



ST PAUL'S ACADEMY

You are God's work of art

Abundance | Achievement | Ambition

Spring | 2024



Welcome from the Principal

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the first new edition of our St Paul's newsletter which has not been seen since 2019. It is an absolute pleasure to see the 'good news' that we have to tell you about and to share the many ways that the students and staff of St Paul's express themselves as 'God's Work of Art'.

Well done to so many students who have got off to a brilliant start with Bedrock Learning which supports the development of excellent levels of vocabulary. Our sporting teams are doing particularly well in getting to semi finals and finals in competitions. Their resilience, hard work and passion is so impressive.

Our own school governors have accompanied Year 9 on their retreats over the past couple of weeks. Each retreat they have commented on how impressed they were with the thoughtful and reflective participation. Year 11 are very much in our thoughts and prayers as they take on the preparation for their final set of Mock exams before the Examination season begins.

Ash Wednesday falls in half term this year and we return to school already in the season of Lent. There will be lots of opportunities for prayer, charitable works and little acts we can practically do that will make our hearts more loving and help St Paul's Academy to grow and flourish as a community.

Have a restful and enjoyable half term.

Mrs Ward

Spring 2

Key Dates

19th February

Y11 PPEs Begin

21st February

Year 9 Curriculum Fayre

7th March

World Book Day

7th March

Y10 PCM

16th March and 18th March

Geography Field Trips

21st March

Y11 PCM

22nd March

D of E Expedition

Abundance



Trip to the National Theatre

Eight students who have entered this year's New Views scriptwriting competition were given a huge dose of inspiration for their work on a visit to the National Theatre before the end of last term. The lucky students, escorted by Mr Candy and Mr Barrett, arrived at London's South Bank by train and foot to watch a new musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's 'The Witches'. The production was enjoyed by all and the students were complimented on their behaviour by members of the public.

Should any of our eight young writers be successful with their scripts this year then they will see their work staged at the National's Dorfman Theatre as a professional production!

Jamie's Farm

Ms Clift, Ms Tchimanga and Nathaniel had the opportunity to take a group of 10 young people in Year 7, 8 and 9 on a 4 night residential adventure to Jamie's Farm. They had a fun-filled week of feeding, petting and caring for the farm animals (cows, sheep, pigs and chickens)! The young people learned how to whip up delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We enjoyed our daily walks while catching the beautiful sunsets and even went on a thrilling hike. A week of determination and resilience of which all the young people



should be extremely proud. It was a memorable experience for everyone!



Art Club

In Art Club this half term, the students have been working on their observational drawings. It is so good to see so many talented artists developing their skills outside of lesson time. If you are interested in Art Club then speak to Ms Pomfret

Year 9 Retreat on Vocations

*'You are God's work of art'
Ephesians 2:10*

This half term all of Year 9 have experienced a retreat in their tutor groups. The retreats took place at Hawksmoor Youth Hub on the theme of choices and vocation. While on retreat, students had the opportunity for personal reflection, group work, times of prayer as well as the opportunity to socialise and play games with their peers. We discussed how we all have a vocation of holiness and students reflected on how their personal choices lead them to holiness. Students took part in four prayer stations, Meditation, Lecio Divina, Mandalas and praying for our world. This gave students the opportunity to spend time with God while experiencing different types of prayer. In the final session of the day we read St Paul's scripture 'We are the Body of Christ', students then worked creatively in groups to share their gifts and talents and put them together to make one big body in Christ, to show how we are all connected. Students said they really enjoyed the day and were glad they were given this opportunity.

Achievement



Attendance

Year Group	Number of 100% Attendances this
7	132
8	115
9	113
10	115
11	129

Top Tutor Attendance	Attendance
7F	96.24%
8GR	95%
9AT	92.89%
10EN	94.47%
11MM	94.46%

Name	Bedrock Points
Oluwadarasimi O	478
Agustine N	476
Christine O	421
Kamisiyochukwu I	360
Chimmy N	255
Charis T	232
Kelton W	200
Bria B	194
Anamika S	192
Sharon O	191

Sporting Successes

The Year 7 Sportshall Athletics Team beat the entire borough to make it through to the South East District Finals. In girls football, the Year 8 and 9 team beat Mary Magdelene 6-0 to make it to the quarter finals whilst the 10 and 11 team made it to The Blackheath Cup quarter finals. In boys football, the Year 8, 10 and 11 teams all made it through to the Kent Cup semi-finals. You might want to watch this space in the next newsletter as we imagine there may be some semi-final and then final success! Well done all!



EduLink Top Performers



Year Group	Name	Net Points
7	Kylie K	198
8	Aadi T	158
9	Anjolaoluwa E	162
10	Joshua W	206
11	Maurice R	146

Ambition

Using Art to Change Our World

A group of year 10 and 11 students have been selected to do a workshop by **Seduced By Art** which aims to inspire the wider community to reflect, consider the impact, and tackle social and economic concerns through art. There will be an exhibition of the art work produced at the end of the 5 weeks.

One of the lucky participants said 'I am part of the Seduced By Art Workshop which is basically a selected amount of students to complete activities and express their feelings in painting. So far we have painted a mask with some great paintings. Personally I enjoy the workshop. '



Bedrock Learning

We have launched Bedrock Learning - a digital platform which helps KS3 pupils excel in their literacy skills.

Why is this important? A child's vocabulary is a reliable predictor of their educational outcomes. The more they read and learn new words, the better they perform in school and the more opportunities they have in their future. Words matter. High quality communication matters.

If you, or your child, hasn't been able to access Bedrock Learning then please contact the school and we can support you.

Primary School Art Competition

St. Paul's Academy launched our first primary school competition, we received over 100 entries from students in Year 5/6 from a range of primary schools in the local area. The project was to create a piece of artwork about anything in your life that makes you happy. This could be a painting or drawing, using any material available. Look out for the winners in the next newsletter!



School Council New Members

The School Council is the school's representative body who meet once a half term with two members from each year group. The meetings buzz with the excitement of new ideas and are a positive space for young people to have their voices heard. Past successes include identifying how the school restaurant offering could improve and supporting Cultural Day. This half-term, the School Council welcomed two new members: Samuel and Sarina. They join the existing members: Adiva, Salt, Tolu, Fortune, Bailey, Petra, Kelly and Hayden.