



St Paul's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Annual *Report*



View from the Head

This year's annual report captures what is the very best about St Paul's. Despite 2019/20 being a challenging year for us all, our community has worked together, continued to support each other and enjoyed our precious time together. Our community has continued to thrive despite the fact that we had to spend much of the year apart from each other. The photographs and articles contained within this year's report serve as an excellent reminder that even in adverse circumstances, our

community continues to live out our mission which is to love, serve and do the best that is possible. I am incredibly proud of what our community has achieved this year and I offer my thanks to them all for continuing to make St Paul's such a unique and vibrant community.

J. A. Hoarty

Jo-Anne Hoarty
Headteacher



Please check our website st-pauls.org.uk for news and information about the school. Keep in touch through social media. We're on [Facebook/stpaulsmk](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmk) and [Twitter/stpauls_mk](https://twitter.com/stpauls_mk) and YouTube (St Paul's Catholic School Milton Keynes).

Celebrating a summer of success



This academic year was an extraordinary one for students who were due to sit their GCSEs and A-Levels. Lockdown and the cancellation of exams meant that they experienced a unique and unprecedented situation but they tackled it with grit and determination.



Commenting on the results Jo-Anne Hoarty, Headteacher, said: We were delighted to welcome Year 11 students to receive their GCSE results. The grades they received reflected a great deal of hard work and commitment over the last five years. We are so pleased with their results and they are thoroughly deserved.

Jo-Anne added: "We are very proud of all our students for making the most of the opportunities offered by St Paul's, particularly during this challenging time, and are especially pleased that so many of them chose to continue their education in our award-winning Sixth Form."

St Paul's students also achieved excellent results in their A-Level examinations, with the majority of them securing places at their first choice universities, including some of the top universities in the UK.



Some notable achievements included:

- James Brady, who gained A*A*A* and is going to Manchester to study Physics and Astrophysics.
- Sarafina Otis, who received A*A*A* and is going to study Medicine at Oxford.
- Anna Parkin, who achieved A*A*A*A* and will be studying Chemistry at York.
- Rosie Johnston, who gained A*A*A and is going to Birmingham to study Political Science and Sociology.
- Isobel Richardson, who gained A*A*A* and is going to study Spanish with Russian at Oxford.
- Jake Mussen, who gained A*A*A* and will be going to Edinburgh to study Maths.
- Willow Arlett, who is going to Leeds to study Graphic and Communication Design having achieved A*A*A*A*.



Former rescue dog Jess joins St Paul's as care dog

A former rescue dog, Jess, owned by Chaplaincy Assistant Mrs Kay Klymyszyn joined St Paul's as our care dog and spends one day a week visiting students and staff to help with their wellbeing.

Before joining the school Jess was assessed by Canine Concern, a charity that helps provide care dogs for individuals and for schools, workplaces, hospitals and residential homes. The assessor looked at how Jess was with dogs and people and how she reacted to noises and new environments. Jess passed her assessment with flying colours.

Mrs Klymyszyn said: "Jess has settled in really well at the school and has been very well received by our students and staff. People told me how much they looked forward to her weekly visits and I think Jess really enjoys it too."



Students take part in CAFOD Film

CAFOD invited St Paul's students to take part in a short film 'Defend the defenders this Lent!'.

The film highlighted the situation faced by the indigenous people of the Brazilian Amazon, explaining how more than a football pitch a minute is lost in the Amazon, and suggested football fundraisers to support CAFOD partners' work there.

Filming took place in school and CAFOD's photographer and videographer captured a series of still and video images showing students' football skills, as well as undertaking other football related activities in the classroom. They were also filmed talking about the plight of indigenous people in the Brazilian Amazon.

HI students create film on living with hearing impairment

Hearing impaired students from St Paul's joined forces with students from 12 other MK schools to create a short film, 'Pardon?', showing what it's really like to live with a hearing impairment.

Students, who belong to MK Hearing Impaired Youth, wrote and directed the video which was funded by Milton Keynes Council.

The project came about after a group of students realised they were all experiencing the same issues in daily school life. They wanted to be able to tell everyone in schools how they could make things easier and to help other students with a hearing impairment realise that they are not alone.

The film premiered at St Paul's and BBC Look East also came to the school to interview students about their experiences and create a news report about 'Pardon?'.



St Paul's gains Artsmark Gold Award

St Paul's achieved the Arts Council England's Artsmark Gold Award which recognises that the school is making art and culture come alive for students, staff and the wider community.

Confirming the Gold Award, Emily Fletcher, Senior Officer for Artsmark at Arts Council England, said: "You have a clear commitment to providing rich arts and cultural opportunities for your students, and this is evidently having a measurable impact in promoting pupil well-being. Your Expressive Arts team have driven forward the Arts at St Paul's by reviewing the curriculum and developing your schemes of learning and have worked to increase enrichment opportunities including visiting arts professionals and extra-curricular clubs.

Every pupil in the school has been offered the opportunity to achieve Arts Award Bronze, and Arts Award Gold has been offered to your post 16 students, which has developed students' leadership skills and confidence, and inspired them to view the Arts as a positive career choice through opportunities to volunteer and secure jobs within your partner gallery and theatre. A new opportunity for students to showcase their visual art work in an exhibition raised the profile of the school's art work with stakeholders and the local community.

The music curriculum is supporting the school's Catholic values and ethos through increased spirituality and participation in the choir and orchestra, with the support of vocal coaches. Students' views are

taken into account through regular forums and your post-16 arts ambassador project has enabled students to play an active role in supporting open evenings and performances, with the effect of improving their social and communication skills and confidence."



Greg Maw, Assistant Headteacher at St Paul's said: "The Gold Award recognises that the St Paul's community has fully embraced artistic and cultural activities and we are committed to providing more opportunities to enjoy the Arts in the years to come."



Advent fundraising helps MK charities and CAFOD

The fundraising efforts of students and staff resulted in a donation of 75 shoeboxes filled with gifts and essential items, plus financial and food donations to two local charities, Winter Night Shelter Milton Keynes and MK Food Bank.

Sixth Form students also split money and donations from their fundraising activities between CAFOD, who received £550, and the two local charities. Winter Night Shelter MK received £400 for essential supplies, and the MK Food Bank received 576 food items.

Karen Cobbett from Winter Night Shelter MK said: "We really do appreciate your personal effort to co-ordinate the shoe box appeal and the generous donation. Both will help us to help make the homeless in Milton Keynes more comfortable."

Jo-Anne Hoarty, Headteacher, said: "We are very grateful to everyone, especially to our students who embody our school motto to 'Love, Serve and Do the Best that is Possible' through their fundraising efforts."



Fearless workshops



Year 7 and 8 students attended 'Fearless' workshops aimed to empower young people to make informed decisions about crime. The workshops were delivered by Josh Newman, Fearless Outreach Worker for Crimestoppers, Thames Valley.

Topics included county lines, a tactic used by drugs gangs to move their drug dealing outside of big cities to smaller towns. Josh also talked about knife crime and the dangers of carrying weapons. He explained how reporting crimes could potentially save people's lives. Students were very engaged with Josh's talk, asked him lots of questions and gave some very considered answers.



BBC puts St Paul's on national news

St Paul's was featured on TV screens around the country when the BBC visited in February to film our Year 8 and 9 students for the national news. They were interviewed by the BBC's Media Editor, Amol Rajan (who also presents The One Show) about Ofcom's report on young people's use of digital media. Amol was very impressed with our students, calling them "delightful"

Mr Ritson qualifies as climate change teacher

Geography teacher, Craig Ritson, has gained accreditation from the United Nations for successfully completing the eduCCate Global Climate Change Teacher Academy Course.

Mr Ritson believes he is the first teacher in Milton Keynes to undertake and pass all of the assessments required to be a climate change teacher. Mr Ritson explained: "A climate change teacher's role is to develop and create a knowledge base for students to know more about climate change than just the plastic bag problems. It is to do with gender, children, environment, ecosystems, cities and transport. By doing this course it will enable the school to consider and develop a culture of thinking of the environment and people choosing to protect the areas where we live."



Ofsted declares St Paul's a Good school

Students, staff and Governors celebrated the outcome of the Ofsted inspection in November 2019 which gave the resounding endorsement that St Paul's continues to be a Good school.



Congratulating St Paul's on this result, Cheryl Eyre, Head of Service – Education, Attainment and Effectiveness at Milton Keynes Council, said: "You should all be justifiably proud of this outcome and I hope that it has reinforced your belief in your vision and future plans for the school."

Ofsted observed that pupils enjoy coming to the school and are proud of it. They said that "Pupils are safe, well cared for and valued" and that "The Headteacher and her staff have the highest possible expectations for everybody to do well together."

The report also praised the work of the special educational needs team, saying they provide "highly effective support for pupils" and that "all pupils have access to exactly the curriculum they need and are part of all areas of this inclusive school, which helps them to achieve well."

Provision for pupils' personal development was also judged to be strong, with Pastoral support teams providing excellent support to pupils when they need it. The report also highlighted the wide range of opportunities for pupils to join clubs throughout the day, including before and after school.



Jo-Anne Hoarty, Headteacher, said: *We are extremely pleased that the inspectors recognised the strength of our Catholic ethos and the inclusive nature of our school. They also praised our detailed work to ensure that our curriculum is broad and coherently planned with carefully sequenced learning.*



Rising to the challenge of lockdown



When the government announced that schools were closing to the majority of students from 23rd March it meant that our Lent and Pentecost terms were very different than in previous years.

As always, the St Paul's community of students, staff and families rose to the challenge. We adapted to learning and working remotely, whilst responding to ever changing guidance and the need to keep school open for children of key workers.

Everyone worked hard to keep our vibrant community spirit alive – here are some examples of the wonderful activities and projects our students and staff embraced.

- Cat sewed hundreds of headbands which she donated to MK Hospital and formed a social enterprise making and selling face masks to raise money for the NHS.

- Students and staff packed food bags for families requiring free school meals to tide them over before the voucher system came into operation.
- Year 9 had lots of creative entries for their 'Make Year 9 Smile' project including this great artwork from Ariya.
- Kai demonstrated his cooking skills for his family.
- Amos was chosen by will.i.am to join his team on The Voice Kids and made it all the way to the semi-final of the show.
- Year 7 demonstrated exceptional creativity for their summer project composing songs, writing and making pieces.



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