



10 April 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Spring Term Review

It has been a very busy and rewarding Spring Term at St Paul's Academy. There have been many teaching and learning achievements, intensive preparation for the GCSE examination season, charity events and sports fixtures which have taken place.

A highlight of the Spring term is always the Easter Fayre and this year was no exception. Each year group selected the charity they wanted to raise funds for:

- Year 7 – Macmillan
- Year 8 – Childline
- Year 9 – British Lung Foundation
- Year 10 – Shelter from the Storm
- Year 11 – King's College Critical Care Unit

The students and staff gave generously of their time running and engaging with the various stalls and activities, including the wonderful 'Kube' activity which entertained both staff and students.

To support attainment and achievement we held Parents' Consultative Meetings for Years 9, 8 and 7. There was also a very successful KS4 Curriculum meeting for Year 8 that was very well attended. For the first time this year we held a second Year 11 Parents' Consultative meeting for further support to our students and their families in the lead up to their exams. Following the success of this meeting we will repeat this initiative next academic year.

We have had many successful trips and visits this term including the Dance Festival at the Excel Centre; Rock Challenge, where our performers won nine awards; Matilda the Musical; University College London; The Shard; London Regional Finals of the Spelling Bee; Greenwich Panathlon Final and the Anti Knife Crime Summit at Charlton Athletic.

Our students were as always exceptionally well behaved and real ambassadors for the Academy.

Our sports teams continue to do incredibly well, particularly our Year 9 Football team who won the Kent Cup and our Year 11 Netball Team, who achieved an incredible 5-year unbeaten record during their time at St Paul's. Congratulations to all those who participate and represent our Academy and I thank the students and their coaches for their commitment and dedication.

End of Term Arrangements

We finish the Spring Term on Thursday 11 April at the usual time of 3.20pm. Our students will return on Monday 29 April at 8.15am. I would like to thank all the staff and students for all their hard work. I would especially like to wish the students sitting their exams this summer all the very best and to remind them to work hard over the Easter holidays and to attend the booster sessions that subject teachers have organised. Details can be found in the GCSE Preparation timetables that can be found on our website.



Preparation for Summer Term

In preparation for a successful summer term I would ask families to support our 3Bs Behaviour policy:

- **Be Safe:**

It is sad fact that, in the times that we live in, we often hear in the news about young people being badly hurt, both emotionally and physically, and increasingly in random attacks.

My advice to all our parents and carers is not to be afraid of making sure you are aware of where your children are and who they are with when they are outside of home or school.

A simple checklist could include:

1. Making regular contact with your child via a text message or phone call;
 2. Having an agreed time by which they must be home;
 3. Knowing who they are planning to meet and where they are intending to go;
 4. If they are attending a party or event:
- Make sure you know the name of the family and address of the venue for a party/event. Your child may well not agree but there's nothing wrong with checking things out beforehand;
 - Have an agreed time and location to collect your child.

Please may I also remind you that, for their own safety, the Police have advised us that our students are not allowed in the following areas unless they are travelling through on their way to or from school.

- Thamesmead Town Centre
- Thamesmead McDonald's
- Plumstead Corner
- Woolwich Town Centre

- **Be Respectful:**

Students should be looking smart and showing how proud they are to belong to St Paul's Academy by wearing their uniform correctly, including the Academy blazer, which is a compulsory item of uniform and should be worn to and from school. Every student must have correct school footwear; trainers are not allowed. Boys must wear uniform school trousers. Please see page 4 of the School Planner for the Uniform Policy and page 5 for a full list of items which are not allowed.

- No jewellery or make up, including nail varnish, acrylic nails, false eyelashes and hair extensions.
- Long hair must be tied back; this applies to both boys and girls.
- If you allow your child to have piercings, these will need to be removed on school days, and not worn to or from school.
- Hair styles and hair colour, including braids, should be the students' natural hair colouring.
- Extreme hair styles and colouring are not allowed. The definition of extreme lies with the Academy. Hair adornments are to be plain blue or black.
- Tram lines shaved into hair or eyebrows are not permitted.

Any student that deliberately and persistently fails to uphold the Academy's policy will be sent home to rectify the situation. This is allowed in educational law.

I would like to thank the families of the students who wear their uniform correctly and act as ambassadors for the Academy in the local community. It is said that we should never judge a book by its cover, but as there are those that do, the impression our students give is of utmost importance.

- **Be Ready for Learning:**

I would ask for your support in making sure that your child is ready for learning by having the correct equipment at all times. This includes:

- **School Planner**

Students should have their School Planners with them at all times and carry them in their hands at lesson changeovers. Planners are to be placed on the student's desk in each lesson. If a Planner is lost or mislaid, replacements will be sold after the Easter holiday for £5.00.

- **Metal Water Bottle**

We no longer sell water in plastic bottles. However, reusable water bottles are available for sale at £1.00 via ParentPay. Please ensure that your child fills their water bottle before school. They will be given the opportunity to refill their bottle during breakfast and lunch breaks. It is important that students drink plenty of water throughout the day as it hydrates their brain and impacts positively on their learning.

- **Swipe Card**

Students will need to show their swipe card to Restaurant staff before they are served food. It is advisable that students wear their swipe card in a lanyard around their neck. Replacement swipe cards, badge holders and lanyards are available from Reception at a cost of £6.00.

The Easter period is always a special time for us. Each year group had a special Easter assembly to commemorate the events of Holy Week. The readers, musicians, choir and dancers greatly enhanced the assemblies. The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in this ultimate triumph and its good news and love which nothing can shake.

Thank you for your continued support of the Academy. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and holy Easter.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Malone
Principal