



We are pleased to report another excellent set of examination results for summer 2016.

## Dear Parents and Carers

*This is the first year that the success of the school is judged against the 4 new measures of English and Mathematics, Attainment 8, Progress 8 and the EBacc. This means that the way our school is judged takes into account much more than students' attainment in just 5 or more GCSEs at A\* – C grades but focuses more fairly on their progress across all subjects. This is a change that we very much welcome at St Paul's.*



Best Wishes  
**Patrick Winston**  
Principal

## Success Breeds Success

We are delighted to announce that 72% of the whole cohort achieved a C or above in both Mathematics and English (with 77% in Mathematics and 87% in English). A phenomenal 89% of students achieved three or more levels of progress in English and 75% achieved three or more levels in Mathematics. Three levels of progress is the national expectation which means that so many of our students have done far better than their KS2 primary school data would suggest. This is particularly pleasing as we continue to have to address the national challenges of fluctuating grade boundaries.

### Hard work and dedication

The second new national measure to report is our Attainment 8 score. This is the average score of students' results across their 8 best subjects. *With a very pleasing score of 50 points, we are delighted to say that every student entering a GCSE or equivalent exam at St Paul's Academy is achieving an average grade of a top C.* This is testament to the hard work and dedication given to our students by our teaching staff. The opportunities to attend holiday and Saturday booster sessions and to sit Walking Talking Mocks are a huge strength of our school. We worked hard this year to make Booster sessions more valuable by focusing on targeting the right students and making testing an outcome of all sessions. We also academically mentored many students in order to alleviate exam anxiety and to boost motivation and self-esteem.

### Comparing results

The measure of Progress 8 is very much welcomed by St Paul's. A student's Progress 8 score is calculated by comparing their results with the average score of other students in the UK who started out with the same Primary school levels as them (meaning that a positive score is excellent). Although we cannot report our exact score yet due to awaiting the national data, we can forecast that our school's result will be a positive one. *St Paul's is a fully inclusive school: we value the progress of all our students, regardless of their ability.*

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## Early entry qualifications

Of particular note, our results confirm our belief in early entry qualifications. We advocate students sitting exams early where possible, if they are ready to do so. This year, 100% of our Mathematics students who sat their exams in Year 10 had already banked A\* – C (a magnificent 130 students). The picture was the same in Religious Studies with an impressive 100% of students achieving an A\* – C grades in Year 10. In November, a group of 28 students sat their IGCSE English early with 100% achieving A\* – C (and 26 out of 28 achieving 4 or more levels of progress).

In our current Year 10, all 45 of our BTEC Sport students who have completed the course one year early achieved A\* – B grades, 42 of our 52 Religious Studies students achieved A or A\* grades, 21 of our 28 GCSE PE students achieved A or A\* and a significant number of Science students have now banked their A\* – C grades. We continue to see the benefits of early entry where nationally the picture is that many schools are not prepared to take the risk. *We think that it is motivating for students to start Year 11 with some qualifications already banked if they have been ready to do so.* For our higher ability Mathematics students, their Year 10 entry created an opportunity to sit Additional Mathematics which was excellent preparation for their A-Level studies.

## EBacc (English Baccalaureate)

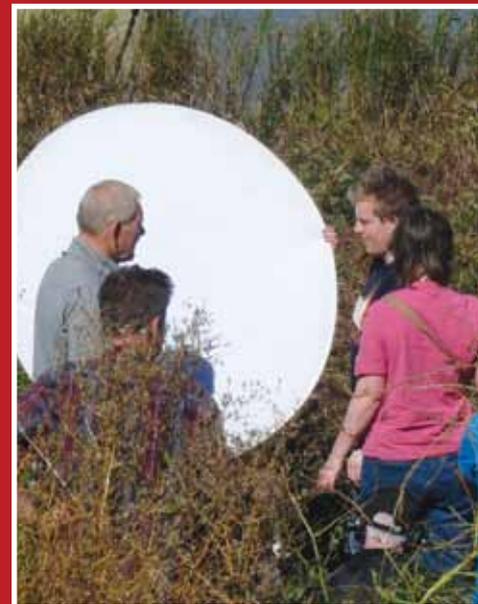
23% of our students achieved the EBacc (English Baccalaureate). This is one of the new measures introduced by the government and stipulates that all students should sit English, Mathematics, two Sciences a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History. We do not believe at St Paul's that this combination of subjects is the right one for all students. *As a comprehensive school, we believe that 'one size does not fit all' and that different pathways in life suit different people. We do, however, recognise that our EBacc combination of subjects needs to be the key priority in our School Improvement Plan.*

## Judged on the performance

As you may be aware, schools are very much judged on the performance of their students who receive Pupil Premium funding compared to those who don't. We are pleased to announce that 67% of the students receiving Pupil Premium funding achieved A\* – C in both English and Mathematics this year compared to 76% of those who don't. Our Pupil Premium students achieve above the national average and with the gap being under 10%, we are confident that we are continuing to move in the right direction of narrowing the gap.

*St Paul's Academy continues to thrive as a school who value collegiality of staff and the success of all students in our school community. Our 2016 results are testament to the fact that we continue to strive to do our very best for all our young people.*

**Congratulations to the Class of 2016!**



## Jack Petchey Achievers' network project

In 2011, The Jack Petchey Foundation launched the pilot Achievers' Network project. This programme engaged with 30 young people aged 14 -25 (Achievement Award Winners, Speak Out Finalists and Step Into Dance Finalists) and provided an intense 18 month personal learning and development programme. The overwhelming success of the programme, has led the Jack Petchey Foundation to develop the programme further, with 2 further cohorts, and it has been transformed into a 12 month programme. To date over 100 young people have engaged with the Achievers' Network Programme with 100% of participants stating that they have increased self-esteem and confidence. At the beginning of this academic year, two

of our Year 11 pupils, Stephen Ola-Oni and Lora Umelue, previous Jack Petchey Young Achiever's Award winners were nominated by Mr Akif and Miss Duffy to become part of the Achievers' Network. Both students had to complete an application process, attend a number of training days and finally attend an interview in East London in order to be considered eligible for the programme. Out of hundreds of young people who were nominated for this programme and selected to attend for interview, both Lora and Stephen were selected. Such an achievement is truly fantastic and a much deserved accolade for two such hard-working, humble students who have always been wonderful ambassadors for St Paul's Academy.

## Programme Outline

The training begins with a weekend residential, whereby young people build and develop friendships with their peers and undertake team building exercises. In addition to the Residential Weekend, there are 4 training days which focus upon subjects such as Self-Esteem, Communication, Leadership, Listening and Negotiating Skills, Peer Pressure, and Time/Stress Management and Study & Revision techniques. In addition to the training sessions, each young person is provided with a skilled mentor, who provides a minimum of 3 face to face contacts, as well as long term support over the span of the programme. Furthermore the Achievers' Network is central to some of the decision making process by Jack Petchey in relation to future programmes,

# are filmed for a documentary

## Where will Geography take you?

I am delighted to tell you about an incredible achievement for both former and past students with SPA Geography and volunteering. As a result of our commitment to volunteering with Thames21 over the last 5 years, we were invited by Dorothy Leiper to take part in a documentary called 'The Living Thames'. The aim was to show how different social groups use the Thames as a working river.

SPA Geography welcomed back some former faces, including the likes of Qozeem, students from the class of 2016, and from the class of 2014, the twins Joel and Joshua.

At the weekend the students picked up plastic washed up by the Thames at high tide. The film crew took footage of the students completing this activity and interviewed Michael Heath (leader of Thames21) about the relationship with St Paul's Academy. Mr Davis was also interviewed about the importance of volunteering as a medium to show Geography in action.

After a brief introduction from the film crew, five former students were interviewed about the importance of volunteering (Habeeb, Qozeem, Lateef (current Year 11), Shannon and Charlotte). All of these students hold the accolade of over 40+ hours volunteering in an array

of different environments. The Lawal family have completed a total of over 150 hours as brothers in Geography. All students were a credit again for the Geography team and were excellent ambassadors for St Paul's Academy.



*Finally, a personal mention for the photography work of Zachary Fontinelle, who has taken all of the photos you see in this article. He is aspiring to be a geographical*

*photographer and with photos of this quality we can see he will have a bright future ahead of him. Well done Zachary for your outstanding work! Zachary has chosen Geography as his future career....*

## Year 9 Students in the Fast Lane

Recently a group of ten Year 9 pupils from St Paul's Academy have started attending offsite vocational provision at Archways Vocational College in Thamesmead. All ten pupils are currently undertaking a BTEC Level 1 qualification in Motor Mechanics through which pupils are working together to build their very own working Go-Carts. The year will conclude for pupils with two track days during which they will be able to test their projects and driving skills. Pupils are developing key trade and craft skills which are essential for apprenticeships and industry. Such life skills would otherwise be left untapped within the constraints of the traditional curriculum.

The importance of Vocational Education has long been stressed by Senior Leadership at SPA. With current government agendas focusing so strongly on making subjects more 'academically demanding', inevitably isolating our less academically able and often most vulnerable students, this project has yet again been a positive step by the school. Such an initiative highlights the total inclusivity of SPA in providing quality, individualised learning for all pupils and is something we as a school are very proud of.

We hope our Year 9 students continue to enjoy their studies at Archways Vocational College and look forward to seeing them in the driving seat of their very own vehicles as well as their own futures.



contributing to design and campaigns, being on interview panels, assisting with day to day work and hosting VIP guests at events, all of which form an integral element of the Achievers' Network experience.

The Achievers' Network Programme culminates in a Graduation Ceremony, which in 2015 was held at the prestigious offices of RBS in Central London. This was an outstanding event, whereby all members of the network were awarded their graduation certificates in front of their families and VIPs.

*We would like to extend our congratulations once again to both Stephen and Lora on their fantastic achievement. We wish them every success as they embark on the programme and hope that it is an enriching and fulfilling experience for both students whereby they continue to grow into mature, ambitious, high-achieving young adults*

## SPA Host Leicestershire Police Cadets

SPA has played host to 20 young people from Leicestershire Volunteer Police Cadets recently 'twinned' with Greenwich VPC who are based at SPA and include many SPA students.

The Sports & Drama Halls became dormitories for the weekend. On Saturday, the Cadets visited the Cutty Sark followed by a BBQ at the school. However, the highlight of the weekend was when SPA car park was 'transformed' into a parade square for joint drill.

Police Sergeant Danny Graham, Leicestershire Police Cadet Lead. – "I am extremely grateful to St Paul's Academy for their generous and gratefully received hospitality. The facilities were more than we could have hoped for, we felt very welcome and happy staying in what is clearly a superb school. The ability to use the school enabled our Police Cadets to experience a fantastic weekend with our new Twin Unit, Greenwich VPC. The visit was a complete success and I have been fielding questions, ever since we returned, from Cadets who are desperate to re-visit St Paul's"



## Enhancing Health and Well-Being at the Academy

As lead school for "health and well-being" in the Greenwich Borough, at St Paul's Academy we endeavour to engage our pupils in all strands of Health and Well-Being. At present, our Year 7 students are availing of Personal, Social and Health Education during Tutor Period each week. Within this, pupils have the opportunity to participate in a practical lesson during Tutor Period once a week in the form of structured physical activities. This gives pupils the chance to actively communicate and interact with one another outside normal class room based activities in a range of problem solving tasks.

Taking responsibility of our own Health and Well-Being is something which we encourage at St Paul's Academy. We currently have a team of Health and Well-Being Ambassadors made up of students from Years 9 to 11. This dedicated team of student volunteers work closely with Miss Devine in the fitness suite every Thursday after school to take an active role in promoting the physical strand of Health and Well-Being through our Health Club. Our ambassadors are also tasked with the challenge of helping to promote overall health and well-being throughout the entire academy which they do a superb job of.

We have had 45+ students attending the Health Club this term already. This is just a small reflection of the hugely positive steps that we as a school are taking towards enhancing our students' overall health and well-being. Keep up the good work everyone!

## XLP and CRED join with St Paul's Academy for a trip to Bulgaria



***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."***



1-4am the XLP team arrive at the airport

The two charities involved in this volunteering programme have achieved something incredible, simply by providing 'positive futures for young people' and 'participation and transformation' of students into adults. In summing up this week in Bulgaria the first thing to do is to cast my mind back to selection - about 9 months ago - when XLP worked with St Paul's Academy staff to select the students and begin making

arrangements for the trip to go ahead. We have had several meetings - often related to teaching the students and what to expect in Bulgaria - and countless fundraising endeavours to raise the money needed just for flights. Please see the school website and Geography Blog for additional photos and videos.



Team XLP

The students started the week volunteering with local Kindergarten children. This was to support the Roma community who are disadvantaged in the educational system as they do not speak fluent Bulgarian and are shunned by society to the outskirts of the



Miles initiates a game of tag



Mauroulla paints with school children



Lauren waits with students during musical chairs



Morejoy interacts with Kindergarten students



Laura draws with a school child



Maria helps a student draw

city. The two days included the planning and delivery of lessons to the children and also weeding and painting railings and play equipment to improve the aesthetic value of the surroundings.

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*Alastair helps colour an image*



*One of the teams works with the Kindergarten children during an organised activity*



*Habeeb works with a student*

The students also visited an orphanage on the third day of the week. Unfortunately, the lack of acceptance of special needs children in Bulgaria means that many children are neglected by their parents and often end up in care homes or orphanages. The team were exceptional in improving the lives of these children through games and interaction. They also returned to Hope Kindergarten to finish painting play equipment in the school grounds.

For the final two days of volunteering the XLP team worked with 8-15 year old teenagers in the park based on themes from the Rio Olympics. Each team embraced one of the moral values developed from the games, such as unity. On the Thursday this also included presentations to the CRED, XLP and the Roma charities at the central office in the city by the students on elements of English life.



*Francesca paints play equipment*



*After lunch the XLP team weed and paint the railings*

Unfortunately, this is only a snapshot of the trip and does not do it justice. If you would like to learn more please visit the **Geography Blog** for a collection of pictures and videos. We have been able to produce a movie that accurately depicts how rewarding it was. The movie shows our students - who were amazing ambassadors for the school - interacting with Roma students, volunteering at a kindergarten school called Hope, working with older students in a park on the Rio Olympics and with the adults when we BEAT them at penalties in football. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykwE3Towbzw>

### **Where will St Paul's take you?**



*Steve presents to the local charities on forms of martial arts*



*Eric presents about cultural music and dancing in England*

## Dulwich Harps Girls' visit Co.Cavan

The U-14 Girls' Gaelic Football team have been training very hard every week to prepare for their annual Ireland tour. Often, over 35 girls attend training every Friday afternoon at St Paul's Academy so it gave me a very difficult task to select just 20 students for the trip. It was delightful to see so many Year 7 students involve themselves in a new sport this year and excel, many striving for places on the team. The skill level these students have shown is incredible after only playing the sport for such a short period of time and the commitment and dedication which the students give to Gaelic Football is exceptional.

Our St Paul's Academy students' in conjunction with Dulwich Harps Gaelic Football Club departed on the morning of Saturday, the 9th of July, 20 girls accompanied by Eadaoin Devine, Judy Buckley and Joseph Meade, flew into George Best Belfast City Airport and enjoyed their first day relaxing with some lunch, soaking up the atmosphere in Belfast City Centre. The girls visited City Hall and had a chance to shop in the Castlecourt before departing. At 4pm, the girls' team arrived at their very welcoming host club, Cavan Gaels. Greeted with big smiles and our club colours, we knew from the outset, we were going to have a fabulous time!

The first adventure in Cavan took place in Kingspan Breffini Park, with our students going to watch one of the GAA Football All Ireland Senior Championship Qualifiers- Cavan Vs Carlow. A wonderful experience for the girls and a first for many of them. They certainly made themselves noticed, many of the girls involving themselves in the game, chanting and cheering for the home team! Our girls had a chance to mingle with our host team before going back to Terry Coyle Park, home of Cavan Gaels for some

food and evening entertainment! After a few games of darts, pool and table tennis, our girls in true style showed off some of their infamous dance moves to the locals! Plenty of laughs were had before the girls departed back to their host houses for the evening.

After recharging their batteries with plenty of sleep, our girls made their way back to Terry Coyle Park for the 4 team Tournament which the girls had been eagerly anticipating. The girls played 4 games in total, two 15 aside and two 9 aside games- the first contest was against our host team, Cavan Gaels. Our girls put up a good fight after a tight first half scoring 2 points against Cavan Gaels 1 point. After the half time team talk, hard work and determination saw the girls come out on top, winning 2-5 to 0-1. Our next game saw our girls split into 2 teams, the girls played their socks off, but were unfortunately were narrowly beaten in both games by Baileboro and Ballyhaise. Both 9 aside games were played with great spirit, it was excellent for our girls to get such experience in all three games, playing against teams of this calibre in Ireland.

The final game of their day saw the Dulwich Harps girls take on an All Star team, comprised of players from the other two visiting club teams, Baileboro, Ballyhaise and our hosts Cavan Gaels. The game was tight from start to finish, with every player on the field giving their best. With the school motto instilled in our girls, LINO (Losing Is Not An Option!), they fought hard to the bitter end. The game resulted in a draw which thankfully kept both teams happy! Some fine displays of football came from Alex Barnes in midfield, Sheilla Idehen up front and Shana Ajufo our half back, however, the player of the tournament on the Dulwich Harps side

must be awarded to Tarila Yinfaowei with her super saves in goal!

On Sunday evening, our team were treated like royalty once again, fed like Queens in the club house before heading off to the local bowling alley for some down time. Afterwards, girls had the option to catch the European final, play pool or table tennis or just hang out as they wished with their host families. Again, the evening was finished off with some song and dance, before presentations were made to both clubs. Dulwich Harps presented Cavan Gaels Mark Leddy and Sophie Graham with their plaque in appreciation for all the hard work and effort which the club had given to making this such a memorable weekend. Cavan Gaels very generously presented our Mentors with a framed Cavan Gaels club jersey which will take pride of place at St Paul's Academy. A lovely memento which the school will cherish for years to come.

On Monday, our girls said their 'Goodbyes' to their new friends and wished their host families well. So many lovely comments were made throughout the weekend about how polite, well-mannered and behaved our pupils were, a credit to the girls themselves, their families and teachers.

Monday saw the girls make their way to Croke Park, not just for the stadium tour but the the Etihad Skyline tour. This offered the girls panoramic city views and insights into Dublin's celebrated landmarks combined with the thrill of walking on top of one of Europe's largest stadiums.

Special thanks must go to Mark Leddy (Cavan Gaels U-14 Coach) for establishing the link between the two clubs and for working so hard to arrange the visit, Noeleen Tully, (Secretary of Cavan Gaels LGFA), Sophie Graham, (Chairperson) and Niall O'Riordan for their relentless help throughout the weekend. A massive thank you must go to all of the host families from Cavan Gaels, who looked after the team and teachers so well throughout the weekend. We are forever grateful to all those individuals who facilitated in any way- for their time, organisation and preparation to ensure the weekend was a massive success for all involved. Thank you to Judy Buckley and Joe Meade for their support throughout the tour.

Last but certainly not least, a massive well done to all the girls of Dulwich Harps who represented the school so fantastically on their trip. They were an absolute pleasure to have on tour and every one they met commented on how charismatic and charming this group of girls were! To come over and compete against girls who have been playing the sport for years and to play so well is an amazing achievement! You have made St Paul's Academy and Dulwich Harps very proud! Well done ladies! Our next stop will be the International Tournament at St Gall's, Co. Antrim in October.



# Joseph, Tiernan and 83,000 noisy spectators!

*On Saturday 6th August, two of our very talented Year 7 sportsmen had the unique opportunity to play Gaelic football at Croke Park in front of a sell-out crowd of 83,000 people. Croke Park is situated in Dublin, Ireland and is the third largest sports stadium in Europe after the Nou Camp in Barcelona and Wembley in West London.*

Joseph McCormack and Tiernan Dunne were selected by the PE department to represent the school and local community as a reward for their hard work and commitment to the Year 7 Gaelic football team. As the boys walked out onto the Croke Park pitch during the half-time break of the All-Ireland Quarter-Finals they were overwhelmed by the size of the stadium, the beautiful playing surface and the noise of the crowd.

During their visit they also had the opportunity to explore the GAA museum to learn about the cultural influence of Gaelic games in Ireland, the UK and further afield. It was certainly an experience that both boys won't forget in a hurry and one that will hopefully inspire them to continue taking part in sport for many years to come. Well done boys!



are currently constructing our new 3G sports facility, which will open at the start of the spring term.



ST PAUL'S  
ACADEMY

51 Finchale Road, Abbey Wood,  
London, SE2 9PX

Tel: 020 8311 3868  
Fax: 020 8312 1642

Email: [patrick.winston@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:patrick.winston@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk)  
web address: [www.stpaulsacademy.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsacademy.org.uk)

## TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2016

### Autumn Term

Tuesday, 6th September.  
(Year 7 only return)  
Wednesday, 7th September  
(Year 8 – 11 return)  
Thursday, 22nd December

### Autumn Half Term

Monday, 24th October  
Friday, 28th October

### Spring Term

Monday, 9th January  
Thursday, 6th April

### Spring Half Term

Monday, 13th February  
Friday, 17th February

### Summer Term

Monday, 24th April  
Friday, 21st July

### Summer Half Term

Monday, 29th May  
Friday, 2nd June