

Ministerium Tuum Imple Love Serve Do the best that is possible

29th November 2024

Dear Families

Our Sixth Form Open Evening last night was a great success. It was lovely to see so many people there all wanting to hear about courses and deciding on next steps. Thank you for everyone who attended and to staff for their fabulous displays and presentations.

We have also had other exciting opportunities this week. On Monday the Student Council and Student Leaders visited the Houses of Parliament and really enjoyed the experience. On Tuesday staff went to the massive Amazon warehouse to have a look at the complex operation there and ascertain opportunities to involve Amazon in our careers programme for students. They were genuinely amazed at what happens when we order a product from Amazon! Today we have enjoyed a non-uniform day with all money going to our Advent Charity CAFOD.

This week Student Council members have been spreading joy to staff with 'Student Council Surprise Visits'. They have been to see the Cover Supervisor and the Housekeeping teams. Form Representatives had made cards for each member of staff and offered biscuits in gratitude for the work that they do in our school, sometimes at a moment's notice. Head of Year representatives read a speech which recognised the work of the staff and let them know that they are much appreciated. Staff were very happy to receive the cards and biscuits. This was done not only for the students to show appreciation to the staff, but also to embody the Catholic Social Teaching of 'Dignity of Work'. In this way, the students are living the Catholic ethos and seeing it in real practice.

Next week we begin the season of Advent. This is an important time for us in St. Paul's as we use the time to reflect on the birth of Christ and the true meaning of Christmas. We will mark this formally with our Advent service on Thursday evening at 6pm in the MGR. Everyone is welcome to join us for a beautiful service and music followed by some mince pies! On Monday morning, each tutor group will have the Advent wreaths that they created last year. These will be lit during prayer time throughout Advent. The PTA has also generously donated our Christmas trees this year so they will be up next week.

On Wednesday, Year 11 students will be attending a Careers Fair in the Sports Hall. Parents are warmly invited to attend this too between 3.35 and 5pm. We have 30 employers confirmed to attend and it will be a great way to learn about future job opportunities and apprenticeships.

A number of children have represented the school in sporting fixtures this week. Congratulations to all those who took part. The Year 8 basketball team won their first game of the season, 14 - 8, against













Glebe Farm School in a close, hard-fought contest. The support from the students who came to watch was great and inspired the team to victory. Our Year 11 boys' football team won 3-1 away at Stantonbury with Angelo Wali continuing his fine form in front by scoring two goals.

Please can I remind parents not to park in the car park of the nearby flats. I have received a complaint again regarding this from a local resident. Thank you for your support with this.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend and enjoy the reflections on the first Sunday of Advent.

Yours sincerely

Jo-Anne Hoarty Headteacher

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