

# The **Buzz**

Saint Paul's Catholic High School

Spring  
Issue  
**2026**



Events &  
activities at  
Saint Paul's  
Catholic High  
School



**GOOD**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
INSPECTORATE**  
THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INSPECTION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES



2022

**Ofsted**  
Good  
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**BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE**



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# Welcome to Saint Paul's Spring edition of The Buzz.



## Welcome to 2026 at Saint Paul's Catholic High School.

We are delighted to begin 2026 year with such a positive start. It's been wonderful to welcome back our students and see the school filled with energy, enthusiasm and purpose.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring students arrive in full uniform and ready to learn. High standards in appearance reflect the high expectations we hold across all areas of school life, and your efforts help reinforce the values we promote at Saint Paul's.

Strong academic outcomes are built on solid foundations. Attendance and punctuality are key contributors to student success, and we are

grateful for your commitment to ensuring your child is in school every day and on time. These daily habits make a real and lasting difference.

At Saint Paul's, we are committed to helping every student reach their full potential—spiritually, academically, and socially. In partnership with our families, parishes, and wider community, we nurture our core values and encourage each student to grow in faith and learning. Visitors to our school consistently comment on our vibrant Catholic ethos, our passion for teaching and learning, and the strong sense of community that defines Saint Paul's. These qualities are the heartbeat of our school and something we are proud to share.

The past few months have been busy and full of exciting developments, all of which you can read about in this newsletter.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to working together to make this year a successful and enriching one for all.

**Mr Whiteside**

**Headteacher**

## Applications to Join Saint Paul's

We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents and pupils who have chosen Saint Paul's as their first-choice secondary school. We are thrilled to announce that we have received an incredible 305 first-choice applications, contributing to a total of 556 applications for next year's Year 7 intake. Your interest and support are greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, for families considering joining us in September 2027, we will be hosting an Open Evening in September 2026. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to tour our facilities, meet our dedicated staff, and speak with current students about life at Saint Paul's.

If you are planning to apply, please refer to our Admissions Policy, available in the Policies section of the school website. This document contains all the essential information to guide you through the application process.

Thank you once again for your continued interest and support. We look forward to welcoming the next generation of Saint Paul's students.



# A prayer of St Francis

**Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed 2026 a  
“Special Year of St. Francis”  
to commemorate  
the 800th anniversary  
of the saint’s death.**

**Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)**

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:**

**where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek**

**to be consoled as to console,**

**to be understood as to understand,**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

**Amen.**





# Catholic Life/Chaplaincy



## **Advent - preparing for Christmas**

We began with Advent assemblies, where the Advent wreath reminded us of hope, peace, joy and love.

Our Advent Mass, celebrated by Father Ramesh, was a beautiful occasion filled with heartfelt singing from all students, led by our talented school choir.

One of the highlights of Advent was our Carol Service at Sacred Heart Church after school. We were privileged to welcome the choir from Sacred Heart Primary School, who had been practicing for six weeks under the guidance of Mr Fannon, our Deputy Head Teacher. Together with staff, students, and families, we sang carols that truly captured the spirit of Christmas.

Our Christmas Gift Initiative was a wonderful success. Thanks to the generosity of "The Toy Appeal", Manchester Airport and our amazing staff, our school chapel was flooded with gifts. Because of this kindness, many families in our close community were able to experience the joy of Christmas and enjoy a present.

Looking ahead: Our Year 9 students are looking forward to their retreat at Sacred Heart run by a Shrewsbury Youth Mission team at the beginning of February.

Our Year 7 students are looking forward to Savio House residential retreat in February.









# Christmas Jumper Day

## Christmas Jumper Day

Saint Paul's staff and students embraced the festive spirit by donning Christmas jumpers to raise donations for Cornerstone, a charity supporting the homeless in Manchester.

"As a Catholic school, Advent is a really important time for our students to think about others and how we can help and support them," explained Mr Whiteside, Headteacher.

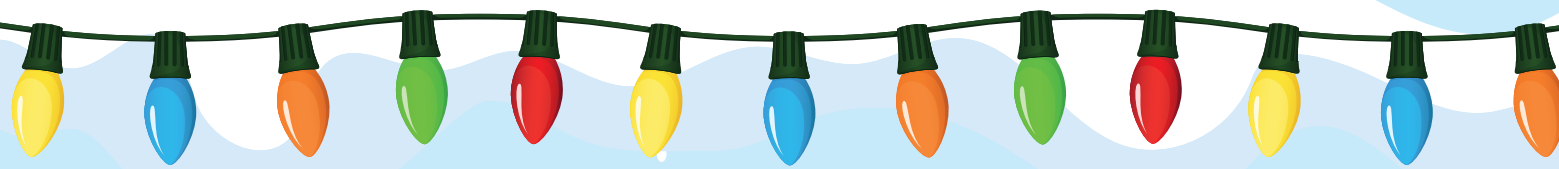
"The students and staff enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers, and we truly appreciated the many donations we received."

This year, we invited contributions of £1 or more, along with tins of food or bags of sugar.

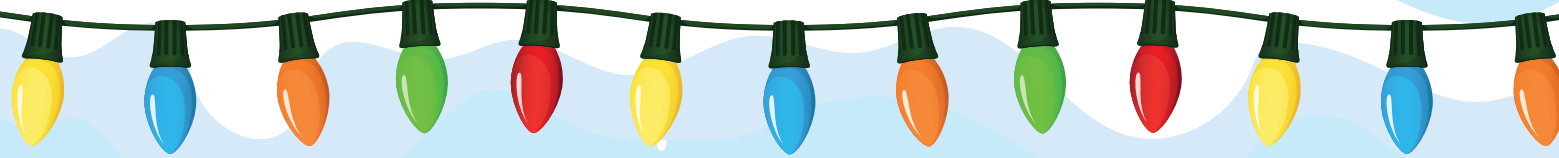
All donations were sent to Cornerstone shelter, helping those most in need this Christmas.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and support.









Happy Christmas



Happy Christmas



Happy Christmas



Happy Christmas





# 100% Attendance



## 100% Attendance Reward Day

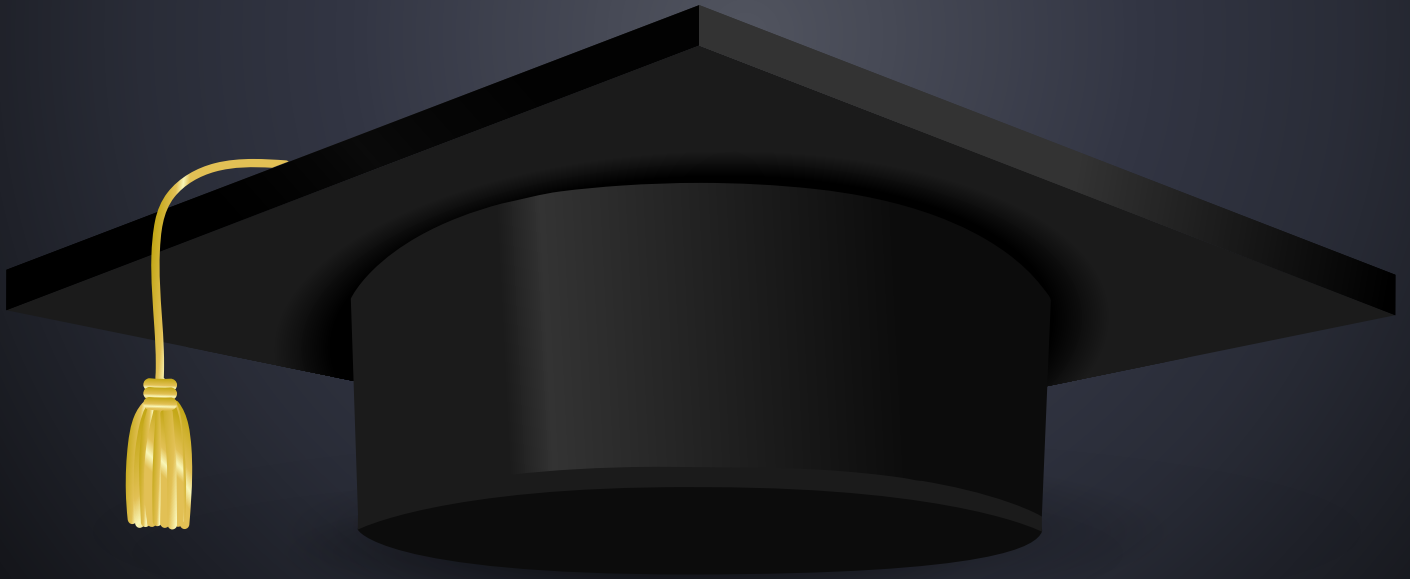
Saint Paul's rewarded students who achieved 100% attendance with a special reward day. These students received a special invite and enjoyed an extended break with a delicious hot chocolate.

"As a school, we want to reward positive behaviour and good attendance, and celebrate the success of our students," said Ms Le Marquand, Education Welfare Officer. "Rewards such as this motivate students to do well—it's a tangible recognition of their efforts. Praising success has a very positive effect on behaviour and performance."

Ms Doherty-Dyson, Attendance Officer, added: "We want all of our students to have a drive to attend and achieve during their time at Saint Paul's."

Mr Seddon, Assistant Headteacher, commented: "Treats like this encourage and inspire our students to achieve their best. It was a great pleasure to reward those who have shown such excellent attendance and worked so hard throughout the term."





★ CLASS OF ★

2025

BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



# Year 12 Awards Evening



## Year 12 Awards Evening

Saint Paul's proudly welcomed back former students for our annual Certificate and Awards Presentation, celebrating their achievements and progress during the previous academic year.

Awards were presented for academic success and personal development, alongside the distribution of exam certificates. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the hard work of students and staff.

Headteacher, Mr Whiteside, said:

"The Presentation Ceremony is a highlight of our school calendar. It's a privilege to recognise the achievements of our ex-students and celebrate their success. We wish them every happiness in the next chapter of their lives and thank parents for their support over the years."

Exam certificates are still available for collection from Reception.



# Year 11 Students Visit

## Year 11 Students Visit the University of Manchester for Higher Maths Study Day

Our Year 11 students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a Higher Maths Study Day at the University of Manchester. The event brought together students from several schools, all aiming to achieve top grades in their upcoming GCSE exams.

Throughout the day, students collaborated to tackle challenging mathematical problems and explored the types of questions they might encounter in their exams. The sessions encouraged teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, giving students a real taste of advanced mathematical concepts.

Mrs Johnson, Head of Maths, commented: "We are incredibly proud of how our students represented the school. Their enthusiasm, cooperation and determination were outstanding, and they truly made the most of this valuable learning experience."



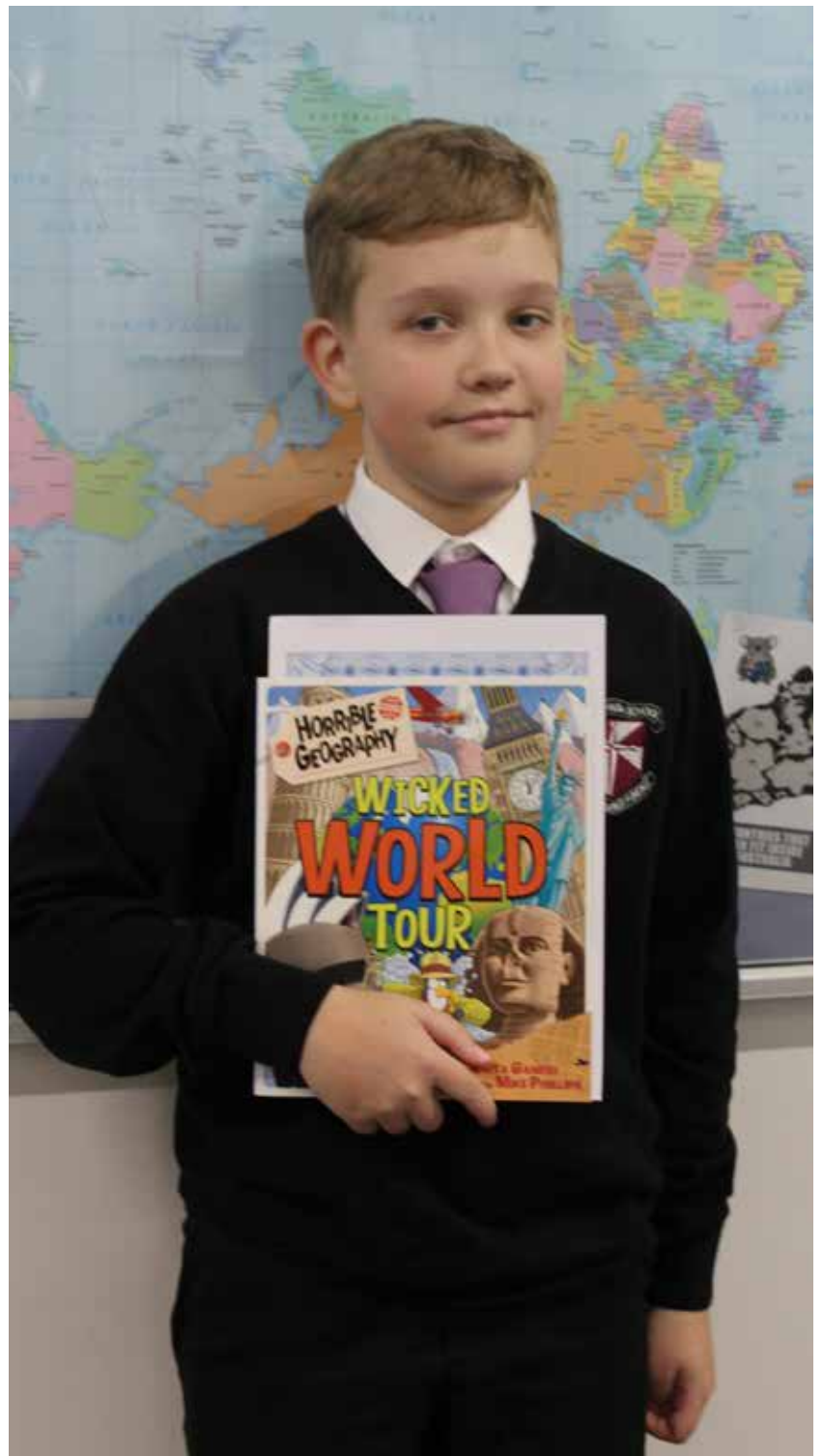
# Celebrating Geography Stars!

## Celebrating Geography Stars!

We're thrilled to recognise the outstanding efforts of our Geography students who have excelled in their Educake homework. Their dedication and hard work truly deserve a prize!

A special congratulations goes to Marcel in Year 7, who achieved the highest number of correct answers across the entire year group. As a reward for his exceptional performance, Marcel was presented with a book to celebrate his achievement.

Well done to Marcel and all our hard-working Geography students, keep up the fantastic work!





# Festive Fun at Saint Paul's

## Festive Fun at Saint Paul's: Christmas Quiz Winner

To spread some holiday cheer, Saint Paul's launched a special Christmas quiz on the homework platform, Educake.co.uk. The challenge was open to the entire school, and students were invited to test their festive knowledge.

Those who achieved a perfect score of 100% were entered into a random draw—and we were delighted to announce that the winner was Aijo!

Congratulations, Aijo, and well done to everyone who took part in making this a fun and competitive way to celebrate the season.



## Music Mark Award

### Music Mark Award

This year we are delighted to be awarded the Music Mark Award again, which acknowledges our school's commitment to music education. The music department provides a wealth of opportunities for students to access music through the school curriculum, extra-curricular activities and peripatetic music lessons.



## Year 8 Geography

### Year 8 Geography: Mastering Map Reading

Our Year 8 students have been exploring the essential skill of map reading in their Geography classes. The focus is on understanding and interpreting map symbols, which serve as the language of maps. Students are learning how these symbols represent real-world features and how to use them to locate places and navigate effectively.

Through a variety of hands-on activities, they explore different types of maps, practice identifying key landmarks, and develop strategies for finding information quickly and accurately. By the end of the unit, students will have the confidence and ability to read and interpret maps with ease, an invaluable skill for both academic success and everyday life.







# 12 School Days of Christmas

## 12 School Days of Christmas competition

Staff and students enjoyed our 12 School Days of Christmas competition. Each day students were entered into a prize draw to win fabulous prizes – rewarding excellent attendance and good behaviour.

There was a daily live video prize draw where students could win a £100 One4all voucher. These vouchers are redeemable at over 170 stores, both in-store and online, including Five Guys, Nandos, JD, Primark, Wagamama, Odeon, Vue, Cineworld, River Island, Lush, Footlocker, Pandora, and more.

To participate, students had to:

- Attend school on time (arrive before 8:40 am)
- Not be late to any lessons throughout the day
- Receive no behaviour points each day

There was a grand prize draw for a £250 voucher for students who had attended on time for all 12 days.

Additionally, there were 50 boxes of chocolates to be won by students who maintained perfect attendance throughout the drive.



# Year 7 Faith Leaders



## Year 7 Faith Leaders

The Year 7 Faith Leaders continue to embrace their roles with enthusiasm and are committed to making a positive impact within our school community. Their mission is to support school liturgies and launch faith-filled initiatives that nurture a strong, Catholic-centred environment.

Over the past few months, the Faith Leaders have been busy preparing and distributing cloths for form prayer shelves, ensuring they reflect the correct liturgical colours. During Advent, the shelves were adorned with purple cloths, and now, as we enter Ordinary Time, they have been changed to green. This helps create a meaningful and visually engaging space for prayer in every classroom.

The group also gathered on the Feast of the Epiphany to explore its significance and learn how this important celebration is observed around the world. Through these activities, the Faith Leaders are deepening their understanding of the Church's traditions while inspiring their peers to do the same.



# Reading Competition



## Reading Competition

**Our Reading Competition is open to Year 7, 8 & 9 students and all books read from the beginning of the school year until World Book Day on 5th March will count. The top 3 most prolific readers plus 2 students chosen by their teacher (not necessarily the best readers, but the ones that have always shown commitment to reading) will be invited to the pizza party - see poster for details.**



# PIZZA AND MARIO KART®



**YEAR 7 YEAR 8 YEAR 9**  
**BEST READERS CELEBRATION**

**HOW MANY  
WORDS HAVE  
YOU READ?**

**3 TOP STUDENTS  
IN YEAR 7, 8 AND 9**  
WHO HAVE READ THE  
MOST WORDS ON  
**ACCELERATED READER**  
AS WELL AS STUDENTS  
CHOSEN BY THEIR  
ENGLISH TEACHER  
WILL BE INVITED TO A  
**PIZZA & MARIO KART  
PARTY!**



**BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE**



# Winter water safety

In winter, children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water, and adults can find themselves at risk in attempting to save them.

Taking a nice walk in cold weather with your family, friends or dogs in tow can be really refreshing, just make sure you know some simple tips on how to stay safe in winter.

Here are some useful tips to keep safe this winter:



## KEEP BACK FROM THE EDGE

Keep back from slippery banks.

Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths.

Never go onto the ice.



## KEEP CHILDREN AND DOGS WITHIN REACH

Teach children not to go onto ice.

Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.

If out enjoying a winter walk, walk with friends.



## IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE FLOAT AND CALL FOR HELP.

Stay calm, float on your back and call for help.

Wait for help and keep as still as possible.

Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.

Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



## CALL 999

Do not enter cold water or ice to rescue.

Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.



Enjoy Water **Safely**



# Tesco...every little helps!



## Tesco Continues Support for Saint Paul's with Nutritious Fruit and Veg Initiative

We are thrilled to announce that Tesco is continuing its generous funding for Saint Paul's, enabling us to provide fresh, nutritious fruit and vegetables to our students through the Tesco Fruit & Veg for Schools initiative. This programme forms part of Tesco's national Stronger Starts community campaign, which is dedicated to helping young people thrive.

Tesco's mission is simple yet impactful: to ensure every child has access to at least one piece of fruit each day. At Saint Paul's, we've embraced this vision wholeheartedly. To give our students the best possible start, we offer a piece of fruit to every child each morning upon arrival and again during break time.

This initiative not only promotes healthy eating habits but also supports concentration, energy, and overall wellbeing, helping our students to learn and grow.



## The Portico Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers and Writers

Don't miss the chance to enter The Portico Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers and Writers in 2026!  
There's a range of prizes for book reviews and short stories.

This competition is completely FREE to enter.

For full details visit the school library or visit  
<https://www.theportico.org.uk/portico-sadie-massey-awards>

DEADLINE: Midnight, Friday 20 March 2026



# THE PORTICO

*Sadie Massey Awards*

## Reading and Writing Competitions

Write a short story set in the North  
of England or review any book of  
your choice

Closing date:  
Midnight Friday 20 March 2026

Open to  
7–18-year-olds

Free to Enter

Awesome  
prizes to be won!

Full terms and conditions:

[www.theportico.org.uk/portico-sadie-massey-awards](http://www.theportico.org.uk/portico-sadie-massey-awards)





# Year 11 John 10:10 Group

## Year 11 John 10:10 Group: Sharing Joy at Christmas

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, our Year 11 John 10:10 Group worked tirelessly to wrap and distribute gifts generously donated. Their efforts brought warmth and joy to many within our school community.

The John 10:10 Group takes its name and inspiration from the words of Jesus: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Guided by this message, our student leaders strive to create opportunities that bring life, hope and happiness to others. Through acts of service, fundraising initiatives, and creative projects, the group seeks to support those in need while encouraging all students to live out their faith in practical and meaningful ways.

By leading with compassion and purpose, the John 10:10 Group continues to strengthen our school community; fostering generosity, unity, and a spirit of care that extends far beyond the classroom.



## Year 7 Pantomime Trip

### Year 7 Pantomime Trip

Our entire Year 7 cohort had the incredible opportunity to visit Stockport Plaza Theatre for a spectacular performance of Aladdin the pantomime. The trip was organised by the Performing Arts department as part of our commitment to enriching students' cultural experiences and inspiring creativity.

From the moment the curtain rose, the theatre was filled with laughter, music, and plenty of audience participation! Our students were captivated by the dazzling costumes, energetic performances, and the timeless magic of live theatre. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and hear the excited chatter on the way home.

A huge thank you to all the staff who supported the trip and to our Year 7 students for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour throughout the day. Experiences like this remind us why the performing arts are such an important part of school life.



## Christmas Appeal

### Thank You for Supporting Our Christmas Appeal

We are grateful to everyone who generously contributed to our Christmas Gift Appeal. Your thoughtful donations helped make the season brighter for our students and created moments of joy that will be remembered.

Your kindness and generosity make a real difference - thank you for helping us spread cheer and goodwill.





# Preparing the Garden for Spring

## Preparing the Garden for Spring

Staff and students are working hard to transform the school garden into a vibrant, welcoming space in time for spring. This shared effort is more than just planting seeds—it's about creating a sensory-rich environment that fosters social interaction, hands-on learning and a deeper connection with nature.

The garden is designed to support the physical and mental well-being of everyone in the school community, offering a space to relax, recharge and enjoy the outdoors.

Students have embraced this project with enthusiasm and dedication. Their hard work is already visible in the progress made so far and they are excited to see the garden continue to grow into a space that everyone can share and take pride in.

The garden encourages outdoor activity, promotes healthy habits, and teaches lifelong gardening skills. As students nurture plants, they also cultivate essential life skills—communication, teamwork, and emotional expression—that will serve them well in school and beyond.

Mrs Hand commented: "Spring is just around the corner and, with the help of our students, it comes with the promise of a flourishing garden that reflects the spirit of collaboration and care at Saint Paul's."



## The Holocaust

### The Holocaust Educational Trust Visits Saint Paul's

Year 10 History students took part in a Virtual Reality workshop provided by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The programme combined survivor testimony with virtual tours of Nazi concentration camps, offering an unforgettable learning experience aligned with the GCSE curriculum on Nazi persecution (1933-1945).

Mr Welsby, Head of History, explained: "The workshop was delivered by expert educators providing an unforgettable learning experience for our GCSE History students. They were able to interact with a Holocaust survivor and take a virtual tour of a Nazi Concentration camp."

The workshop was an invaluable learning experience for our students. It not only met the requirements of the National Curriculum but it also helped our pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of Nazi persecution."

Students learned the story of Holocaust survivor Manfred Goldberg BEM, born in Kassel, Germany in 1930. After escalating persecution, he was deported to the Riga Ghetto in 1941, later sent to labour camps and Stutthof concentration camp. He endured brutal conditions and a death march before liberation in May 1945. Manfred moved to Britain in 1946, rebuilt his life, and graduated from London University.





# Sacred Heart Parish

## Sacred Heart Parish Carol Service Brings Community Together

Sacred Heart Parish Church was filled with festive cheer when Saint Paul's hosted its annual Carol Service. The event brought together students from all year groups, alongside Year 6 pupils from Sacred Heart RC Primary School, creating a wonderful sense of unity and celebration.

Guests enjoyed a beautiful selection of traditional carols, performed with enthusiasm and joy. Highlights of the evening included special performances by the primary school children and the school choir, whose voices added a magical touch to the occasion.

With approximately 200 people in attendance, the service was a resounding success. It was not only a musical celebration but also a valuable reminder of the importance of community and shared traditions during the Advent season.



## Bookbuzz

### Bookbuzz Brings the Joy of Reading to Year 7 Students

At Saint Paul's, a love of reading is at the heart of school life—and this passion is being passed on to the newest cohort of students through the Bookbuzz programme.

There was a real buzz in school as every student in Year 7 received a brand-new book of their choice, courtesy of Bookbuzz. Bookbuzz is a national reading initiative run by The Book Trust; the programme is designed to promote reading for pleasure, encourage independent choice, and foster a vibrant reading culture.

Mrs Savova, School Librarian, shared her enthusiasm:

"As a school, we work hard to encourage a reading-for-pleasure culture and promote a love of books. Choice is central to engaging students with reading, and Bookbuzz offers an excellent selection for them to choose from. It provides a high-quality range of attractive new titles from award-winning authors and really does create a 'buzz' about reading—especially because students get their very own book to keep!"

Mr Sharrock, English Teacher and Literacy Coordinator, echoed this sentiment:

"We are delighted to be taking part in the Bookbuzz programme once again, and our Year 7 students are so excited about choosing their free books. At Saint Paul's, we firmly believe that reading competence is vital to a student's success in all areas of life. Reading builds cultural capital, empowers individuals to engage with the world around them, and equips them with the tools to act with agency

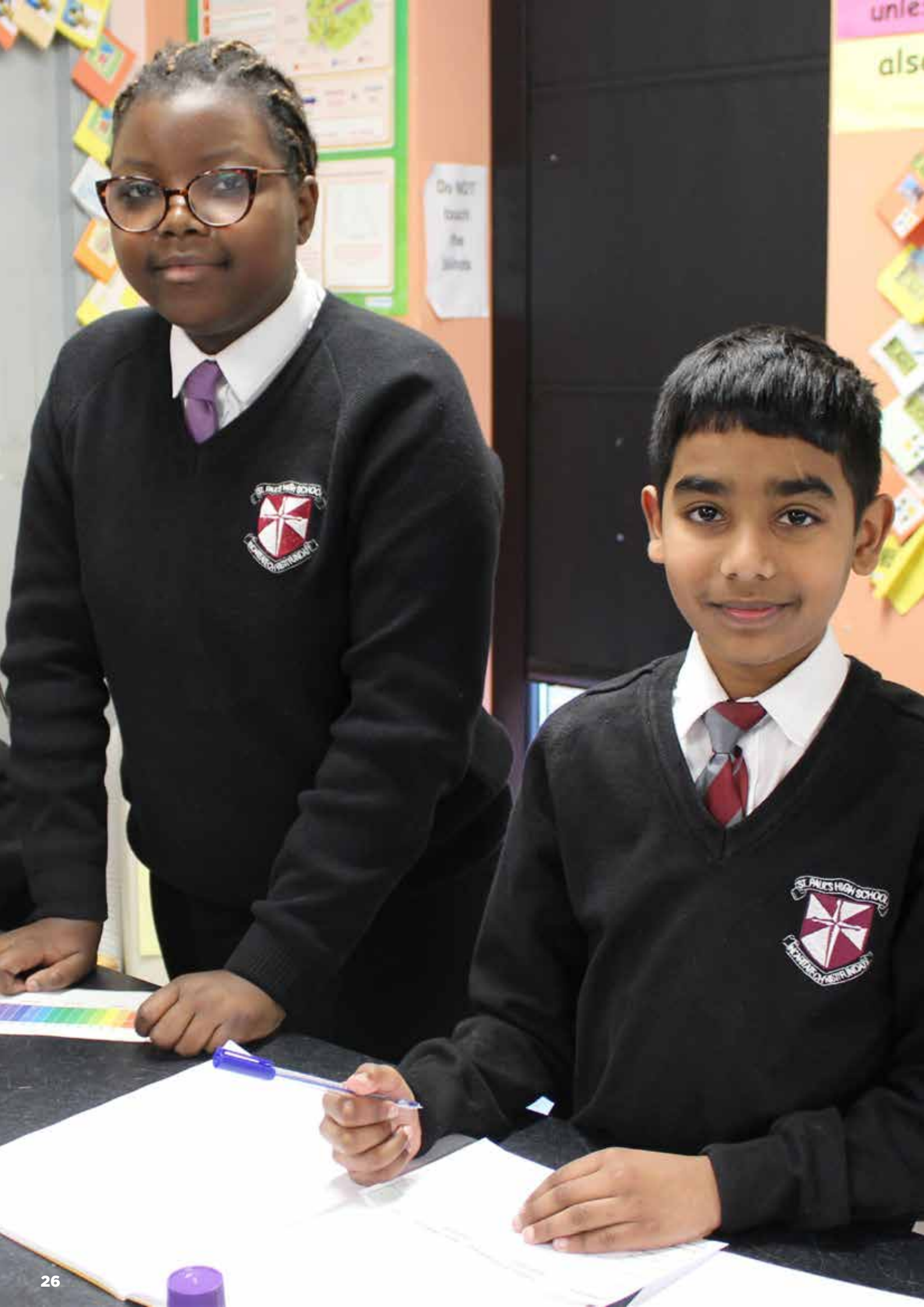
and independence."

Mr Whiteside, Head Teacher, highlighted the broader impact of reading:

"Reading is a skill that most of us take for granted, yet it's essential for getting on in life. As children grow, being able to read well not only helps them learn and discover new facts, but also opens up a world of ideas, stories, and opportunities. Research shows that children who read for pleasure achieve more in later life. All our staff are committed to ensuring that every child becomes an independent and fluent reader during their time at our school. We want our children to enjoy books as much as we do!"

With Bookbuzz, Saint Paul's continues to champion literacy and inspire a lifelong love of reading among its students.







# Forensic Science Week

## Forensic Science Week Inspires Future Investigators at Saint Paul's

Saint Paul's hosted an exciting Forensic Science Week, immersing Year 7 students in the fascinating world of crime scene investigation. The event celebrated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through hands-on activities that demonstrated how classroom learning connects to real-world careers.

The week began with the creation of a realistic crime scene and progressed to the analysis of forensic exhibits, interpretation of evidence, and even a mock courtroom trial. Students stepped into the role of Crime Scene Investigators, applying biology, chemistry, and physics skills to solve a complex case. Working collaboratively, they examined fingerprints, ink samples, and blood evidence to build a case against suspects in a simulated bank robbery.

Ms. Passley-Biggins, Science Teacher, explained:

"Our goal was to spark curiosity and show students how science shapes everyday life. They learned how to collect samples, analyse fingerprints and DNA, and understand the critical role forensic scientists play in solving crimes. It was science in action—fun, challenging, and rewarding."

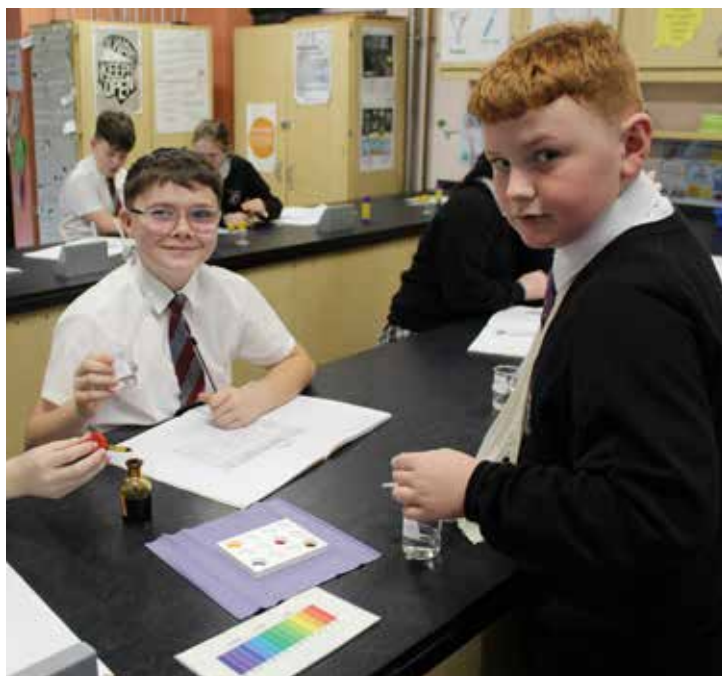
Mr. McMahon, Head of Science, added:

"The activities gave students a taste of real investigative work. They practiced essential skills like evidence gathering, data interpretation, and teamwork. Seeing them so engaged and excited about science was incredible—it's exactly what we hoped to achieve."

Head Teacher Mr. Whiteside emphasised the importance of such initiatives:

"Science is vital for the future, and events like this help students see its relevance and accessibility. We want every child to feel inspired and confident that STEM subjects can lead to exciting, meaningful careers."

The week's programme not only showcased the diversity of scientific knowledge but also highlighted the importance of collaboration and critical thinking. By connecting classroom learning to real-world applications, Saint Paul's is helping to nurture the next generation of scientists and innovators.



# Geography Field Trip



## Exploring Urban Contrasts: Geography Field Trip

Students from Saint Paul's embarked on an insightful Geography field trip, visiting contrasting areas of Manchester as part of their GCSE coursework. The Year 10 students worked in small groups to investigate how quality of life varies across different urban environments. The students travelled on the tram, supported by the Bee Network who gave them a discount. The students were investigating how the city changes as you travel through it...

The trip was designed to bring classroom learning to life, allowing students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a real-world context. Over the course of the day, they visited five distinct sites across Manchester, conducting a range of activities including environmental surveys, land-use mapping, and public questionnaires.

Mrs Vallely, Head of Geography, praised the students' engagement and enthusiasm:

"The students had a fantastic day and really enjoyed the experience. Fieldwork is a vital part of geography education, and this trip directly connected to the topics we've been exploring in class. I was delighted to see how confidently they applied their classroom learning to real-world situations."

She added:

"This was an urban fieldwork trip focused on investigating how the quality of life varies within a city. The students showed a very positive attitude throughout and were genuinely curious about their findings."

Mrs Chisnall, Geography Teacher, highlighted the students' resilience and teamwork:

"The classes visited five different sites and completed four activities at each, including conducting questionnaires with members of the public. Many students were initially nervous about approaching strangers, but they quickly overcame their fears. Even when faced with setbacks, they persevered—and I was incredibly proud of their determination."

Mr Whiteside, Head Teacher, emphasised the broader value of fieldwork:

"A field trip offers a level of understanding that no textbook or classroom lesson can fully replicate. It encourages creativity, critical thinking, and gives students a sense of ownership over their learning. It's a brilliant way to make Geography come alive."

The field trip not only supported academic development but also helped students build confidence, communication skills, and a deeper appreciation for the complexities of urban life.



# Farewell Celebration for Father Owen

## Farewell Celebration for Father Owen

Saint Paul's Catholic High School hosted a farewell event for Father Owen, who has been an important part of our school community for the past five years. The gathering brought together parishioners, the Chair of Governors, staff and our Head Boy and Head Girl, along with a group of Year 11 students who have shared memorable experiences with Father Owen during two pilgrimages abroad to Poland and Bosnia.

The occasion was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to express their gratitude and bid farewell to a priest who has played such an important role in the spiritual life of the school. Father Owen's guidance and presence have left a lasting impact, and he will be greatly missed.









# Christmas Celebrations

## Christmas Celebrations at Saint Paul's

Students spread the spirit of Christmas when Saint Paul's extended their Christmas cheer to the elderly of the parish by inviting them to join in with students and staff in celebrating Christmas.

The Christmas event provides a valuable link with the older generation in the community. The school has a culture of teaching its students respect in a happy environment and the Christmas party is the perfect way to combine those two really important elements of the school's philosophy.

The event was hosted by the students who greeted the guests as they arrived then kept them entertained throughout the afternoon. The students involved are those studying the Health and Social Care course. They designed and planned the events as well as taking part on the actual day giving them a better understanding of working within the community.

Mrs Rudd explained: "It's always a pleasure to invite our neighbours, and some residents from local care homes, into the school and to provide them with a special afternoon. The students really enjoy it and some of the guests tell us it's a highlight of their year. It was a lovely afternoon; it was wonderful to see the students interacting with the older generation who really enjoyed themselves."

"The success of an event like this is hugely reliant on the enthusiasm of our amazing students. During the event, our students made us so proud, serving the food and sitting at the tables chatting with the guests. It's such a wonderful sight to see them enjoying each other's company."





# A Special Visit Back to Saint Paul's

## A Special Visit Back to Saint Paul's

We had the absolute pleasure of welcoming back Bernard, our former Science teacher and Acting Headteacher, during our annual OAP Pies & Peas celebration.

Bernard brought with him a treasure trove of Saint Paul's history, gifting us original school ties and badges from years gone by. These have now been proudly framed and placed in our school reception for everyone to enjoy.

Mr Whiteside commented: "As Headteacher, I'm always reminded that celebrating our past isn't just nostalgia — it's honouring the foundations on which our success is built. Saint Paul's stands strong today because of the dedication, passion, and legacy of staff like Bernard."

Thank you for everything you've given to our school community. Once part of Saint Paul's, always part of Saint Paul's!



**BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE**



# 'certa bonum certamen fidei'



Retired teacher of St. Paul's  
Bernard O'Donnell  
with Headteacher Mr. Whiteside

Bernard is a retired Science Teacher & Acting Headteacher, who taught as a newly qualified teacher at St. Paul's Catholic High School when it originally opened its doors to Wytenshawe back in 1955!

The school ties are from the original uniform worn in the 1950's, along with the original embroidered logo which adorned the school blazers of the time.

24 Nov '25 I taught at the newly opened St. Paul's in 1955. I was my first appointment after my qualification. I was the science teacher for 15 years. I returned as a deputy headteacher at Cardinal Newman High School for girls after Reorganisation. There was another reorganisation due to falling numbers. I suggested to the new governors that it be a good idea to call the new school St. Paul's back to the beginning and it was adopted.

I became acting head the end of my career, due to my health problems. Why am I telling you this? Because St. Paul's is in the marrow of my bones.

I am now 93 and not quite as sprightly as I was in 1955!

Yours sincerely,  
Bernard O'Donnell  
CERTA BONUM CERTAMEN FIDEI?

'CERTA BONUM CERTAMEN FIDEI'  
THE MOUTH OF OUR GROUND  
'CERTA BONUM CERTAMEN FIDEI'  
THAT SHALL BE OUR GOLDEN RULE  
WHEN THE DEVIL'S TONGUE  
WINKS THE WORLD SEEM RIGHT  
WHEN THE FLESH PILLS SEEM  
WE WILL FIGHT THE FAITH! GOOD FIGHT!  
AND LIKE FEARLESS PAUL BEFORE US  
FROM THE COMBAT TAKE NO REST  
THOUGH ALL THE HEAVENLY CREATURE  
NO FOREVER SHALL BE BLEST  
'CERTA BONUM CERTAMEN FIDEI'  
'CERTAMEN FIDEI'

1955 - 1<sup>st</sup> ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL ANTHEM

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF THE FAITH

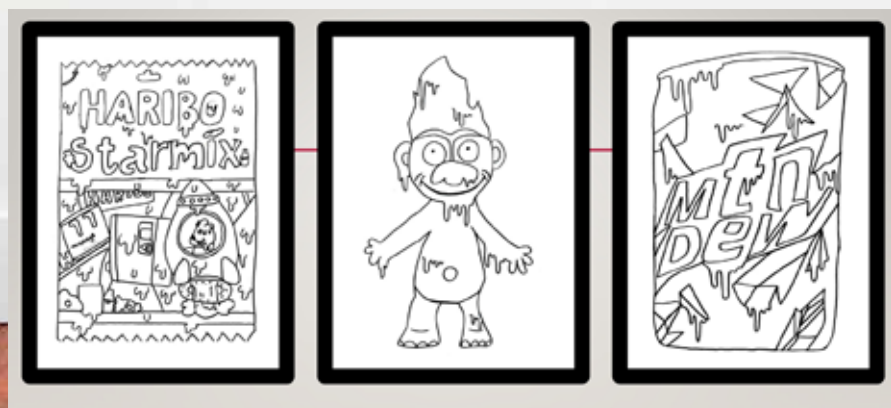
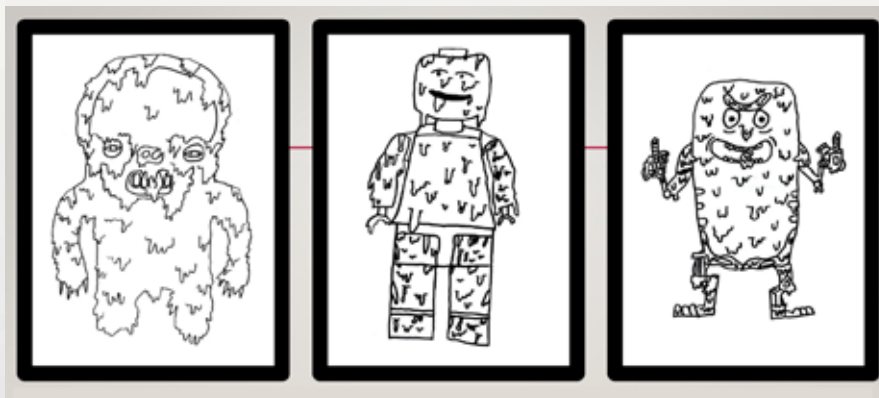
'Fight the good fight of the faith' 1955 - 1st St. Paul's School Anthem

# Year 7 Art Gallery





# Year 8 Art Gallery



# Year 9 Art Gallery







# The Magic of Reading

## The Magic of Reading

Staff and students at Saint Paul's celebrated the incredible impact of BW3's team of reading mentors, who have been visiting the school each week to inspire a love of reading.

The sessions aim to nurture students' confidence and enjoyment of reading. Mentors, volunteers from local businesses, work one-to-one with their mentees until they become confident, able readers. To mark their progress, students recently enjoyed a celebratory pizza party in the school library.

BW3 partnered with the Shannon Trust and reached out to its member businesses to recruit volunteers for the initiative, which it says can have a "transformational effect" on a young person's future.

Mr Sharrock, Saint Paul's Literacy Coordinator, said:

"Reading is the foundation of understanding and appreciating the world around us. It opens doors to new ideas, cultural experiences, and gives children the vocabulary to express themselves with confidence. Research shows that strong literacy skills have a profound impact on life chances. When children read regularly, their fluency and stamina grow, and so does their

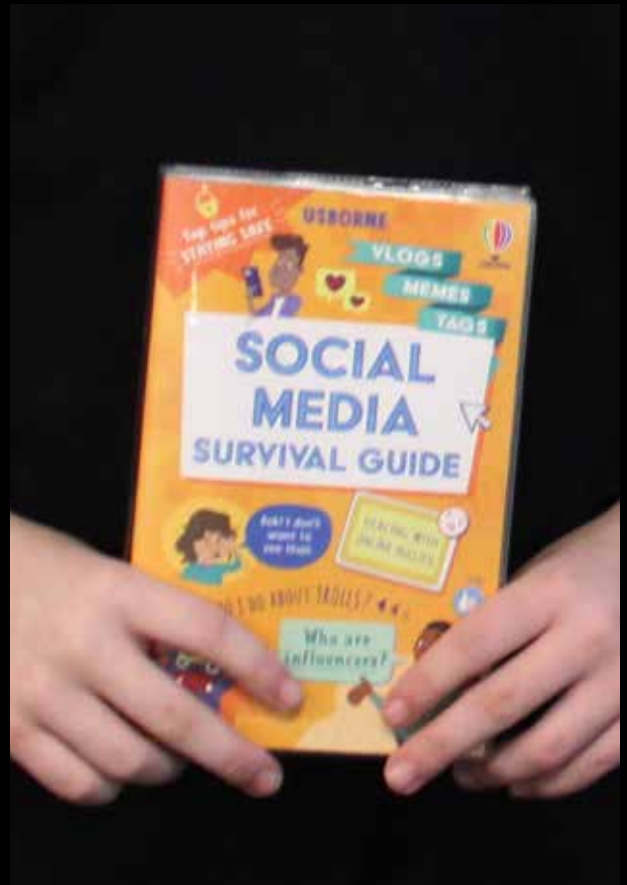
enjoyment. Motivation and pleasure in reading go hand in hand. We feel incredibly fortunate to work with BW3 and their mentors. The students love the sessions, and many have made remarkable progress in a short time. We are grateful to BW3 and all the volunteers for their commitment to our readers at Saint Paul's."

Mr Whiteside, Head Teacher, added:

"To foster a culture of reading for pleasure, we encourage students to put aside distractions and immerse themselves in books. The BW3 mentoring sessions have been a huge success, so much so that some students were disappointed when their reading time ends! That enthusiasm is exactly what we hoped to spark. We are extremely thankful to BW3 and their dedicated mentors for making such a positive difference."



# Library Department of the Month



## Library Department of the Month – Information Technology

Each term, the school library celebrates a different academic department, showcasing the subjects that inspire curiosity and learning across Saint Paul's.

This term, we're delighted to feature the IT Department. From engaging books on coding and cybersecurity to thought-provoking reads on artificial intelligence, data science and the future of technology, our library is full of resources to spark innovation and deepen students' understanding of the digital world.

Whether you're fascinated by how apps are developed, curious about the impact of technology on society or intrigued by the possibilities of machine learning, there's something for everyone. Students are encouraged to visit the library during school hours or borrow books to enjoy at home.

Come and discover how Information Technology shapes our lives.

# Quilted Banner of Hope

## Quilted Banner of Hope

We are delighted to be involved with creating a "Quilted Banner of Hope" - schools in the diocese have been invited to submit a patchwork square, these are then being sewn together to produce a wonderfully vibrant and colourful quilt. We are looking forward to seeing the final quilt.







## Local Care Home Visit

### Year 10 Health & Social Care Students Visit Local Care Home

As part of their Health and Social Care studies, Year 10 students recently visited a local care home to deepen their understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and services provided within the sector. The visit formed an important element of their coursework, helping them connect classroom learning with real-life practice.

The care home primarily supports residents living with dementia and Alzheimer's, while also providing care for individuals with more general needs. This setting offered students a valuable opportunity to see first-hand how professionals deliver person-centred care in a specialist environment.

During the visit, students spent time talking with residents about their daily experiences and the support they receive. These conversations were both insightful and emotional, giving students a meaningful look into the realities of living with dementia.

Students also had the chance to speak with visiting family members, who warmly welcomed the group. Families openly shared their personal experiences of having loved ones in care and expressed how pleased they were to see young people showing interest and compassion.

The care home staff were exceptional throughout the visit, going above and beyond to make the students feel welcome. Their professionalism and dedication left a lasting impression on the group.

Overall, the visit was an enriching and eye-opening experience for the Year 10 students, helping them gain a deeper appreciation of the vital work carried out across the health and social care sector.

## Wellbeing Ambassadors

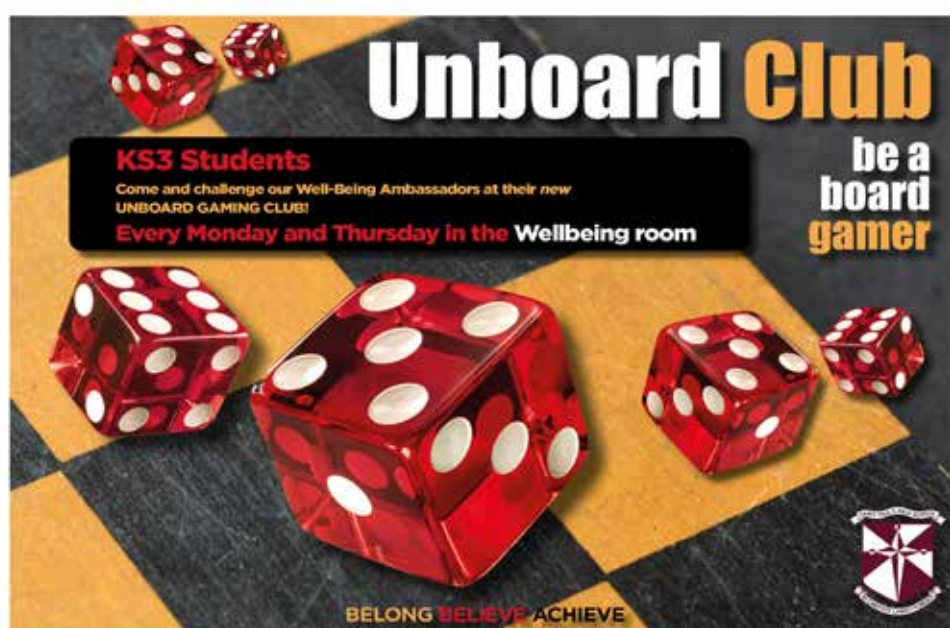
### Wellbeing Ambassadors: Supporting Our School Community

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors play a vital role in creating a positive and supportive environment for all students. They lead initiatives that promote friendship, inclusion and emotional wellbeing across the school.

The Wellbeing Ambassadors run the Un-Board Club; a fun board game club designed especially for Key Stage 3 students. The club encourages social interaction, teamwork, and a sense of belonging.

Beyond these activities, our ambassadors are a visible presence in the school yard. They act as approachable points of contact for any student who needs support, guidance or simply someone to talk to.

Through their efforts, our Wellbeing Ambassadors make a real difference, fostering kindness, building confidence, and strengthening our school community.



# Legally Blonde Jr the Musical



## Legally Blonde: The Musical – A Celebration of Determination and Fun

Saint Paul's brought Legally Blonde, the captivating musical, to life as their smash-hit Christmas show. What a show!! What a cast!

We were thrilled to present Legally Blonde: The Musical, a vibrant and empowering story that combines humour, love and high-energy music. Based on the hit film, the musical follows Elle Woods, a fashionable student whose life takes an unexpected turn when her boyfriend breaks up with her to attend Harvard Law School. Determined to win him back, Elle sets out on her own journey to Harvard, proving that she's more than just a pretty face.

Packed with catchy songs, dazzling choreography, and unforgettable characters, Legally Blonde was a celebration of resilience and self-belief. It reminded the audience that staying true to yourself is the key to success. From the iconic "bend and snap" moment to Elle's inspiring transformation, this show delivered laughter, excitement, and a powerful message about breaking stereotypes.

Our talented cast and backstage team worked tirelessly to bring this story to life, creating a production full of energy, colour and creativity.

Mrs Slater, Head of Performing Arts, who directed the show, said: "What a fantastic performance of this much-loved film. The students' singing, dancing and acting was truly special. I was extremely proud of our students; they worked so hard and put so much energy into the show making it a huge success."

"Legally Blonde was a stunning show, an absolute triumph, delivered by an accomplished cast. There were some outstanding performances and some inspired characterisations," said Head Teacher, Mr Whiteside. "Congratulations to our incredibly talented students for another fantastic production. Credit must also go those staff who worked tirelessly to give our students this fantastic opportunity. The show was amazing – a real spectacular, it left songs in your head and a smile on your face!"





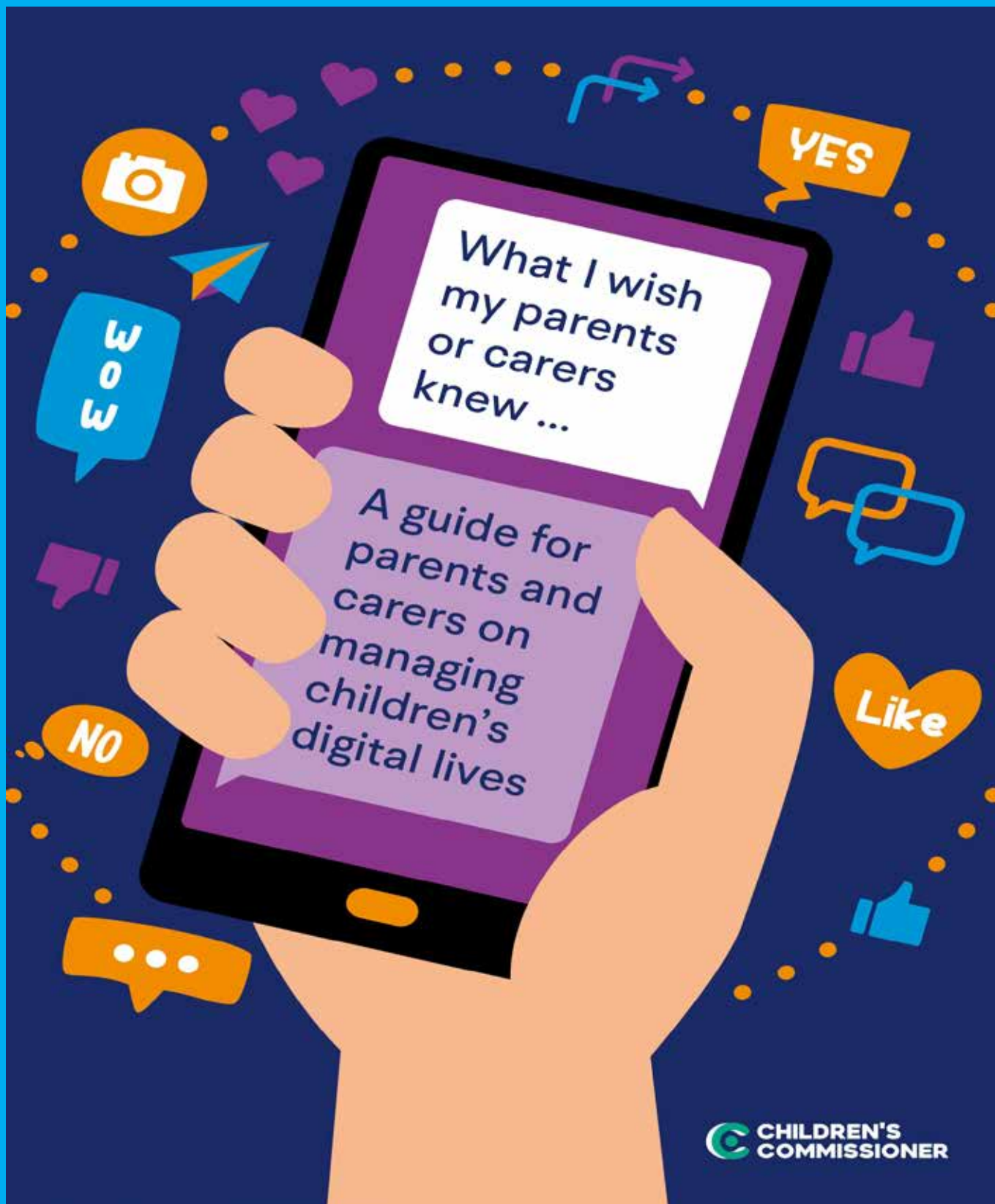






# Managing Children's Digital Lives

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. The Children's Commissioner's Managing Children's Digital Lives guide aims to help you support your child in today's fast-changing digital world - see school website.





# Well-Being Exam Sessions

After school sessions  
from 3.10pm - 4pm

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Wednesday 22nd March 2026

Wednesday 6th May 2026

**These are drop in sessions to support Exam Wellbeing.**

**Accessing tips and support about healthy study habits and how to look after yourself during exam season.**

Please come along to our sessions and speak to our SEMH team or Our Thrive in Education Wellbeing practitioner.



*Always  
here to help*





# Whole School Trip



**Thursday**  
**26th March 2026**

## Criteria

- More than 97% attendance
- Less than 2 lates to school and lessons
  - No internal suspensions
  - No exclusions
- At the discretion of the Progress Leader



**£35**



\* We will refund students who do not qualify





# MINDFULNESS & Well-being

## Year 11 well-being sessions

**After school every Thursday.**

**The sessions will concentrate on reducing anxiety and stress in the build-up to your exams.**

**Starting from Thursday 26th February 2026**



# CATCH ME... STUDYING!

MMM  
SWEET!

WHERE WILL WE FIND YOU STUDYING?

Calling all Year 11's! If we catch you studying,  
You could be in with a chance of winning some sweet treats!



# Are you or your partner expecting a baby?

Are you a parent or primary care giver for a child aged 24 months or under?

If so, you will be prioritised for assessment and treatment under our Perinatal pathway.

We can help you to develop coping strategies to improve mood and manage anxiety.

We offer a variety of different services\* across Manchester including:

- 1-1 sessions to help you manage low mood and anxiety in the perinatal period
- Couples Therapy
- Online or face-to-face Compassion Focused Therapy groups (babies welcome)
- Silvercloud online perinatal course

\*An assessment will help determine the most suitable support for you.

For more information, please scan the QR code



[www.thebiglifegroup.com/manchestertalkingtherapies](http://www.thebiglifegroup.com/manchestertalkingtherapies)

for anxiety and depression

Service provided by Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and The Big Life group





# Get in touch today

Free NHS therapy  
for people with  
common mental  
health problems  
like anxiety or  
depression

**0161 226 3871**

scan the code to complete  
our online referral form



**for anxiety and depression**

Service provided by The Big Life group



We are His body, living and learning as one.

# WORK WITH US

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Vacancies within the  
Corpus Christi Catholic  
Academy Trust

[www.corpuschristitrust.co.uk/vacancies/](http://www.corpuschristitrust.co.uk/vacancies/)



# The School

# Prayer

**Dear Lord**

Thank you for our  
school community.

Bless us all and keep us safe.

Send your Spirit to guide us,  
as we become the people  
you want us to be.

Be with us on our journey  
as we learn to love and  
love to learn.

Through Christ, Our Lord.

**Amen.**



# 2026 Diary Dates



Year 11 Parents' Evening

School closes for Half Term holiday

Return to school after Half Term holiday

Year 9 Options interviews week

Year 9 Options interviews week

World Book Day

Year 10 virtual Parents' Evening

Year 10 Prefect applications open



Year 8 virtual Parents' Evening

Year 10 Prefect applications deadline

School closes for Easter holidays



**[www.st-paulshigh.net](http://www.st-paulshigh.net)**

**Saint Paul's Catholic High School**

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[saintpaulsrchighschool](https://www.instagram.com/saintpaulsrchighschool)

**BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE**

