

25th September 2026

Dear Families

We have enjoyed this week at St Paul's. On Tuesday we took advantage of the lovely warm weather, and we practised a whole school evacuation. It was superb with 2,300 people evacuating the whole school and onto the field within a few minutes. Students took the whole exercise very seriously and their behaviour was superb.

On Tuesday, Year 11, 12 & 13 girls took part in the UK Maths Test Competition. All staff attended Benedict's Law training allergy training on Tuesday. On Wednesday Year 12 Geographers travelled to Winterton to collect data for their NEAs. That evening I enjoyed the Key Stage Three Awards Evening. It was lovely to recognise the hard work and dedication of our students. On Thursday Year 13 attended a UCAS Discovery event. Today staff have enjoyed a Macmillan coffee morning, and I have been away at a conference with the Headteachers from the Milton Keynes's Catholic primary schools which I really enjoyed.

Our Year 12 A-level Politics students today had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a virtual meeting with Baroness Pitkeathley. She gave students a fascinating insight into how the House of Lords works and answered a range of thoughtful questions, including those about her work supporting carers and her role as Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords. Baroness Pitkeathley was extremely complimentary about our students, praising them for being articulate and commenting on how well they had researched their questions in advance. We were incredibly proud of the way they represented the school. Baroness Pitkeathley has also kindly promised to try to meet the students in person when they visit Parliament for their tour on 14th October, which will be a wonderful way to continue this memorable experience.

Next week our foodbank collections swaps from Angela to Benedict form groups. Please give as generously as your circumstances allow. On Thursday Year 12 Applied Science students are visiting Ouzel Valley Park. In the evening Year 7 parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child's Form Tutor to discuss how he or she has settled in. All other year groups have virtual mentoring appointments. Friday ends with another opportunity for Year 6 parents to visit our school and see our learning in action.

I would like to ask parents to remind children that they must not use their phones in the library. Pouches must remain locked while they are on site. They should not unlock them and then go to the library. Thank you for your support with this.

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We are pleased to introduce a new approach to Maths homework for Year 7-11. Pupils will now take part in project-based Maths homework. The aim of this approach is to make maths more meaningful, practical and engaging, while helping pupils recognise how Mathematics is used in everyday life. Through a series of short projects, pupils will have opportunities to apply their mathematical knowledge to real-life situations such as planning a holiday, designing a home, organising a shopping list, creating a budget or designing a new product.

Why are we changing the homework approach?

Project-based homework will allow students to:

- Apply Maths to real-life situations and understand its purpose beyond the classroom.
- Develop problem-solving skills by making decisions and finding solutions.
- Strengthen mathematical understanding through practical application.
- Develop independence by planning, organising and completing tasks.
- Develop creativity by presenting their mathematical ideas in different ways.
- Improve communication skills by explaining their calculations and reasoning.
- Build confidence in using mathematics in everyday situations.
- Make connections between different areas of Mathematics, including number, measurement, money, data, shape and problem-solving.

Pupils will normally work on a project over several weeks, with a focus for each week. Tasks will be designed to be manageable and will build towards a final outcome. The projects will continue to develop important mathematical skills while giving students greater choice and opportunities to be creative.

Parents and carers can support students by:

- Talking about the project and asking questions.
- Encouraging pupils to explain their mathematical thinking.
- Helping them organise their time.
- Providing opportunities to use maths in everyday situations.
- Encouraging independence.
- Celebrating effort, creativity and progress.

Class teachers can set MathsWatch tasks as optional tasks. MathsWatch tasks can be used to provide additional practice, consolidation or support with specific mathematical topics. They should be viewed as an optional opportunity for pupils who would like extra practice but will not replace the project-based Maths homework.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students develop their mathematical skills both inside and outside the classroom.

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Congratulations to all those children who represented the school so well in fixtures this week. In football Our Year 10 boys travelled to Sir William Ramsay on Monday and produced an outstanding performance, securing a resounding 12–2 victory. The result sees the team progress through to the next round of the competition. A fantastic team performance and an excellent way to start the week. On Tuesday Year 10 welcomed Ousedale to the school and secured an impressive 3–0 victory. On Wednesday Year 8 travelled to The Mandeville School for their County Cup fixture. The boys faced a difficult first half, going into the break 3–0 down. However, they showed fantastic resilience and determination after the restart, battling their way back into the game and scoring three goals to bring the match level. With the scores tied at full time, the fixture went to a penalty shootout. The boys held their nerve under pressure, winning 5–4 on penalties to secure their place in the next round of the competition. Our Year 11 girls welcomed Brooklands to St Paul's on Thursday for a highly competitive fixture. It was a fantastic game of football, with end-to-end action throughout. Both teams created opportunities, and the girls showed excellent effort and determination, but unfortunately, they were unlucky to come away with a 1–0 result. Despite this, it was a really encouraging performance from the girls and one they can certainly build on as they look ahead to their upcoming fixtures.

Thursday also saw two netball fixtures away at Brooklands. Both teams put in strong performances and showed excellent effort, teamwork, and commitment throughout their matches. Unfortunately, despite playing some really good netball, both teams were on the wrong side of the results. The girls can take plenty of positives from their performances and will be looking to build on their experience as they prepare for their upcoming fixtures. The effort, attitude and commitment shown across all of our fixtures continues to be fantastic, and we look forward to another busy week of sporting action.

A neighbour has written to express a safety concern that some parents are stopping on or very close to the roundabout at the top of Phoenix Drive when dropping children off. Please be considerate when dropping off or collecting your children and use an appropriate and safe location away from the roundabout and junction.

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Z & S buses have asked me to make you aware of two road closures that may affect the afternoon 609 service next week:

- Barry Avenue at its junction with Saxon Street, V8 to H3.(Bradville) will be closed on 28th September, between 09:30 and 16:30.
- V6 Grafton Street northbound (between Danstead Way and Walgrave Drive) will be closed from 28th to 30th September, between 09:30 and 16:30 each day.

As a result, the afternoon 609 service may be subject to delays and diversions. Drivers will follow the signed diversion routes in place; however, there may be occasions where some stops cannot be served as normal. They advise students to check where they may need to alight if their usual stop is temporarily inaccessible due to the road closures and diversions.

Congratulations to Mr Nigel Lloyd who has been appointed Head Coach at MK Breakers Basketball Club for the 2026/27 British Championship Basketball season (he continues to work at St Paul's). To celebrate Nigel's appointment and his continued connection with the St Paul's community the club is offering everyone at St Paul's 20% off MK Breakers game tickets. Just quote the code STP20 when purchasing tickets through Fanbase [here](#).

Finally, please remind your children that they should visit my office to collect their Headteacher certificates each week if they achieve 60 green points in the week! It is the part of my job that brings me the most joy and I'm not having many visitors at the moment! Year 7 may be a little reluctant to come in but children are welcome to see me whenever I have my office door open (which is most of the time!).

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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