

4th April 2025

Dear Families

We have had a very busy end to the Lent Term here at St Paul's. Our Lent fundraising has gone into overdrive this week! Thank you to all parents and carers for your 'behind the scenes' support of our many fundraising activities. On Tuesday the Drama department hosted a 'Voices of the Holocaust' event. This was extremely thought-provoking. On Thursday Year 12 & 13 Historians visited Hampton Court Palace in the beautiful sunshine. They were treated to a lecture from Historic Royal Palace's Chief Historian and author Tracy Borman who was kind enough to take the time to discuss Tudor history, take questions and inspire our students with her passion for history. Most Year Groups experienced Easter rewards celebrations this week and it was a joy to see so many children being praised and rewarded for their consistent effort and achievement. Governors also held an admissions appeals panel to respond to the significant number of appeals for places at St Paul's Year 7.

On Monday afternoon, Student Council members and Student Leaders met with the SCITT trainee teachers to explain to them what student leadership looks like at St Paul's. Students took turns going through a PowerPoint presentation to the group discussing their personal development and how they help in the local, school, and wider community.

On Wednesday afternoon, Student Leaders visited the MK Storehouse to drop off the school's donations for the local charity. Shoes, clothes, coats, and suitcases were all donated from children and staff here at St Paul's which will go to those in need in the Milton Keynes community. Our students were very pleased to be able to assist the local community and to see the work that MK Storehouse is doing. Students really did 'love, serve, and do the best that is possible' as St Paul calls us to do! Student Councillors have also spread joy by delivering cakes and thank you cards to our Faculty Admin and Site teams.

Congratulations to our Year 11 Basketball team who played against Lord Grey and won 82 - 36. All players scored and brought the St Paul's "Do the best that is possible" with them to the game. They were focused on the formidable task of winning the Championship at a neutral venue. Our Year 10 team narrowly lost 43 - 48 to Watling Academy in their close fought final and finished in second place in Milton Keynes. Well done to both our teams.

All children will have been given a Lenten prayer card from me this week. This provides an opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection as we mark this most important season.

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After the Easter holidays, everyone is invited to our next STEM lecture on Tuesday 22nd April. The topic is 'The role of chemistry in medicine'. Our Year 9, 10 & 12 Drama students are going to see War Horse at the theatre on Wednesday 23rd April. On Thursday 24th April Year 7 parents are invited to a 'Meet the Tutor' evening and Year 12 have their mentoring evening at the same time.

In line with our behaviour policy, school issues afterschool detentions. These are very limited in number, affecting very few pupils. I just wanted to notify families that should your child be issued an afterschool detention, if they are not marked as 'attended' on ClassCharts within the first 10 minutes of the detention starting, they are not present on school site. School will no longer be making courtesy calls or sending emails to that effect.

Our pupils and parents privacy notice has been updated and can be found on the website here <https://www.st-pauls.org.uk/downloads/data-protection/privacy-notice-for-pupils-and-parents---lent-2025.pdf>

We also have an update from our beekeepers. The recent warm weather has meant that we have been able to do our first check on the St. Paul's beehives! Sadly, one of our hives died over the winter but the other one was bursting at the seams with bees, comb and honey. We combined the resources from the two hives to make a super-hive. This super-hive is bustling with activity and hard work, the queen is laying and the next generation of bees is readying itself to take its first steps into the world. The sun is shining, the flowers are blooming and we are in a good position for the summer!

For those students sitting public exams in the summer season, you have been sent a Guidance to Student-Parent booklet this week. This contains a video illustrating 'Instructions for Candidates (2024/2025)' and it can be accessed via here: <https://www.st-pauls.org.uk/downloads/parents/2025-exam-guidance-for-students-parents.pdf> (You may have to skip the advert). Thank you for spending time going through this with your child.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals 5 On It are delivering two fantastic sporting activities for 12 – 16 year olds. A letter is attached giving details.

Z & S buses have advised us that they are planning to phase out the PDF printed QR code tickets in an attempt to ensure that bus tickets are only used by the student that has purchased them. In preparation for this we encourage parents (if you are not already doing so) to switch to the Smartcard system. In this way, all tickets purchased through the school portal will be directly linked to the student's Smartcard. You can find more information about Smartcard system here <https://www.st-pauls.org.uk/parents/transport-to-st-pauls>. Please remember that students who choose to purchase tickets directly from the driver using a Smartcard or debit card must present a valid All-in-One card at the time of purchase in order to receive the 50% discount. They have asked us to also remind students that if they lose any paper tickets purchased from the driver, they will not be able to issue a replacement.

We have noticed that skirts are getting shorter at the moment, especially in the warmer weather. Please can I ask that parents ensure that the length is correct as per our uniform policy. If you are purchasing new skirts over the holidays, please buy one of an appropriate length and material for school.

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Finally, I wanted to thank you all for your continued support of our wonderful school community. It remains an absolute pleasure to serve our children and you as their families. I wish you all a very happy and very Holy Easter when it arrives. Children return to school on **Tuesday 22nd April (after the Monday Bank Holiday)**.

Yours sincerely



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