

The Epistle

15th December 2023

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

Advent is such a special time of the year. This is when we celebrate the arrival of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. On Wednesday evening we celebrated our annual Advent Liturgy. This was a beautiful, prayerful, community celebration and it was lovely to see so many of you there. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



During Advent, we ask our school community to turn their thoughts to others in anticipation of the coming of Christ. Here at St Paul's we look to raise money for those who are in need. Over the last couple of weeks we have held a Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas lunches and the Staff Panto. The Sixth Form were also delighted to once again hold its Senior Citizens Party, which was a great success. Through the various events, we were thrilled to have made nearly £3,000 for the British Red Cross and would like to thank everyone for their support.

We have just completed the marking and moderation of the Year 11 and Year 13 mock exams and results have been sent to parents. Alongside, we have had parents' evenings to explain how all children can continue to progress towards their GCSEs and A Levels in the summer. Outcomes are looking positive and both year groups are in a strong place. The best preparation the school can do is to ensure the students are ready for their exams. If pupils feel ready, stress is reduced, which means well-being is better on the run up to the exam period. If parents have any concerns, no matter how small the issues may be, please do get in contact with the school. Although it is Christmas, I would encourage all students to do some work over the holiday period!

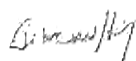
It has been such a busy term here at St Paul's and I hope you enjoy reading all about the many activities/events in this edition of 'The Epistle'. Alongside learning, our children get to experience so many different activities such as retreats, school trips, sporting events and so much more.

Sadly, we are losing two members of staff this term who have served our community for some period of time. Mr Shires has been given an exciting opportunity to write his own sitcom and Mr Parkes, our Science Technician, is returning to education. I wish them every success in their new adventures.

We return to school on Tuesday 2nd January. Please remember to ensure that your children have the appropriate uniform and wear only navy or black jackets. Coats that do not adhere to the uniform policy may be confiscated and parents informed accordingly. Haircuts must also be appropriate for school; lines cut into the hair, or into the eyebrows, are not permitted. Please refer to our Uniform Policy on the school website.

Please may I also remind you of our new mobile phone policy. If students are seen with their phones, they will be confiscated and returned to them the next day at 3.00 pm.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy, holy and festive Christmas. Enjoy this special time of year with your loved ones.



James Mc Nulty
Headteacher

Student Voice

In this issue, Year 8 students report on the true meaning of Christmas and what it means to them.

Evie C B - Year 8

Christmas is an important time of year for Catholics and students of St Paul's, and to me Christmas is all about the birth of Jesus and forgiveness of sin.



Thinking of others, we have had a Christmas Jumper Day and a Staff Pantomime, donating the money raised to charity and those in need.

The thing I have most enjoyed this term is when we donated food to the Foodbank at Saviour's Church for those who are less fortunate.

I am looking forward to having a roast dinner on Christmas Day as it reminds me of the last supper and makes me feel grateful for everything I have as well as spending quality time with my family and friends.

Kobi - Year 8

Christmas is a great and lovely time of year. At St Paul's we have had a pantomime, 'A-ladd-in detention', a fantastic treat of a Christmas lunch and we have raised lots of money for the British Red Cross.

Year 8 has been great so far and we are already near our Christmas break - it has gone by so fast.

I am looking forward to Christmas (who doesn't love opening presents!) and my church has donated presents to children.

Overall, the true meaning of Christmas is when Jesus was born and saved us from our sins and St Nick told us of the importance of giving.

David - Year 8

Christmas is a special time of year at St Paul's, and during Advent we have been raising money for the British Red Cross with a Christmas Jumper Day and Staff Pantomime.



The things I have enjoyed the most this term is English, the Christmas dinner and seeing my friends.

I am looking forward to spending time with my family because that is what Christmas is all about. But overall, it is important to remember the true meaning of Christmas which is to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Elia B M - Year 8

Christmas is a special time at St Paul's and we have been learning about the true meaning of Christmas.



The thing I have enjoyed the most this term was the Christmas dinner because it was a time to laugh and come together with friends.

I am looking forward to going to see my family over Christmas because I do lots of fun things with my grandparents and I love spending time with them, but overall, it is important to remember the true meaning of Christmas which is the birth of Jesus.

Victoria M - Year 8

Christmas for me is spending time with family, putting up the Christmas tree and most importantly celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. At St Paul's we explore this idea in our RS lessons, and every week in our assemblies we focus on the countdown to Christmas/Advent. Our school hosts special events to raise money for charity such as the Christmas Jumper Day and the Staff Pantomime. The Christmas spirit is high and St Paul's makes sure that Christmas is the best it can be for everyone. Merry Christmas!



Adrian S- Year 8

Christmas is special to us all because it's great fun. We all enjoyed the Christmas dinner, Christmas Jumper Day and the Panto, fundraising for charity, and you can win cool competition prizes in the LRC. They are very good times and everyone is in a jolly spirit.

This term we have donated food to the Foodbank at St Saviour's Church and have done a lot of fun activities.

Overall, the true meaning of Christmas is to spend time with your friends and family.

Advent Liturgy

The academic term drew to a close with its annual Advent Liturgy. This has long been a treasured tradition here at St Paul's and is a truly special occasion in our school community. The evening brought together all the departments across the school to celebrate this holy season and prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, through readings and reflections from staff and students, and beautiful music from our school choir. Thank you to everyone who contributed and for the making the celebration such a joyful event. We particularly thank Miss Harper who oversaw the wonderful music offering from the pupils and staff alike. We hope that everyone in attendance enjoyed the evening. We wish you and your family a Happy Christmas.



Sixth Form OAP Christmas Party



After a four year break, St Paul's Sixth Form students were once again able to host their traditional Senior Citizens Christmas Party on Friday 1st December. It was a huge success with 50 guests in attendance. There was a full afternoon of entertainment which included songs from the Year 8 choir, duets and solo pieces of music, a raffle, a few games of Bingo as well as some carols performed by the Pavilion Nursery children, which was really lovely. Mr Jones even managed to wow the guests with a magic trick!

The Sixth Form Student Leadership team would like to thank all of the students, parents and local companies who contributed towards the event. We hope that everyone who came along enjoyed the festivities and had a fantastic afternoon.

Preparing for Advent



The start of Advent is a season in which we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. At St Paul's, the Chaplaincy Team along with our Chaplain have been proactive in preparing the school for this wonderful time of year by decorating the chapel and preparing this year's Advent wreath. Thank you to all the team and to 'Flowers In The Attic' for helping our students – the chapel and the wreath look beautiful!

Christmas Jumper Day

Due to its huge success last year, the Sixth Form Student Leadership team hosted its Christmas Jumper Day again for all year groups and staff on Friday 1st December with all funds raised going to this year's charity of choice - The British Red Cross. Thank you for all your donations; it was a great day and certainly got everyone in the festive mood.



Staff Christmas Panto

Last Thursday the staff performed in the Aladdin-themed charity pantomime for KS3 written by Mr Hammond and directed by Miss Mooney. It was a great afternoon filled with lots of laughter, cheering, booing and a standout, makeshift beard from Miss Cookman. Genies granted wishes, evildoers were put to rights and 'A-ladd-in detention' was successfully freed and brought back to Jasmine. A huge thank you to all the staff involved in the performance. They were all amazing and kept the crowd cheering and laughing. The students were all extremely excited and eager to get involved with the Panto antics and everyone had a festive and jolly afternoon.

Year 8 Retreats and Mass

The Year 8 retreats had a really special feel this year, taking place at Sunbury Methodist Church, the pupils explored the idea that God loves them and calls them by name. We then extended this theme to explore how that love means we should handle each other with care too. There was a genuine exploration of pupils' spirituality and some lovely sharing and discussion around what it truly means to be loved by God. The pupils also enjoyed games and activities and had fun making St Therese of Lisieux Good Deed Beads and name boards. A lovely time spent together in this most special of ways.

We closed our Year 8 retreat season with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Fr John Byrne. It was lovely to see so many pupils wanting to be involved in the celebration, from bringing the offertory to the altar, musicians playing solos, to altar servers and readers. There was so much talent on display as we celebrated this Mass.



EPQ Student Presentations

Over the last two weeks in November, Year 13 EPQ students have been giving their end of project presentations. Choosing topics as diverse as the Suffragettes, mental health and the treatment of cancer in pets, this year's class have made the most of their opportunity to carry out degree style research and produce convincing dissertations. Well done all!



Careers Presentation

Year 9 pupils were treated to a very entertaining and extremely informative performance from Enact Solutions on the vast array of careers within the NHS this term. At the end of World War II, the concept of an integrated, state-funded hospital service was borne, with the Labour government creating the National Health Service in 1948. Today there are over 350 different roles in the NHS and it's the fifth largest employer in the world! In this presentation, the performers highlighted, in a series of fun and humorous dramatic sketches, the many varied career opportunities and apprenticeships that are available in the NHS from medical staff to administration.

A superb presentation which will certainly give our students much food for thought.



Kew Gardens Sketchbook Winners

Subsequent to the Year 7 Art Trip to Kew Gardens that took place last term, where the students had been looking at colour and the work of the South African artist, Este Mcleod, and the cut outs of Henri Matisse, here we have just some of the winners of the 'Best Kew Gardens Sketchbooks'. Well done everyone, fantastic work.



7M winners - Emily N, Michal S, Amelia P and Natalia W



7J Winners - Riccardo A, Lucy G, Emily R, Annalee S and Elijah A



7T Winners

Maksymilian K, Mollie W, Kayla N, Lexi G, Emilia J, Anya F and Frankie T



Feast of All Saints Mass

The school came together to celebrate the Feast of All Saints in year group Masses with Fr Christian De Lisle from St Ignatius and Fr Sidon Sagar from St Michael's, Ashford to preside over the celebration. The Mass offered us all the opportunity to come together at the start of the new half term, receive communion and spiritual nourishment for the busy weeks ahead.



St Paul's remembers



At 11.00am on eleventh day of the eleventh month, the school fell silent to observe a two-minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in WWI, WWII and all conflicts since. As part of our commemoration, students who are members of cadet groups such as Sea, Army, Air, Marine, Scouts and Guides were invited to wear their uniforms on the day. We were very proud to have so many students taking part in local Remembrance Day parades on the Sunday and recognise them for their contribution, proudly wearing their uniforms in honour of those who have served.



Primary Retreats



Earlier this term, St Paul's was delighted to host another primary school retreat session, this time for St Michael's Catholic Primary school in Ashford. The retreat day entitled 'The Parable of Talents', focused on the theme of discovering our God-given talents. Our young visitors listened attentively and fully engaged in all the activities, creating some lovely pieces of artwork. It was such a pleasure to work with these young children; we hope they enjoyed their time with us at St Paul's.



Month of the Holy Souls

November is the month of Holy Souls in the Catholic Church. During this time we pray for our faithfully departed, that they may enter into heaven and God's loving embrace. To enable our entire school community to have the opportunity to offer prayer for their deceased loved ones, members of staff and pupils' families were able to email their prayer intentions for their faithfully departed. Each week, the Chaplaincy Team had a small prayer gathering in which a candle was lit for each of those requested and prayed for. The response this year was really high; it has been very touching to pray for our community's loved ones.

Student Achievements

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Congratulations to Emily S, James W and Matilda H-O who have recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards. This is such an achievement!



British Taekwondo Championship

Huge congratulations to Riccardo in Year 7 who won two gold medals at the British Taekwondo Championship 2023 in Sparring and Jump with Breaking. This is an annual event organised by the BUFT (British United Taekwondo Federation). The competition is very popular and extremely challenging due to the intense athletic preparation required by each entrant, with each club that participates selecting their best athletes to compete in the different specialties.



Surrey County Netball Selection



Congratulations to Izzy H (Year 8) on her incredible achievement of being selected for Surrey County Netball!

Gael Londain Under 15 Champions



Well done to Gael Londain's London Under 15 B Champions with our Year 11 student, Finn, captaining the team to an impressive victory!

Careers at St Paul's

At St Paul's we want to give the best support we can to students and parents/carers. To help us achieve this we would value your feedback.

Please use the QR code or link below to answer 6 questions.

Careers Advice and Guidance at St Paul's Catholic College - Parents & Carers



<https://forms.office.com/e/HDPADKUnGV>

Thank you.

Sports News

Cross Country Success

Success at the Cross Country competition this term with St Paul's coming second in the borough!

Great performances by all our runners; special mention to Nicol in Year 9 who came third in her race, and to Alfie in Year 11 and Sean in Year 10, who both won their races, with Alfie ahead of everyone else by roughly half a lap!

Well done everyone!



Sean (Year 10) - First place in his cross country race.



Alfie (Year 11) winning his race by at least half a lap.

Tournament Winners



Our Year 10 Football team were outright winners of the 7-a-side tournament held at Matthew Arnold recently, and the only team not to concede a goal! Exceptional performances by all of the boys - Connor P, Daniel U, Jack M, George C, Hubert, Shae N, Liam R and Dom - a thoroughly deserved victory!

Year 7 Boys Football

Year 7s continuing to thrive this term with win after win, even transitioning into 11-a-side for a game. A local academy has also approached us regarding a game in the summer term to test them further. Stand out performances this term have been from Riccardo A coming into the side, making a great impression, and Anthony C continuing to get the goals every game!



Year 9 Boys Football

A great tournament from our Year 9s who got knocked out on penalties! Anything can happen in these situations and we stepped up and played exceptional football against some great footballing sides. Ifeanyi A and Stanley W had an incredible tournament with some great goals, showing real composure to finish the chances.





Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

First day of Spring Term 1
Year 12 and Year 13 BTEC Exams (to 19th Jan)

Monday 8th January 2024

Maths Trip, Oxford

Tuesday 9th January 2024

Food Tech Exam

Wednesday 10th January 2024

Year 7 Parents Evening

Friday 12th January 2024

Food Tech Exam

Monday 15th January 2024

Year 9 Exams (to 19th January)

Tuesday 16th January 2024

Year 11 Study Skills Day
Year 11 Parent Study Skills Information Evening

Thursday 18th January 2024

Year 10/11 Drama trip to Blood Brothers, Woking

Please refer to the website for further information

Attendance Reminder

We would like to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter, the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2

Mon 30th October - Fri 15th December

Christmas Holidays

Mon 18th December – Mon 1st January '24

Spring Term 1

Tues 2nd January - Friday 9th February '24

Half Term

Mon 12th February - Fri 16th February '24

Spring Term 2

Mon 19th February - Thursday 28th March '24

INSET Day

Mon 19th February 2023

Easter Holidays

Fri 29th March - Fri 12th April '24

Summer Term 1

Mon 15th April - Fri 24th May '24

Half Term

Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May 2024

Summer Term 2

Mon 3rd June - Tues 23rd July 2024

INSET Days for 2023-2024

Monday 19th February 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024



Keep up-to-date with the latest school news and events on Facebook, Twitter Instagram and LinkedIn.





Christmas Gift Appeal

Could you spare a few pounds for a gift for a child this Christmas? This will enable Home-Start to put together bespoke packages for the families they are supporting.

"Thank you so much, I opened the gift and burst into tears. We didn't expect anything like that at all. I can't tell you how grateful we are X"



www.justgiving.com/campaign/spelthornechristmas

SURREY ARTS

GUITAR LESSONS AT ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Thursdays
11 to 12 pm

f X i y

T: 01483 519303
E: surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk
Apply online at:
surreycc.gov.uk/music



The award-winning vocal group, ORA Singers, has launched its fifth national **Young Composers' programme** – a **free** scheme aimed at developing the skills of young composers from UK state-schools. The programme sees **10 Young Composers** each receive **10 hours of one-to-one mentoring** with **professional composers**, who will help them write a new choral piece which will be **performed and recorded in concert by ORA Singers**. During the scheme, Young Composers have their ideas and sketches workshopped by ORA Singers, who offer specialised tips and advice along with a guest composer.

The 2023 Young Composers scheme will also see up to **40 Apprentices** fast-track their skills in composition through a series of online, in-depth workshops, and will gain invaluable insight into the world of professional composition by hearing from industry experts.

Applications are now open: <https://www.orasingers.com/young-composers>
Deadline to apply: Monday 5th February 2024



Calling all young composers in Surrey!

Enter an original work for solo piano or 4 hands on the theme of 'Celebration'

- Winning work will be premiered at 2024 Surrey Hills International Music Festival
- Cash awards to top 3 entries
- Concert tickets

Judged by Wu Qian, Stephen Goss, Natalie Klouda, Huw Watkins MBE

Entrants must be 18 or under at closing date of Fri 23 Feb 2024 and living/studying at a Surrey post code
Submissions should be 2½-5 mins long
Full details at shimf.co.uk/ycc

Surrey Hills Young Composer Competition 2024

presented by



Surrey Hills International Music Festival – Registered Charity No.1171264

SUNBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Staines Road East

invites you to join us over Christmas at any or all of the following services:

Sunday 17 th December	5pm	Carol Service
Sunday 24 th December	10.30am	All age worship with Christingles
Christmas Day	10am	Christmas celebration



SCITT OPEN MORNING
Come and meet us

MEET CURRENT TRAINEES, ECTS & XTSE DIRECTOR, AMY HARPER

WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY
9.30 - 11.00

SALESIAN SCHOOL,
GUILDFORD ROAD, KT16 9LU

REGISTER YOURSELF ON OUR WEBSITE!

www.teachsoutheast.co.uk




Surrey County Council encourages residents to offer Supported Lodgings/foster

Supported Lodgings, and Fostering are both incredibly rewarding experiences that can transform the lives of both the children/young people being supported and the carers' themselves. Children and young people who enter the care system have often experienced trauma and instability in their lives, and a stable and supportive carer family can make a significant difference in their wellbeing and development.

Nationally, there are currently over 70,000 children living with carer families in the UK. However, there is still a significant shortage of Supported Lodgings and foster carers, with around 9,265 new carer families needed in the next year alone. In Surrey, there are over 1,000 children in care and Surrey County Council have just under 400 carer families.

Supported Lodgings is targeted at young adults aged 16-21 to help them build their independence skills ready to live independently in the future, from the security of a caring, stable home environment.

Supported Lodgings Carers and Foster carers come from all walks of life and backgrounds, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to caring. Whether you are single or married, young or old, own your own home or rent, you can still become a carer. The most important thing is a willingness to provide a safe and loving home for a child in need.

This is the message that Surrey County Council is promoting in national recruitment film 'Any of Us'. The short film has been jointly funded by over 80 councils across England and aims to raise awareness about fostering, particularly among those people who may not have previously considered themselves suited to caring for vulnerable children and young people. The film looks at the potential of three people from different backgrounds to become carers, and the potential of children they care for to grow and thrive. 'Any of Us' is available to watch from the 26th September.

If you have ever thought about fostering, or offering Supported Lodgings, now is the time to take that first step and find out more. The more people who consider caring, the greater the chance of finding loving, stable homes for children in Surrey who desperately need them.

You can contact Surrey County Council Fostering Service on 0300 123 1620 (this is the General Fostering Duty telephone, please ask for the Supported Lodgings worker, when connected), via email at supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk or by visiting the website; www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering