



13 September 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

I am delighted to report the Year 7 cohort have settled very well to secondary life at St Paul's. The children are all looking very smart in their new school uniform, clearly showing how proud they are to be a student at St Paul's. They have impressed their Form Tutors and subject teachers with the excellent start they have made to their studies. They are eager to learn and do well.

All the staff at St Paul's are looking forward to working with you over the next five years to strive for success for each of our young people in Year 7. By working together we can ensure your child will enjoy their five years at St Paul's Academy, make excellent progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

Next Friday, 20 September, at 9.00am we will be celebrating your child's start at St Paul's with a Welcome Liturgy, which is a special assembly for Year 7 students, their families and their pastoral team. You are warmly invited to attend this service, as it is always lovely to welcome families to the Academy and you can join with us to celebrate the beginning of your child's secondary career. Please arrive by 8.50am to be seated in time for the service to begin at 9.00am.

I hope you and your child have had the opportunity to read through the School Planner together, especially pages 1 – 39, as it contains very useful information which will help you to support your child to be successful and happy at St Paul's.

There are pages in the School Planner that require information from you, as well as signatures:

- Page 1: Contact Page: to ensure the Academy has an accurate and detailed record of contacts that we would need to use in case of an emergency.
- Page 2: Home School Agreement.
- Page 33: ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Page 35: Use of Images Consent Form.

It will support your child to have these pages completed and signed as they will be checked by their Form Tutor and Raising Standards Leader over the coming weeks.

With regard to practical matters, I would like to bring your attention to our ParentPay system. This system allows you to top up your child's swipe card and pay for school trips with a credit or debit card. Please ensure that your child has a sufficient amount on their swipe card to pay for school meals, as we are unable to offer credit and we would wish to avoid any embarrassment for your child. Alternatively, please provide your child with a packed lunch. More details on ParentPay can be found on page 30 of the School Planner.

Also, please may I remind you to label every item of your child's school uniform, as this makes it much easier to reunite any items of lost property with the correct owner.



We are all more aware of the problems with plastic and are trying to reduce our use of single use plastic items. One easy way we can support the care of our environment is for each child to have a reusable water bottle. In addition to the water fountains in the building, we now have five water fountains in the courtyards from which students can refill their bottles. Keeping hydrated is so important for health and wellbeing, as well as supporting children's ability to learn. Every child who has a reusable water bottle will receive a Bronze reward on BehaviourWatch.

Just like at primary school, children use the outside areas of the campus at lunchtime. In preparation for colder and wet weather in the coming months, students should have a suitable outdoors coat (not a hoodie, see page 9 of the School Planner) that can be worn over their blazer.

Students are ambassadors of the Academy and they actively contribute to the school's reputation by their behaviour on their journeys to and from school. If any student is involved in anti-social behaviour on buses they risk their free travel being taken away. The TFL Behaviour Code can be found on page 13 of the School Planner and it would be worthwhile reading this with your child.

We are very pleased with our latest examination results and delighted to announce that 74% of our students achieved a grade 4 or above in English and 70% achieved a grade 4 or above in Mathematics. The high quality results that have been achieved are testament to the hard work of the students, the dedication of our staff and the aspirational ethos that is promoted by them, and in turn supported by our families.

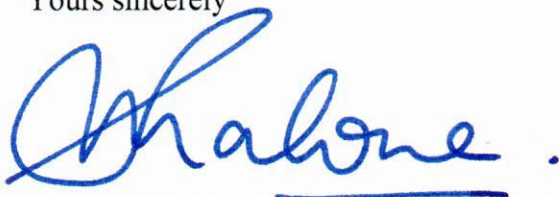
We offer our congratulations and say well done to the Class of 2019. I hope and expect we will be offering similar congratulations to your child's class of 2024 for all their achievements in their five years at St Paul's, as well as their excellent results.

Whilst the next five years will pass very quickly, there is much for your child in Year 7 to look forward to, especially this term, with fundraising events, sporting activities, and of course the enjoyable Christmas activities, such as a pantomime, the Christmas Fayre and Christmas Jumper Day.

There is also a wide choice of after-school clubs for students, including Netball, Football, Health Club, Choir, School Band and Comedy Club. Please check the St Paul's Academy website regularly for information about extra-curricular activities, forthcoming events and school news.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child's happiness and success at St Paul's Academy.

Yours sincerely



**Miss S Malone**  
**Principal**