

Academic Newsletter

St. Paul's Beacon

"Striving For Academic Excellence"

ISSUE 01 OCTOBER 21st, 2024

Ambition | Achievement | Abundance

"You are God's work of Art" - Ephesians 2:10

Attendance in Figures



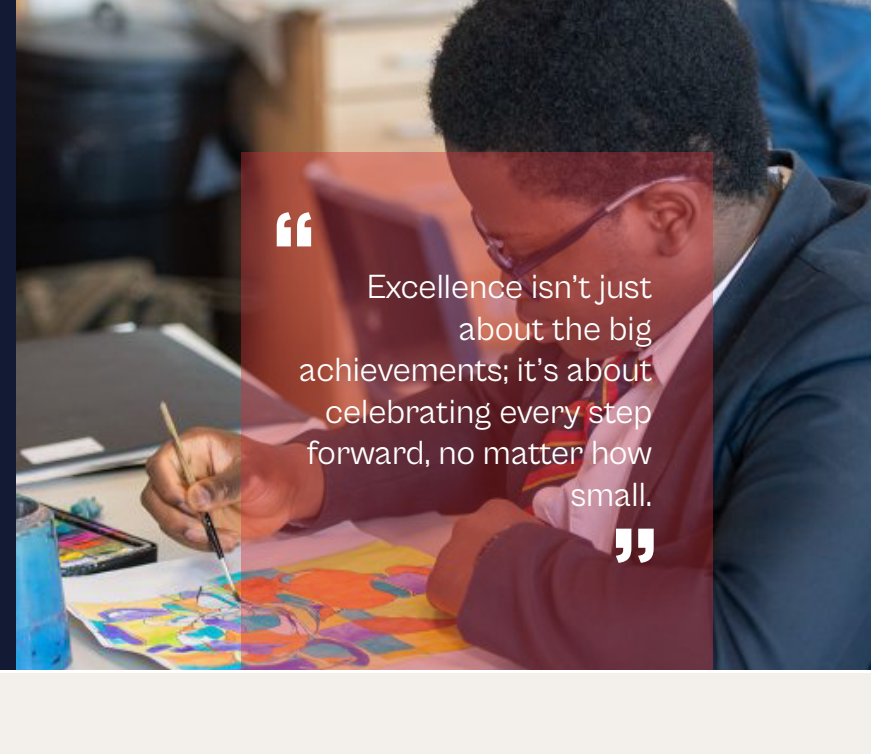
Message from Head of Year 10

Welcome to the first edition of The St Paul's Beacon! As we embark on this new journey together, our key focus is on new beginnings and embracing change. We are on a collective pursuit of excellence—excellence in every field. This means striving for 100% attendance, taking pride in our presentation, demonstrating a positive attitude to learning, and ensuring our behaviour consistently supports our success.

Excellence isn't just about the big achievements; it's about celebrating every step forward, no matter how small. Whether it's an academic win, a display of leadership, or improving attendance, we'll celebrate every achievement. Let's continue to push ourselves to be the best we can be in everything we do. Together, we can make this our journey together truly exceptional!



Mr. Louis Kisitu
Head of Year 10



Overview on Attendance



Top Attendees

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the students who have achieved 100% attendance this term. Your dedication and commitment to being present every day are commendable. Keep up the fantastic effort, as consistent attendance is key to academic success and personal growth. Well done to all our top attendees!



Attendance Challenges

We recognise that maintaining consistent attendance can be difficult at times, but overcoming these challenges is crucial for success. To encourage improvement, we have introduced a segment on attendance during FridayShoutOuts! Forms with the highest attendance will earn special rewards, including certificates and a class treat. Let's work together to boost attendance across Year 10—every day in school counts towards your success!



Attendance Trends

Currently, our overall attendance stands at 93%, which falls below our target of 97%. While we've made some progress, we still have a way to go to reach our goal. Regular attendance is key to academic success, and every student's effort is needed to close this gap. Let's continue to work together and aim higher to ensure we're all present and making the most of our learning opportunities.

The Achievement Zone

Behavioural Expectations

This term, we've emphasised two key behavioural expectations for Year 10: punctuality and professionalism in wearing the school uniform. Punctuality is crucial, as being on time ensures students are fully prepared for learning, reduces disruptions, and sets a strong foundation for academic success. Additionally, pride in uniform isn't just about appearance—it reflects discipline, respect, and a positive mindset. A well-presented student is someone who takes their role seriously and is ready to engage fully in their education. By adhering to these standards, students showcase their commitment to excellence and create a positive learning environment for themselves and their peers.

Student Achievements

This term, we are proud to celebrate the exceptional achievements of several Year 10 students who have truly embodied our shared values and standards:

•Kemi Adeniyi has shown remarkable

engagement in Physical Education, consistently completing her homework to a high standard and demonstrating focus and determination in her lessons.

•Kimberly Chukwu and Rylee Ndiwatana have excelled in Business Studies, showcasing outstanding effort and dedication.

•Mycah Adofo impressed in Religious Education with her deep understanding of Jewish beliefs and commitment to challenging assignments.

•Aisha Bello has shone in Geography and her cooking lessons, demonstrating both academic excellence and creativity.

•Corina Ojeda made a significant impact as an EAL Ambassador, excelling academically, especially in Mathematics.

•Daniella Sefa stood out in Religious Education, showing exceptional dedication and consistent effort.

•Felicia Otulana has set high standards in English with her outstanding presentations and focus.

•The Year 10 Girls' Football Team continues their winning streak, with Clarissa Cruse leading the way with a hat-trick and the team displaying unparalleled teamwork and determination.

Standard Reinforcement

A reminder to all students that full school uniform is required, as outlined on the school website. Hoodies, jewellery, false nails, and false eyelashes are not permitted. Adhering to these uniform standards is a key part of our commitment to professionalism and excellence. As we continue our pursuit of excellence in all areas, we will consistently emphasise the importance of meeting these expectations to create a focused and respectful learning environment.

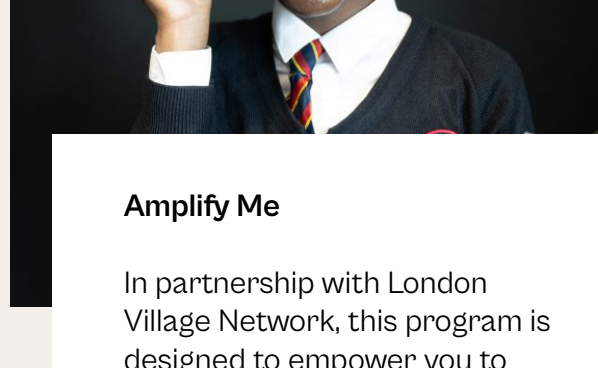
In the Light of Knowledge

Teacher Tips

To excel academically, it's essential for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom. One effective technique is retrieval practice, which involves methods like "look, cover, write, check." This simple process encourages active recall, helping students retain information for longer. After retrieval, it's important to follow up with intentional practice by applying knowledge through quizzes, exam-style questions, or comprehension exercises. This not only reinforces what has been learned but also enhances understanding and critical thinking skills.

Having a book that you read consistently sharpens your literacy skills, broadens vocabulary, and strengthens your ability to focus—critical elements for success in any subject. Whether it's fiction or non-fiction, reading regularly will contribute to your overall academic performance and personal growth. Taking these steps will help build strong learning habits and foster the excellence we are all striving for.

Beyond the Classroom



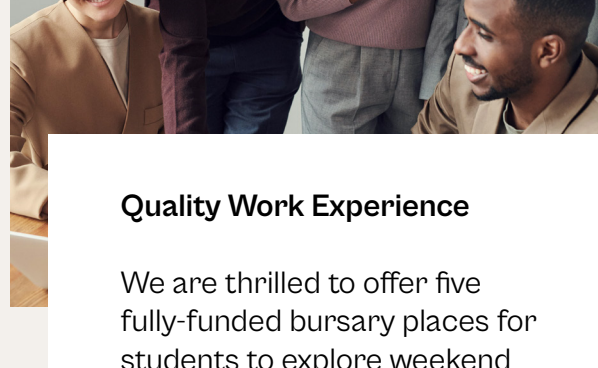
Amplify Me

In partnership with London Village Network, this program is designed to empower you to embrace change and confidently step into new opportunities. Over five weeks, you'll connect with 10 professionals beyond your usual circles, helping you grow in both skills and self-belief as you pursue a future aligned with your true calling. This journey will culminate in a school trip and mentorship that will inspire you to discover the path you were meant to follow.



Cambridge Trip

In January, Year 10 students have the opportunity to explore the world-renowned Cambridge University. This day will inspire you to dream big as you walk the halls of Caius College, enjoy lunch in the prestigious Stephen Hawking Dining Hall, and experience the beauty of Cambridge through punting on the River Cam. As you embark on this journey, remember that embracing new opportunities, like this, helps shape the unique masterpiece that God has made you to be.



Quality Work Experience

We are thrilled to offer five fully-funded bursary places for students to explore weekend work experience programmes in fields such as medicine, law, and journalism. These opportunities allow you to embrace change and grow in confidence, knowing that your potential is limitless. Through these experiences, you'll gain invaluable insights and step closer to discovering your divine purpose. Places are limited, so seize this moment of growth and transformation.

Faith in Action

Reflection Pieces

Proverbs 16:9 says, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." This verse has been a profound source of focus and motivation for me, especially when I've struggled to stay on track. It reminds us that while we make plans and set our goals, our ultimate path is shaped by God's divine will. As we start this new academic year, this truth has guided our journey, reminding us that we are God's work of art.

Our lives are meant to be full of purpose, and our plans should align with God's direction. We are not called to be people of no substance, but people of substance. Continue striving to be the best version of yourself, knowing that the time is yet to come, as you walk in alignment with God's greater plan.

Faith in Daily Life

Just as Jesus, a leader, drew on his disciples, our school community follows this model by cultivating young leaders among us. Soon, we will reveal the Year 10 leadership positions, where these students will lead by example and inspire their peers to strive for excellence. Our student leaders play a vital role in supporting not only themselves but the entire learning community. Well done to those who have applied to be SPA Student Leaders—you are embracing the call to lead and serve.



Form Tutor Insights

Miss L. Willis Tutor-10H

A big thank you to the students of 10H who consistently show respect and effort in the form room. Your commitment to doing the right thing is always noticed and greatly appreciated.

Ms K. Francis Tutor-10D

Well done 10D you have grown in motivation through this term your efforts in form time have not gone unnoticed - Keep up the good work and more!

Mr. B. Barratt Tutor-10C

It's a pleasure to be the form tutor for 10G. They show excellent engagement during PSHE discussions, asking thoughtful questions. Their proactive attitude towards assessments and exams is commendable, with many already inquiring about mock dates—an encouraging sign of their dedication.

Mr. A. Fahy Tutor-10F

Congratulations to 10F for positive start to the new academic year as we look to maintain winning the best form award three years in a row! We have high standards to strive for as for two consecutive years, five students from 10F have been ranked in the top ten for behaviour.

Now, as they embark on their final two years at St. Paul's and focus on their KS4 studies, I have seen tremendous resilience, pride, and ambition...

Message from the Pastoral Team

Ms. President (Deputy Head of Year)

Dear Parents and Carers, it has been an incredible educational journey with our students since they began in Year 7. Now, as they embark on their final two years at St Paul's and focus on their KS4 studies, I have seen tremendous resilience, pride, and ambition in how they approach their subjects. I want every student to know that nothing is set in stone yet, and with continued drive and self-belief, they are capable of achieving amazing things this year. As one community, we wish the Year 10 cohort the best of luck on their journey.

Nathaniel (Learning Mentor)

The first term after a break is always filled with excitement and fresh opportunities. It's a time when students reconnect with friends, meet new classmates, and engage with teachers on new subjects and projects. This term has been a celebration of renewal, as students set goals, embrace challenges, and grow personally. Teachers are also inspiring students with innovative methods, fostering a positive learning environment. Overall, it has been a time of growth, collaboration, and the joy of learning, setting a strong foundation for the year ahead.

Message from the Principal

Dear Year 10 Students,

You have made a truly positive start, building on the strong foundations you set in Year 9. Many of you have already embraced change, stepping into this new chapter with a renewed focus and commitment to excellence. You are truly living out our motto, You are God's work of Art, as you push yourselves to become the best version of yourselves. But remember, this is just the beginning of your journey. While we've made great progress, there is still a long road ahead.

I am confident that, with the dedication you've shown, you will continue to rise to new heights next term, setting even higher standards in every aspect of your school life. Embrace the challenges ahead with faith and determination, knowing that you are beautifully and uniquely crafted for greatness.

Principal – Mrs S. Ward



The Path Forward

It has been a positive and encouraging start to Year 10, and I want to commend you all for your hard work so far. As we enter the half-term break, use this time to rest and reflect. When we return, let's continue our pursuit of excellence by adding value to our lives in every possible way. Whether it's improving punctuality, building relationships with staff, enhancing your attitude to learning, or being recognised for positive contributions, set yourself a clear target for

next term and work towards achieving it. Remember, you are God's work of art.

We are looking for student contributions for the next edition of St. Paul's Beacon. Please get in touch with Mr. Kisitu if you'd like to participate.

Inspirational Quote

It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.