



Saint Paul's Catholic High School



September 2024

Dear parents and carers

Welcome Back – September 2024

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope you all had a restful and relaxing summer.

As we embark on this new academic year, we warmly welcome back all of our students, especially our new Year 7 cohort. Our school continues to thrive, as we are once again oversubscribed with a waiting list in all year groups. We have received an unprecedented number of appeals this year for our Year 7 places with over 250 first choice preference for 180 places.

Attendance is so important in ensuring that your child doesn't fall behind in terms of attainment and progress and so, once again, we will be rewarding those students with excellent attendance throughout the year with reward trips and various initiatives each term. We have introduced a new attendance strategy for the start of term: if your child has 100% attendance in a school week, they will be entered into the prize draw which will take place on the Friday for a chance to win one of five £10 vouchers to be rewarded to each year group, every week, up to October half term.

I'm thrilled to share that students and staff at Saint Paul's have much to celebrate following the latest GCSE results. Congratulations to the Class of 2024; the achievements of our pupils are a testament to the dedication and relentless focus on high standards by our teachers, as well as the determination and resilience shown by our students. Every single result reflects the hard work and abilities of our students, especially as they faced the challenge of returning to pre-COVID levels with full examinations. Some of our students have even achieved grades among the highest in the country, truly a reason for the entire Saint Paul's community to celebrate.

49% of students at Saint Paul's achieved a Grade 4 or better in English. 51% of students at Saint Paul's achieved a Grade 4 or better in Mathematics. In total 43% of students achieved a Grade 4 or better in English and maths. Similarly, in art 77%, chemistry 62%, sports studies 61%, Spanish 60%, food & nutrition 58%, biology 57% and Italian/French 50% of students achieved a Grade 4 or better.

Ten Saint Paul's students achieved Grade 9 in a variety of subjects including English Language, English Literature, Religion, History, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Art and Sports studies placing them amongst the highest performing students in the country. One student achieved seven Grade 9's with three grade 8's. Another student achieved one grade 9, two grade 8's, four grade 7's with two grade 6's. Another student achieved one Grade 9 with six grade 7's and two grade 6's which are extraordinary achievements.

BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Saint Paul's Catholic High School

Firbank Road, Newall Green, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 2YS.

Telephone: 0161 499 0000 Email: admin@st-paulshigh.net Website: www.st-paulshigh.net Twitter: @StPaulsRCHigh

Mr M. Whiteside, Headteacher.

We are His body, living and learning as one.





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These results are a testament to the incredible young people of Saint Paul's. Our thanks go to all staff for their hard work and on-going commitment and to the parents and carers of our children for their wonderful support.



We wish all our former Year 11 students' success in their future careers and we look forward to seeing them at the Year 11 GCSE rewards in December 2024.

Early Closure

On Thursday 12th September 2024, we will be holding our 'Annual Open Evening' providing prospective students and their families the opportunity to visit Saint Paul's.

In order for staff to prepare for this event the school will be closed at 12:20pm for all students.

If you know any parents who are in Year 5/6 in primary school, please forward on the link below so they can book in advance - which will reduce their queueing time on the day - as we experienced a high volume of potential pupils and parents last year. We will open our yard and outdoor multi-games areas to support with parking. There will be three scheduled Headteacher talks in the main hall starting at 4.00pm, 4.45pm and 5.20pm lasting no more than twenty minutes.

<https://forms.office.com/e/8K9qV6WsnY>

There will be a limited number of sandwiches available for students who would like lunch to take away at 12.20pm. I would be grateful if you could return the reply slip below to the main school office as we would like an indication of how many students to cater for.

We will endeavour to get our school bus here at 12.25pm but we are still awaiting confirmation from the bus company. As soon as we have this, we will send this information out via ParentApp and on the school website.

Expectations and Standards

As our children return to school, we are reminding them of our school mantra of '**BELONG, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE**'. I believe that these three words, along with our faith mission, fully articulate what our school's vision is, in ensuring all our students have a safe, enjoyable and successful education at St Paul's. Your children belong here as part of the St Paul's family. We have our faith which underpins all we do and we believe in ensuring your child is happy and confident in their own ability. Finally, we want all of our children to achieve to the best of their ability and be successful young people.

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Upon students' return to school this week, I would like to remind you of the high expectations with uniform which we expect our students to maintain throughout the year – all information has been communicated in previous letters and clear communication is placed on the school website. I want to thank you all for ensuring that students are dressed in the correct uniform and dressed for success. This is important in ensuring that we continue to meet the high standards and expectations we have here at Saint Paul's Catholic High School.



The success of your children is a reflection and a product of the high standards which we expect from our students. Getting the basics right is a key part of the formula for success and I believe that good attendance and punctuality to school will lead to high achievement. Your continued support in ensuring that your child is at school every day and on time will make a real difference.

Prior to the summer break all parents (current years 8 -11) were re-issued with parental log-ins for Class Charts. Please can we ask that you each take time to log in to the parental Class Charts app as this will give you instant feedback on your child's achievements and behaviours in school each day. The log-in details for our new Year 7 parents will be sent out by **Friday 13th September**. From **Monday 30th September**, all communication regarding after-school sanctions will be communicated via the Class Charts app. If you are struggling to log onto the app and would like some assistance, please contact school and our staff will be happy to support you.

Year 7

It has been a pleasure to welcome all of our new Year 7 students to our St Paul's family; they have really impressed me, from my initial welcome assembly to seeing them working hard within their new timetabled lessons. I look forward to working with them for another five years.

New Toilet Block

Both sets of toilets are now fully renovated and greatly improved with more open space and additional sinks and toilet basins.

New Clocks

Attendance and punctuality are key to improving achievement and so we have invested in a number of talking clocks to prompt and encourage students to get to their lessons more quickly and fully engage in their learning, in order to maximise their potential for future examinations.

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New Super 7 introduction

The new Super 7 initiative has been introduced so that students are prepared for their learning and take full ownership of being equipped for school, ensuring a smooth start to lessons. Students should carry a bag every day big enough to fit their exercise books, PE kit, technology resources, pen, pencil, ruler, scientific calculator, highlighters and a reading book. They will be rewarded with Achievement Points and, more importantly, with the progress they will make across their subjects.

As I have said previously, having worked within the St Paul's community since 2001, it is a privilege for me to work together with you and your children in ensuring that they receive the best possible education and preparation for their future.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, Saint Paul's enjoyed a very busy and successful time building on the very positive outcomes from our Diocesan inspection visit in June 23 and the Good judgement from our Ofsted visit in 2022.

We look forward, optimistically and confidently, to even more successes in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Whiteside
Headteacher

My child would like a sandwich from the canteen on Thursday, 12th September 2024. School closes at 12.20pm

Name of Student _____ Form _____

Signed _____ Dated _____

Please return reply slips to the main school office

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