

28th November 2025

Dear Families

Year 11 have finished their PPEs today. On the whole, they have gone very well with the vast majority of students taking very opportunity to demonstrate how much they know and have remembered from their lessons. Teachers will now mark papers and provide feedback to students. Parents will get a summary of results and a comment from each teacher regarding next steps that students should take in preparation for the final examinations next year.

On Monday, Year 12 Politics students completed a Model United Nations Summit virtually with students from Argo Community High School in the United States. The conference was on Global Digital Strategies and making sure that all had fair access to the internet. Students chose countries and then researched their positions on this topic. They next composed position papers and opening speeches to advocate for their countries' point of view. Students then made alliances with other countries who had similar ideas and met in unmoderated caucuses. In these causes, they hammered out and negotiated practical solutions to be voted on as solutions in the Model UN. These ideals relate directly to our Catholic Social Teaching of Rights and Responsibilities as well as Option for the Poor to secure internet access for all. To leave anyone behind in this initiative is to put them at a disadvantage on the world stage. Our students really thrived in this competitive summit and collected two awards for Outstanding Delegates. These were awarded based on their performance and zealous advocacy for their country as well as writing the best and most practical solutions. This was an excellent opportunity for all students to forge international relationships with students from across the pond and also put into real practice what they are learning in the classroom. All of their teachers are very proud of the hard work and tenacity with which the students have approached this enrichment learning opportunity. They are looking forward to doing a second event in the new year!

This week a group of Year 7s went on an Emmaus enrichment trip to Teardrop Lakes where they enjoyed a nature trail. I've been told the students were lovely. On Wednesday evening the Governing Board held their full board meeting. On Wednesday, Student Leaders and Student Council members hosted the Primary School Council Conference. Students presented to the younger pupils all the lovely things that they are doing inside the school and in the wider Milton Keynes community. All of these events are closely linked to our Catholic Social Teaching. For example, currently they are collecting donations for Milton Keynes Hospital patients to have as gifts for Christmas. This relates to our Catholic School Teaching of Option for the Poor. Next, leaders sat with each primary school to discuss which ideas they might like to use at their school. Students really enjoyed this as they got to spend time with

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each primary pupil individually. Finally, schools were mixed together to share ideas and make plans for the year going forward. The primary students really enjoyed this and said it was their favourite part of the day to meet and work with students from other schools. They left feeling really inspired. It was so lovely to see our students take such a leading role in planning, organising, and executing the conference. They truly embody our school mission of 'Love, Serve, and Do the best that is possible.' We will have a follow up conference in the summer to see how all their great ideas turned out. Already the Student Leaders are looking forward to leading on this as well.

On Thursday Year 12 students attended a UAL Discovery talk where they found out about the different universities within the group and the various creative courses they offer. They were surprised to learn that UAL also has a Creative Computing Institute which explores computer science and creative practice. Today a group of Year 8 students visited Network Rail for an inter school event and competition.

There were two Year 8 basketball fixtures this week. On Wednesday the team travelled to Glebe Farm where, unfortunately, we lost the game. Their second game was against Stantonbury on Thursday and although the team's performance was much-improved they lost by 31-19. The team was a mixture of boys and girls, and they made a fantastic effort as it was the first time most of the team had represented the school. Well done all.

Following the excitement of Maths Week last week, we have spent this week celebrating pupils' achievements through a series of awards. Our Maths Ambassadors, who prepared the Maths Week reward packs in advance, have now presented them to the raffle winners. Congratulations to all pupils who demonstrated excellent collaboration and problem-solving skills throughout the activities. In total, an impressive **4,743 Numeracy Stars** were awarded on ClassCharts throughout the week. All classes also took part in **England Rocks**, the national TTRS competition, and certificates have been awarded to pupils in the highest-scoring classes. Thank you to everyone involved for making Maths Week such a positive and successful experience for our pupils.

On Monday we begin our Advent charity fundraising events. Please speak to your child about the exciting things that tutor groups have planned to raise money. We begin by raising money for CAFOD on Monday with a non-uniform day. Normal jewellery rules apply please. Advent is a time of waiting and giving. This year, our Sixth Form will support the Bags of Kindness campaign run by Caritas, collecting gifts for children, teenagers, adults, and the elderly. During his visit on Wednesday, Deacon Jim highlighted the urgent need for gifts for teenagers and adults. If you can, please consider donating a small item to help make Christmas brighter for someone vulnerable. Donations can be brought to the RE Department and will be added to the Bags of Kindness by Year 13 during their RISE lesson. The deadline is Tuesday, 16th December. Gift ideas for each age group will be shared soon on the school website. For any questions, please contact Miss Hickey at [roisin.hickey@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:roisin.hickey@st-pauls.org.uk). Thank you in advance for your family's generosity to this important cause.

Also next week, Year 11s have some MFL speaking PPEs and Year 12 Functional Skills students have their digital examinations. On Wednesday, Year 11 will be attending a Careers Fair in our Sports hall. On Thursday, Year 13 Geographers have their Non-Examined Assessment day and in the evening

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we have our annual Advent Service in the MGR. Everyone is welcome to join us for this as it is a lovely way to mark Advent and take a moment in the madness that is the build up to Christmas, to reflect on the true meaning of the season. Our Chaplaincy Team have also been working hard with students to create prayer spaces in the Chapel for us all to use during Advent. Advent Wreaths are also in each tutor room until the end of term. Next week we begin another of our regular 'Temperature Checks' where we visit as many lessons as possible to monitor the quality of education and children's learning.

We are looking forward to seeing parents of students in Years 9 – 13 at our Careers Fair on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. It's a great opportunity to meet businesses, public service providers, the armed forces and education providers and learn about jobs, apprenticeships and relevant courses for chosen careers. Parents are invited to attend from 3.50pm – 5pm in the Sports Hall. Our December Careers bulletin and a poster for the Careers Fair is attached.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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