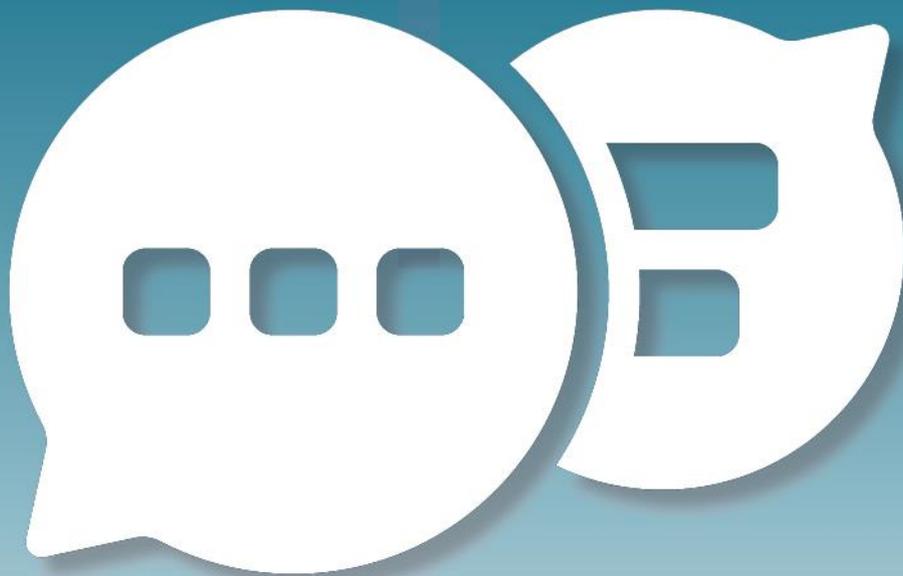




23/04/2021

Headteacher's Weekly Broadcast



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Headteacher's Weekly Broadcast

We welcome our students back following the Easter break to Summer Term 1. I hope you all had a relaxing Easter break; the weather held its own and we saw some lovely sunshine during the second week of the holidays.

On behalf of all the staff here at Saint Paul's I would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your children attend school every day and are on time. As a reminder, school starts each day at 08:40 with form time.

Thank you for also ensuring that your children have returned back to school in full school uniform and wearing the correct school shoes. If parents have any issues with school uniform including shoes, please can I ask that you contact our Pastoral Manager, Mr Dempsey, who will be happy to help and advise you with regards to this matter.

As stated in my letter to you before the Easter break, students will not be permitted to wear outside coats inside the school building and the wearing of 'hoodies' is not permitted. Mobile phones, headphones and ear buds are not to be visible in school times from the beginning of to the end of the school day. If visible, students will be requested to hand over the device which will be kept in safekeeping and returned at the end of the school day.

I am happy to report that most students are complying with these rules, however, in remote cases where students refuse to handover any of the above items to staff, a phone call home will be made to yourselves to advise you of such by the Pastoral Assistant for your child's year group.

School Garden

The school's Business Manager, Mr Sugden, will be working on a project to develop our school gardens and outdoor spaces. Mr Sugden has plans to create an outdoor classroom and a peace garden in the area at the back of school along with a stunning wildlife haven at the front of school. If you are able to help in anyway, either by helping in the garden or donating bulbs, shrubs etc please can I ask you to contact Mr Sugden directly who will be only too pleased to chat with you with regards to improving these spaces.

Royal Mail Competition

Some of our teaching staff have taken up the challenge to enter students into a Royal Mail 'Heroes Stamp Design Competition'. The competition is for students between the ages of 12 and 14 to design a stamp to honour the heroes of the coronavirus pandemic. We will share our entries with you when we have them and will let you know if any of our students win a prize. Good luck to all who take part.

We are going GREEN

Plans for students and staff to recycle plastic bottles and cans in school are underway with the use of reverse vending machines. We are looking into installing Electric Vehicle Charging points for staff, parents and the wider community. We are also in the process of switching the lighting on our outdoor all-weather pitch to be completely LED to be more energy efficient.

As always, I will keep you updated on these new initiatives once I have more information.



School IT Infrastructure

We are well underway in bringing our IT infrastructure into the 21st century. The update has improved the speed of our IT systems and in turn will help our students with their IT skills.

eSports Competitions

We're starting to prepare for inter-school competitions and plan to enter into a competitive Rocket League championship next year, showcasing our investment into the school's IT library PCs and our 1GB internet speeds. We're excited that we may have future champions here at St. Paul's.

Fire Practice

I am pleased to report that the scheduled fire practice this week was very successful. All students, staff and visitors had left the school building and were all accounted for within 4 minutes of the alarm sounding. Students left the building in an orderly manner and their conduct during the fire practice was exemplary.

Access Control Gates

To improve the security and safeguarding of all our students, staff and visitors we are in the process of installing an Access Control Gate by the entrance from the staff car park. This will mean that all visitors to school will need to buzz reception for entry onto the school grounds. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused whilst work is in progress.

Speed Limit

Please can I ask parents to be mindful of the speed limit in the school car park, the speed limit is 5mph. Please let us all help to keep everyone safe - thank you.

Parent Governor Vacancy

The Chair of the Local Governing Body has informed me that a vacancy has arisen for a Parent Governor to join the Local Governing Body. However, we have been unable to follow this through due to the pandemic. Hopefully as COVID restrictions ease we will be in a position to send out information to you with regards to this vacancy. Please keep reading my Broadcasts in the coming weeks for further information.

Covid Testing

As a reminder for parents who have consented to their children being tested for Covid, testing kits will be sent home every two weeks. Thank you for letting us know the results via ParentApps.



NEWS FROM AROUND SCHOOL

Exciting Opportunities in our Music Department

I am pleased to report that eight of our Year 7 students have been chosen to attend a weekly drum session on Tuesdays from 3.15 to 4.14pm. A specialist will visit school to deliver the sessions. Eighteen Year 8 students have chosen to attend a weekly guitar session on Thursdays from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. Again, a visiting Tutor will deliver the sessions. We will also be starting a Year 7 vocal group on Mondays from 3.15 to 4.15pm which we hope to do outside. Singing lessons will also start to take place this term during the school day for groups of up to 4 students in the same year group.

Year 8 English Lesson

Year 8 have completed essays on the importance of rhetoric in Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. Students analysed how MLK uses language to inspire his audience and class 8x3 have written some brilliant essays reflecting on how audiences then and now would be affected by his powerful words.

Food Technology

Exciting news that Food Technology, practical cooking lessons are beginning again with Covid safe measures in places from next week.

Modern Foreign Languages – EAL GCSE Testing

We have been conducting all of the EAL (English as an additional language) GCSE testing in the languages department this week. A fantastic opportunity for our EAL students to showcase their first language with the added bonus of gaining an extra GCSE.

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

A message from Mr Mawn, Progress Leader for Year 11, Year 11 leavers hoodies - deadline extended until Friday, 30th April 2021.

Finally, as always thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to get in touch should you require any further information, help or advice.

I will write to you all again next week with more exciting news from the school week. Wishing you and your families a lovely weekend and let's hope the sun continues to shine.

Kind regards



Mr Hren
Headteacher

