



# Saint Paul's Catholic High School



December 2025

Dear parents and carers

## Christmas 2025

As we come to the close of a joyful and fruitful autumn term at St. Paul's Catholic High School, I am filled with gratitude for the many blessings we have experienced as a school community.

The year 2025 has been marked by growth, achievement, and a deepening of our shared mission to nurture the spiritual, academic, and personal development of every student. We look ahead to 2026 with hope and confidence, trusting in God's continued guidance.

Christmas holds a profound significance for us as a Catholic school. Amid the busyness and commercial distractions of the season, we are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. His life and teachings offer us a model of love, humility, and service. This sacred time invites us to pause, reflect, and renew our commitment to living out Gospel values in our homes, our school, and our wider community. It is also a precious opportunity to cherish the presence of family and friends and to give thanks for the gift of togetherness.

This term has been rich with memorable moments and achievements. We welcomed families to our annual Open Evening and celebrated the Year 7 Family Welcome Mass, a beautiful occasion that affirmed our shared faith and partnership. A group of students embarked on a pilgrimage to Rome, Italy, deepening their understanding of history, faith, and compassion.

Our students have also excelled in sport and the arts. We are proud of their performances in the Manchester Cross Country competition, with several selected to represent the Manchester boys' and girls' town teams - a remarkable accomplishment. Year 7 students have embraced sporting life at St. Paul's with enthusiasm, participating in table tennis, football, netball, and basketball. Older year groups have also enjoyed success in fixtures across Manchester and beyond.

In the arts, our drama students gave a captivating performance of '*The taming of the Shrew*' as part of the MANCEP Shakespeare Festival at Loreto College, showcasing their talent and creativity.

## A Celebration of Unity and Culture at St. Paul's

What a truly unforgettable evening! Our International Evening was a vibrant celebration that brought together the heart of St. Paul's Catholic High School and the rich, diverse spirit of Wythenshawe - all under one roof. It was a joyful expression of the unity and inclusivity that lie at the core of our Catholic mission.

## 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](mailto:admin@st-paulshigh.net) Website: [www.st-paulshigh.net](http://www.st-paulshigh.net) X: @StPaulsRCHigh

**Mr M. Whiteside, Headteacher.**

**We are His body, living and learning as one.**





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From delicious dishes representing cultures from around the world to dazzling performances filled with music, dance, and storytelling, students and local residents came together to share their heritage, talents, and personal journeys. The evening was a powerful reminder of the beauty found in our differences and the strength we gain through community.

It was more than just an event - it was a true showcase of what makes St. Paul's and Wythenshawe so special: a place where every individual is valued, every culture is celebrated, and every voice contributes to the harmony of our shared life.

## Business, Careers, and Aspirations at St. Paul's

At St. Paul's Catholic High School, we believe that every student is called to discover and develop their God-given talents. Our business and careers events, alongside interview skills sessions, offer invaluable opportunities for students to explore their future vocations and prepare for life beyond school. With this in mind, we were proud to host our inspirational Year 11 Aspirations Day and a well-attended Revision Support Evening.

A particular highlight was welcoming back former students, whose personal testimonies offered rich insights into their journeys since leaving St. Paul's. Their stories were a powerful reminder of the impact of faith, resilience, and hard work in shaping a meaningful life.

We are deeply grateful to the many businesses and guest speakers from across Manchester who generously gave their time to support our students through workshops and talks. These included representatives from Autotrader, Manchester Airport Group, Greater Manchester Police, Granada Television, Intellect Group, Jimmy Egan's Boxing Academy, Screen Manchester and SMI Construction. Their contributions helped our students to broaden their horizons and reflect on the many paths available to them.

## Nurturing Healthy Habits and Life Skills Through Community Partnerships

At St. Paul's Catholic High School, we recognise that working in partnership with our wider community is essential to the holistic development of our students and the continued flourishing of our school. We are blessed to have received support from national and local organisations who share our commitment to nurturing young people.

We were delighted to have been selected again to be one of 400 schools across the country selected to receive funding from Tesco as part of their Fruit and Veg Scheme. Thanks to this initiative, every student is offered a piece of fruit each morning - an act of care that helps them begin the day with a healthy and nourishing start.

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In addition, we have been working closely with FareShare, whose generous provision of surplus food has enabled us to run an after-school cooking class for our Key Stage 3 students. These sessions have been a wonderful opportunity for students to learn practical skills, prepare meals from scratch, and take their creations home to share with their families, strengthening bonds and encouraging stewardship of resources.

Our Year 10 Health and Social Care group recently visited a local care home, and the experience was truly impactful. It touched the hearts of our students, inspiring them to support elderly members of our community. They are now eager to get involved in upcoming projects, which will provide fantastic opportunities for them to make a positive difference in our local area.

## Key events for remainder of this term:

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our traditional end of year festivities to celebrate this term; these will include our **annual Christmas Mass on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** as well as a range of student reward activities such as silent disco/dodgeball/and an in-house cinema experience.

The school's annual **pre-Christmas show, 'Legally Blonde'** has been another resounding success! Performances have taken place on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> **December**.

The **Year 7 Pantomime trip** to see Sleeping Beauty at Plaza in Stockport will be held on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December**; details will be sent out by letter from the Head of Performing Arts.

Our school is participating in **National Christmas Jumper Day on 11<sup>th</sup> December**; students can wear a Christmas jumper for a donation of £1 or bring in 2 tins of food or a bag of sugar (normal school uniform must be worn apart from the school jumper) in order to support our charity drive for corner stone.

A parent **Christmas Carol Service** will take place at **Sacred Heart Church on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December starting at 4pm** - all are welcome to join us for a sing-a-long with a mince pie and mulled wine.

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This year's **Senior Citizens Christmas Party** will be held on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 1:30pm until 3:30pm**. Pie and Peas are on the menu as well as a visit from Santa. Please contact school for further details.

We are also inviting all of our students to enjoy a lovely **Christmas meal** with us on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** for which we are asking for a donation of just £1 per child to support the Wythenshawe Food Bank (drinks are sold separately and are not included in the donation price). Donations can either be placed on ParentPay or collection buckets will be available in the canteen. **If you are not able to register for this, please contact the school office before 3pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** by ringing 0161 499 0000, emailing us at [admin@st-paulshigh.net](mailto:admin@st-paulshigh.net) or message via ParentApp.

## 12 days of Christmas Attendance Incentive

We are excited to announce our 12 Days of Christmas attendance incentive! From Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, students who attend school for the full day, arrive on time (before 8:40am), and have 0 behaviour points will be entered into a daily prize draw for a £100 One4All voucher. Students who maintain perfect attendance, punctuality, and behaviour for all 12 days will be entered into a special draw on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December for a grand prize of a £250 One4All voucher. Additionally, there will be 50 boxes of chocolates (10 per year group) as secondary prizes.

We hope this initiative encourages our students to maintain excellent attendance and behaviour during this festive period.

We have had a fantastic response from the majority of our students around attendance this year and need to continue to push on raising this even higher as we go into next year. The year 7 in particular are leading the way which is fantastic with an average year group attendance of 96%.

## Christmas Holidays

The school will close for students on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 12.20pm** parents will need to make alternative arrangements regarding transport. Sandwiches will be available for all students who require them during break time only. School will re-open on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 8.40am**.

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## Important dates for next term

Year 9 virtual parents evening will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 starting at 4.30pm until 7pm. Parents will be using the online School Cloud system for this evening. Options advice will be online on the school website which will be ready on that evening with the information from Mr Fannon.

Year 11 face-to-face parents evening will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 starting at 4:00pm until 7pm. Please can parents book appointments with subject teachers online using the School Cloud timings on the evening will be different to the school cloud experience.

School closes for half-term holiday **on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026** with an INSET Day (school closed for students) on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. School will re-open on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 08:40am.**

Year 10 virtual parents evening will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 starting at 4:30pm until 7pm and will be online using the School Cloud.

Year 8 virtual parents evening will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 starting at 4:30pm until 7pm and will be online using the School Cloud.

Year 7 virtual parents evening will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 starting at 4:30pm until 7pm and will be online using the School Cloud.

As we prepare for the Christmas break, I thank you for your continued support and partnership.

May the peace and joy of Christ fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Whiteside  
**Headteacher**

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