

27th February 2026

Dear Families

I hope that you all had a lovely half term. We began this week with significant changes to the buses. Children were allowed to leave a few minutes early so that they could find their new bus stops and senior staff were positioned along the redway to help them. I went down to the bus stop on the H7 to support. Everyone coped with the change extremely well and it went much more smoothly than I had anticipated. At the end of Tuesday, we received notification that Z&S were changing their prices, yet again, in order to remain competitive. This has been an extremely frustrating time for all of us and I am grateful for your patience while we worked hard to find an interim solution. It is important to note that there will no longer be a Duplicate 604 service. If your child uses the 604 and cannot get a place on this bus they they will need to use the public services. We will prioritise younger year groups getting on this service. It is also extremely important that your child has sufficient payment available to get onto the bus. We have been supporting students each evening who cannot pay but the costs of this have skyrocketed and we cannot continue. If a child cannot pay to get on the bus, then we contact parents to collect them.

This week has been very busy, but it has been lovely with the lighter mornings and evenings. Year 8 options appointments have begun and continue over the next couple of weeks. On Monday Year 10 students went off on retreat to Kintbury. On Wednesday we celebrated the start of Lent with a whole school Mass which was lovely. Also on Wednesday, Mrs Maw took a group of Year 13 students to visit Auschwitz. I'm sure that they found this extremely poignant and thought provoking. Last night there was a Year 13 parent information evening and today we have begun our Lenten fundraising with a non-uniform day. Year 12 have enjoyed receiving information about university and apprenticeship applications today.

Our basketball teams had several games this week. On Tuesday Year 11 played Denbigh, losing by 54 – 41. On Wednesday we played Radcliffe with Year 10 losing 34 – 28 and Year 8 losing 24 – 4. On Thursday we played Denbigh with Year 9 losing by only three points in a very close game and Year 7 losing 18 – 11. Well done to all who represented the school and played well in these challenging fixtures.

Next week, we celebrate National careers week with Year 9 enjoying activities on the theme of 'Get that Job' and Year 10 on 'Broadening Horizons'. On Monday Year 13 Scientists are off to visit the UK Biocentre. Students in Emmaus had the opportunity to work with Action4Youth. On Tuesday our students will be supporting children at Bishop Parker with their annual spelling bee. In the evening there is an Expressive Arts showcase so please come along and enjoy performances from our talented musicians, singers and drama students. Acts include our Year 12 band, a rock band, the orchestra and

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a number of soloists. The event is from 6pm – 7.30pm in the Theatre. Tickets cost just £3 and are available on WisePay or at the door on Tuesday. Our students would be so pleased to have your support at this showcase. On Wednesday Year 12 and 13 students are taking part in the Catenians Speaking Competition. Thursday 5th March is World Book Day and staff and pupils are invited to wear something book related. We will share photos on our social media channels. On Friday, Year 10 students will be visiting Woad Farm and our students will be representing the school at the MK Schools Debate Contest.

Over the Easter holidays, these Science workshops are available from the Royal Institution. They are at a cost. The link is: [Holiday workshops | Royal Institution](#)

This week I began on Monday by delivering assemblies to each year group focusing on the concepts of human dignity, kindness and respect. My key message was that everyone in our community is working hard for the same thing – to ensure that every individual child is safe and successful, being able to thrive in our community. I explained that every person has a right to be treated with dignity because we are all made in God's image. In turn, that means that we each have a responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect. I have asked staff to use this language when interacting with children and ask that you reinforce this message at home too when talking about school. I used these key prompts to illustrate my key points:

Living the Mission at St Paul's			
Catholic Social Teaching and Gifts We Grow			
	Human Dignity All life is unique and should be respected. We are all equal in God's eyes. <small>THE GIFTS WE GROW: Prophecy and Imagination</small>	<i>"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you"</i> <small>Jeremiah 1:5</small>	How can you make sure you treat everyone with respect?
	Rights & Responsibilities Everyone has the right to life and the responsibility to respect others. <small>THE GIFTS WE GROW: eloquent and truthful</small>	<i>"You shall love your neighbour as yourself"</i> <small>Mark 12:31</small>	Do you act responsibly showing respect for yourself and others?
	The Common Good We should be active in our community - we need to know what is right for everyone not just ourselves. <small>THE GIFTS WE GROW: Loving and compassionate</small>	<i>"So we, who are many are one body in Christ"</i> <small>Romans 12:5</small>	Are you mindful of how your choices affect others?

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Finally, please take a look at the attached March Careers bulletin. I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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