St Paul's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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6th March 2026

Dear Families

It has been an interesting week at St Paul's and, I suspect, across all schools in the country as we try to navigate the dangers of social media posts that encourage anti-social behaviour. Thank you to all parents for ensuring that your children are not engaging with such posts or behaviour.

This week we have celebrated National careers week with lots of different activities. We have had employers and alumni in school to support children with ideas about their future careers choices. On Monday Year 13 Scientists went to visit the UK Biocentre. Students in Emmaus had the opportunity to work with Action for Youth. On Tuesday our students went to Bishop Parker Catholic School to help with their spelling bee. On Tuesday evening I went along to the Music and Drama showcase in the theatre. It was superb and I was hugely impressed by the talents that children shared. On Wednesday Year 12 and 13 students took part in the Catenians Speaking Competition and represented the school very well. Thursday was spent celebrating all things relating to reading for World Book Day. I hope you liked the photos of all the costumes! On Friday, Year 10 students visited Woad Farm and our students are also representing the school at the MK Schools Debate Contest tonight. Year 7 and 8 enjoyed a very entertaining visit from Rob Bradley – a rapper, poet and songwriter. Following his visit there has been quite a bit of interest in his books. If you would like to purchase a signed copy of his book, *Reasons to Write Rhymes*, you can order one via this link. The link will be open for seven days.

We had a number of fixtures this week. On Monday 40 students represented St Paul's at MK Champs cross country in Campbell Park with all the other MK schools. Our Year 7 boys' football team played Lord Grey at home and won 4 – 0. This is their second win in three games and they are really starting to gel as a team and putting in some good performances. On Wednesday the Year 9 boys' football team travelled to Shenley Brook End School and won 3 – 0, keeping up the winning streak that sees them currently sitting at the top of their league phase. They will be hoping to carry this on at their two fixtures next week. Our Year 10 and 11 basketball teams played home games against Kents Hill Park, with Kents Hill Park winning both games. They were very close games and the boys played well but their opponents were too strong in the dying seconds of the game. On Thursday the Year 10 boys' football team welcomed Lord Grey to St Paul's. The boys played well and put in a fantastic effort, despite injuries and absences, but, unfortunately, lost their match. The squad will look to get back to winning ways next week when they have two more fixtures.

Next week, I begin the next series of meetings with all Middle Leaders about their department development plans for 2026/7, as well as a review of the academic progress that students are making in each of their subjects. On Monday, a group of Year 8 students are visiting the Spinal Injuries

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Association. On Tuesday, Year 12 A-level RE students are attending the Candle Conference which is focusing on Human Nature this year. In the evening there is a PTA meeting and the Heads and Chairs of Governors of all Milton Keynes Catholic schools will be meeting for their termly discussion. On Wednesday we have the Drama GCSE Showcase in the theatre. On Thursday, Year 8 are attending the MK Maths Challenge and Years 11 to 13 are attending a debating competition against Thornton College. Next Friday we will be celebrating Pi Day in school! Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a few fun activities in class to acknowledge the day. We also invite pupils and parents to join the celebration by baking pies at home. Fruity pies will also be served at break time in the canteen. Pupils and staff are welcome to wear something related to π (such as a π sticker, badge, or π-themed shirt). School uniform should be worn as usual.

British Science Week, runs from today until 15th March. This year's theme is especially exciting – it puts you in the driver's seat! The 2026 theme, 'Curiosity: What's Your Question?', encourages everyone to think about what they most want to discover about the world and how they might go about finding the answers. It's all about asking big questions and exploring new ideas. To celebrate, we will be visiting all of our feeder primary schools over the next two weeks. We began our visits this week at St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School and Bishop Parker Catholic School. A group of Year 9 pupils visited and represented our school brilliantly, speaking to primary pupils about Science, sharing their experiences of secondary school life, and delivering engaging presentations. We are also launching a Science Week poster competition — pupils have been given information on this. To round off the celebrations, on 18th March the Science Department will be dressing up as elements from the periodic table. Keep your eyes open and see how many elements you can spot! Let the curiosity begin!

Our Year 10 PPEs begin next week and it is an opportunity for them to do their best and show what they have been learning. Please let your child's Form Tutor know if you feel they have been experiencing any heightened anxiety. We have some good revision resources on our website here.

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of children arriving to school late. We are recording how children travel to school and understand if lateness is related to the new bus services. However, the majority of children who are late are arriving by car or on foot. Please ensure that your child arrives in school before the bell goes.

Advance notice that Windermere Drive will be closed from 16th – 27th March. During this time students who normally get the 603 bus on Windermere Drive will be picked up and dropped off from the Stoke Road bus stop instead.

Finally, please can I ask all parents to remember that our reception is a very busy environment. We cannot guarantee that we can get messages to children during the day. It is the responsibility of children to arrive at reception at the designated time if they need to leave early. Please remember to treat our reception staff with kindness and respect.

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I hope that you have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely

J A Hoarty

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Headteacher

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