of Pope Francis. We have prayed together in school and Bishop David has sent all children a letter discussing this news. I have attached a copy of this for your information.

On Tuesday evening we had our first STEM Lecture of the term which focused on the role of Chemistry in Medicine. This was very well attended. On Wednesday Years 9, 10 and 12 students went to see War Horse at MK Theatre. This week our GCSE Art students have sat their examinations, as have our A Level Photography students. These have gone extremely well and are an early indication of how seriously our students are taking their examinations. We only have a few more weeks before the full suite of examinations begin, but for now we have MFL speaking exams happening at various points during the next few weeks. On Thursday evening Year 7 parents had the opportunity to meet with their child's form tutor and Year 12 parents met with mentors virtually. I hope that you found the evening helpful. On Sunday several of our Year 11 boys are playing for Dunstable Rugby Club in a cup final against Bedford Blues. We wish them good luck for the game!

Next week Year 7 students are off for a week's multi skills residential in the Mendip Hills and Year 7 safety talks are taking place. The theme of these talks is violence against women and girls. On Monday we have our next Governors' visit. Governors will be reviewing our Health & Safety in school. On Wednesday evening we will hold a Mass of celebration for the Year 11 students who are sitting their examinations this year. All families are welcome to this. On Thursday evening Year 12 mentoring appointments are taking place in person. Friday is the first non-uniform day of the Pentecost Term and our charity is Willen Hospice.

Year 9 students have their PPEs Monday to Thursday next week. This is their first formal set of practice exams. Please can I ask parents to emphasise that this is an opportunity for them to do their best and to demonstrate everything they have been taught and revised. Please watch out for signs of examination stress and alert the pastoral team if you have concerns. I wish them all the very best for the exams next week.

St. Paul's is very much in the window for our OFSTED Inspection. The window closes at the end of July so we are hoping it will be very soon. I will keep you fully informed once I receive the notification phone call.

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This half term we will continue with our work on promoting Catholic Social Teaching to pupils and staff. Our focus will be on **SOLIDARITY AND PEACE**. In Catholic Social Teaching, solidarity and peace are intertwined principles emphasizing the interconnectedness of humanity and the responsibility to work for a just and harmonious world. Solidarity calls for recognizing our shared humanity and working together to address inequalities and injustices. Peace involves building relationships, resolving conflicts peacefully, and promoting the common good. I hope that this context is helpful to you, and I ask that you reinforce this during discussions at home.

A reminder that our privacy notice for pupils and parents has been updated and can be found on the school website [here](#).

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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