

30th January 2026

Dear Families

This week has been characterised by dodging rain showers as we move around school! I am very grateful to all parents who have responded to the survey about bus use. We have had well over 700 responses which is just superb. We are sharing the information with at least two alternative providers so that they can make a proposal to see if they can provide routes for us moving forwards. Hopefully there will be more positive news very soon.

This week I was out of school yesterday and today leading a Catholic Schools' Inspection for the Diocese of Westminster. It is always a very good experience going out to visit other Catholic schools beyond our Diocese. Year 10 Work Experience continued for the second week. I have enjoyed hearing reports of how well our students have been doing in the work placements. This week I have also enjoyed visiting classrooms as part of our Lent term 'temperature check'. This week our focus was on monitoring the level of challenge in lessons and how children are thinking hard. Next week, our focus shifts to monitoring how we create a calm and purposeful environment across the school. On Tuesday it was the Feast Day of St Angela Merici and we celebrated with a non-uniform day for all those in Angela tutor groups. On Wednesday some of our Year 9 Mathematicians took part in the Intermediate UKMT Mathematics Challenge. This is organised to develop and extend the mathematical approach of students and is designed to challenge their thinking from numerous perspectives. We would like to take this opportunity to praise those who took part for their excellent efforts. We look forward to getting the results! Year 9 Days of Recollection continued this week too. We have also marked Holocaust Memorial day with a liturgy in our Chapel this week.

Very well done to Mrs Bond's Year 7 Geography classes who have spent the last two weeks creating imaginative contour models as part of their homework. Mrs Bond is really impressed with all pupils' creativity and the hard work they have put into creating some fantastic models. In particular, she would like to praise the following pupils for their model as not only was it aesthetically brilliant but also included key geographical features that pupils learnt in class, demonstrating the learning talent "linking learning": Lois Wong (7CHA), Oliwier Tulacz (7CHA), Hannah Barbu (7CHA), Luca Patey (7CHA), Milena Atemkeng (7MOR), Laurel Kwok (7MOR), Kirstyn Ayetey (7MOR), Andrew Anton Vimalathas (7MOR), Denzel Ferguson (7MOR) and Charlie Wooderson (7TER).

We had two away netball fixtures this week against Lord Grey. Our Year 7 girls lost by 5 – 2 and our Year 11 girls had a convincing 16 – 11 win. We played two away football fixtures against Walton High. Year 8 played a 7 a side match due to the size of the pitches. They closed the first half 6 – 0 down and

Headteacher:  
Jo-Anne Hoarty

St Paul's Catholic School  
Phoenix Drive  
Leadenhall  
Milton Keynes  
MK6 5EN

Telephone  
01908 669 735

Email  
enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk

Web  
www.st-pauls.org.uk



came back with an impressive six goals in the second half but ended the match 11 – 6 down. Year 7 boys had their first competitive fixture. They started the game by taking a 2 – 0 lead with goals from Joey Lancaster and Samuel Adjei. Walton High went on to score three more goals and thanks to Kobi we managed to score an equaliser. Despite our best efforts the game finished 4 – 3 to Walton High. Well done to everyone who took part in fixtures this week.

Next week is National Apprenticeship Week. I was delighted to hear this week that one of our former students, Joel Debrah, has been nominated for the 'Apprentice of the Year' Award as part of the 2026 Inspirational Youth Awards. Joel left us to complete a Level 4 Finance Apprenticeship at Blackrock. We are so pleased for him. On Monday, Year 11 Emmaus students are off to Hazard Alley on a trip. On Tuesday, Year 7 are visiting the Harry Potter Studios in Watford, and a group of Year 7 students are visiting St Mark's Meals. Our Sixth Form Mathematicians are attending MathsFest on Wednesday. On Thursday evening there is a Year 10 parents' Information Evening. On Friday, a group of Year 11 students are visiting Trinity College in Cambridge and Our Year 9 Horticulture students are visiting Woad Farm.

Next week we have two Year 8 Options evenings for students and parents. The first is on Tuesday evening and provides an opportunity to hear all about the choices on offer for Year 9 to 11. The second is on Wednesday evening for a smaller group of students to learn about our vocational offer. I look forward to seeing Year 8 parents.

Our Careers bulletin for February is attached. You will see that there are several activities planned.

With half term coming up soon our PC/Safer Schools Officer has highlighted a free online workshop hosted by the Ben Kinsella Trust for parents on learning how to keep children and young people safe, both online and offline. The workshop is on 4<sup>th</sup> February from 6 – 8pm and will look at how social media, exploitation, gangs and knife crime can affect young lives and suggest practical ways parents and carers can make a real difference to young people's lives. You can reserve your place here <https://benkinsellatrust.beaconforms.com/form/dcd0caf8>

We have been informed by Z & S that there are some road closures scheduled for next week that will affect the 601 and 606 bus services as follows:

#### **601 – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February:**

Wordsworth Avenue, Poets Estate (between Lamb Close and Little Linford Lane) will be closed. As a result, this service will be unable to serve the Poets Estate and will divert via **Wolverton Road**.

#### **606 – 4<sup>th</sup> February:**

Great Monks Street (H2) between Millers Way and Abbey Hill Roundabout will be closed. This service will divert through **Stacey Bushes**.

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I hope that you all have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely



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