

6th February 2026

Dear Families

We began this week with a Year 11 trip to Hazard Alley on a trip. On Tuesday, Year 7 visited the Harry Potter Studios in Watford, and a group of Year 10 students visited St Mark's Meals. On Wednesday we took 28 Year 12 students to MathsFest in London where they had the excellent opportunity to hear from several Mathematicians including Matt Parker. Students had a great time and learnt a lot of different applications of Mathematics. Thank you to all who attended for an excellent day. We were fortunate enough this year to offer this as a live stream on Tuesday in school to our Year 13 A-level Mathematicians where they were able to receive some vital examination tips. During this livestream we invited some aspiring A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics students currently in Year 11 to enable them to sample MathsFest. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings we held Year 8 options meetings. Parents on the Tuesday braved the snow to attend and I was delighted that it was so well supported. The link on school cloud for individual options meetings is now live so please sign up if you are a Year 8 parent. Last night there was a Year 10 Parents' Information Evening. Today, a group of Year 11 students visited Trinity College in Cambridge and Our Year 9 Horticulture Students visited Woad Farm.

We have had several fixtures this week. Our Year 8 basketball team played Milton Keynes Academy and came back from being 4 – 0 down in the last part of the fourth quarter to equalising 8 – 8 by the end of the match. The Year 8 girls' football team played in a tournament at Walton High. They won their pool, won their semi final and eventually lost in the final. Well done for coming in overall second place. Our Year 8/9 and Year 11 girls' football teams also played at home against Oakgrove. The Year 8/9 team won 4 – 2 and Year 11 won 5 – 1. Very well done to all who have represented the school so well this week.

Next week we approach half term with lots of activities planned. On Monday evening there is a meeting for all parents of children who are planning on going on the ski trip. On Wednesday there is an event planned for Year 13 students to support them with applying for Apprenticeships. Our Sixth Form Darma students are going to the theatre to see Lost Atoms. Year 11 have another visit to Woad Farm. On Thursday our RE Department are hosting a St Vincent de Paul conference for the day. I'm looking forward to joining that for a time.

On Tuesday, 10th February, we will be recognising **National Safer Internet Day**. This year's theme focuses on the **reasonable and safe use of AI**. Throughout this term, we have been delivering

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assemblies to all year groups exploring how AI works, the safety measures young people should be aware of, and wider online safety guidance. We encourage you to have open and honest conversations with your child about AI technology and how to stay safe online. A range of online safety guides are available on our school website, and we have also included an additional link offering top tips specifically for parents and carers <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers> .

Next week, we will also be taking part in *Children's Mental Health Week*, focusing on this year's theme: **"This is My Place."** Throughout the week, we'll be highlighting the importance of helping children and young people feel a strong sense of belonging - both in school and in the wider community. A **Parent/Carer Pack** will be available on our school website from next week, alongside updates and activities shared on our social media pages. We will also be promoting our wellbeing offer to pupils, encouraging them to make their own choices which support their mental health and wellbeing.

This week we received news that we have passed the participant level of the Oscar Romero award. This is an award that recognises the work that we are doing as a school to promote and imbed the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in all aspects of our school life and community. The feedback we received strongly indicates the positive impact the Oscar Romero Award is having on all aspects of school life. Our commitment to embedding Catholic Social Teaching was recognised, we were praised for our demonstration of how our curriculum is making explicit links to Catholic Social Teaching, it was highlighted that we provide many opportunities for Catholic Social Teaching to be part of pupils' learning and study, and also how Catholic Social Teaching is a key element in our school strategic development. We are proud of this achievement and excited to start gathering evidence for the next level of the award.

I am also delighted to share that St Paul's has been awarded the Bronze AI Quality Mark. This has been achieved for our 'dedicated approach to the responsible integration of Artificial Intelligence in education'. The award recognises our 'consistent efforts in establishing foundational practices across key areas including leadership and vision, curriculum planning and professional development for staff.' Well done to our digital strategy team for achieving this.

A gentle and polite reminder that all staff here at St Paul's are here for the good of your child. We take our responsibilities very seriously and only want the best for your child. Please have that in mind when you are communicating with us. We all need to remember to treat each other with dignity and respect because this is what makes any community function properly. Thank you for considering this.

Finally, I wanted to update you that we have now met representatives from two bus companies to discuss provision. I am confident that an interim alternative solution for many families will be in place for after half term. Hopefully I will have some information to share with you early next week.

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I hope that you all have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely



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