

4th July 2025

Dear Families

I hope that you have managed the heat this week. Both students and staff have found it difficult this week and behaviour, at times, hasn't been what I would expect. I am confident that this will change as we move into our end of term activity days next week.

We began this week by celebrating our school Feast Day with a whole school Mass celebrated by Fr Emmanuel. It was a beautiful Mass, if a little hot! As a school we made our Jubilee Year Pledge. This is our commitment that we have made about how we want to be as a community. A copy of the Pledge is attached and we will share this with the Diocese at the Schools' Mass in October. On Monday evening we sweltered through a Curriculum and Teaching Committee of our Governing Board. It has been lovely this week to meet our new Year 7 tutor groups when they came in for their induction days. This culminated last night in the parents evening. I'm grateful to all staff and our student guardian angels who have supported the newest members of our community this week. I also visited our Faith in Action day on Tuesday where we welcomed Year 10 pupils from six Catholic secondary schools, including ours. We welcomed guests from CAFOD, the Columbans, Pax Christi, the Jesuit Refugee Service and Stories of Hope and Home, as well as three visitors with real lived experience of the asylum system. Pupils heard their stories and were able to ask questions and engage in actions to respond to the call to "welcome the stranger" within the context of being Pilgrims Of Hope. Their stories were profoundly challenging and left an impact on all of us. We also welcomed staff who are joining the school in September for an induction day on Tuesday. On Wednesday Mr Butt and Mrs Maw held a retreat for those children who are working on the Ministerium Award. On Thursday, Year 12 Design students visited the New Designers exhibition. And today we have celebrated Culture Day. Children have been eating food from different cultures in our canteen all week and today there have been lots of lovely activities to enable children and staff to celebrate their cultures. Please look out for the photos on our social media pages.

The year 7 girls' rounders team had their first competitive game this Tuesday at the Year 7 Rounders tournament. They beat MKA and Stantonbury and played against Webber in the final where we drew 7-7 so became joint winners! We also had some excellent results at the athletics on Wednesday at the MK Athletics Championships. We came second overall, and got second place in Year 7 girls, third place for Year 8 boys, third place for Year 9 girls, third place for Year 9 boys, third place for Year 10 boys and second place for Year 10 girls. Well done to everyone who took part!

Next week is a very exciting week at St. Paul's. On Monday our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students are off on expedition. Year 12 are focusing on their future destinations and work experience for the

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whole week. On Tuesday we will be celebrating with those students who have made or are making their Confirmation this Summer. Senior staff have been attending Confirmation Masses over the last week or so. On Wednesday we will be enjoying our whole school Work Related Learning Day and that evening there is the final Full Governing Body meeting of the Year. On Thursday, the majority of the school are off on their Educational Visits Day. I will be organising the car parks at the various return times so look out for me in my hi vis jacket! Finally, on Friday we have Sports Day – my favourite day of the year. Basically, I spend the day cooking burgers and sausages for nearly 2000 people and then announce the results. I will hopefully find time for an ice cream too! The forecast is suggesting it's going to be very hot. Please send your child with plenty of water and sunscreen to protect them.

This week and next, each year group will be having a reward BBQ for those students who have consistently met expectations and fulfilled our mission by doing the best that is possible. Congratulations to all invited.

Our Governing Board need a few Foundation Governors. If you are Catholic and wish to serve the school in this way, please email me on jo-anne.hoarty@st-pauls.org.uk so that we can have a conversation about it. If you aren't Catholic, then there will be opportunities to serve as parent governor in the near future.

As we approach the end of term, please can I ask parents to look very closely at our uniform list before purchasing new uniform. I am increasingly concerned by the skirts that are being worn as they most definitely aren't knee length – nowhere near in fact. Children will be saying to you that 'everyone wears short skirts' but there really is a limit to what we can call compliant! As I have mentioned to you previously, I will be consulting the community on our uniform next year. One option will be to remove skirts from our uniform entirely. I hope that this isn't needed because school skirts worn in September will be compliant. Thank you for your support with this.

Please have a look at the attached information from St Thomas Aquinas School about their nursery provision.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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