



8 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust you and your families are keeping well.

It has been especially hot this week of returning to school and yet students have coped well with their school uniforms. There are still some issues to be resolved but the majority of students and their families had everything in order at the start of the year. We will endeavour to ask the staff from the Uniform Shop company to continue to support you as you get those final pieces of uniform or corrections to sizes sorted out. A couple of things to be mindful of that will be addressed as uniform infringements if they are seen/worn:

- Hoodies/masks of any kind except NHS white medical masks. We have those should a student need them.
- Jewellery of any kind and for any reason - earrings, rings, necklaces bracelets.
- False eyelashes, nails or hairstyles which do not meet the expectations.

May I request that if you have any items of uniform that your child no longer needs, please consider donating it to the Academy. I know that parents and carers greatly appreciate the opportunity to make use of good quality, pre-used uniform. You have most probably spent a considerable sum of money on uniforms for your child, so it is very important to label every item of clothing so that we can reunite lost property and owner very quickly. Please also remind students to keep their valuables on them rather than leaving them in unattended bags and blazers.

We are so pleased to finally have our new intake with us in Year 7; they have been very mature and responsible in the way they have gone about their first few days of secondary education. Please make sure that all Parentpay accounts have sufficient funds for lunch on them ahead of next week and that students bring their water bottles to school to stay hydrated.

Timings of the Day

Our new timings of the day which allows for a break time and a split lunch time has really benefited the students already. It will have further benefits next week when we are able to open up the 4G pitch for some students each lunchtime to play sport as long as they have the right footwear and sign up with the Learning Mentors. The new routines of not walking around for 'breaks' in between lessons and allowing a proper break outside for all has really reduced any wasted time for learning. We are hoping to introduce a 'pips' system as well that helps everyone to keep to the pace of the school day and signal when the lessons end and start. This purposeful learning environment is key to making every moment count in lessons. We will let students know in form time on Monday about the pips which will start on Tuesday. These will sound one note/sound followed by 4 short sounds and is distinguishable from the fire alarm because that is a continuous sound which goes up and down (a bit like a police car/fire engine does).



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St. Paul's Academy Limited
A company limited by guarantee registered
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Punctuality

Students must arrive at school before the bell for school is rung at 8.17am; students arriving after 8.19am are late and will be issued with an appropriate sanction. I very much appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school on time every morning, as well as your ongoing support of the Home/School Partnership in working together for your child's academic progress and success.

Home School Partnership

We will be reinstating across all year groups the practice of parent/carer signing their child's Planner each week. In addition to this, you will receive an invitation to a parent/school communication app that will mean we can communicate with you and keep you informed about the academic and personal progress of your child at St Paul's.

Dropping Students off / Collecting students

If you are dropping your child to school in a car, please ensure that you drop them a little further down Finchale Road or around Church Manorway to avoid cars being in front of the school. Where children are keen to get to school, the cars and drop offs at certain parts of Finchale Road pose a risk. **We want to keep our students safe, so under no circumstances should anyone be dropping off in the yellow school zone that has been marked and those markings are very clear.**

Safety on the way to school

We want to remind students to stay on the main routes to school. Some local residents have mentioned that there are gatherings on stairwells and these are not the ideal places for anyone to be hanging about. In addition, please ensure that where possible, your child gets the bus from outside the school. This prevents them from being embroiled in any issues with the local community at the shops and also ensures they get home in good time to rest and then do their homework.

Boosting your child's success at school

This weekend, please make sure that your child has a reading book or signs one out through the school library, which is full of amazing books and has a librarian who can really support with book choices and finding something they would like to read. In addition, please check they have their learning equipment, can access their Google Classroom and also complete any initial homework tasks set for them. If students are reluctant readers, encourage an audible book.

Safeguarding - Lines of Communication

In case you have any concerns which are safeguarding in nature, we have a full time, Designated Safeguarding Lead in the school who can be contacted on

Kim.Nicholas@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk Kim Nicholas - Ext 111

Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL if you have any concerns about safeguarding or child protection. I am pleased to say we also have a wider team of trained staff to support the safeguarding work within the Academy and to ensure that there is a large enough team to respond to students and their families when they have any concerns.

These are Ms Michelle Hepburn (Vice Principal) and Mr Huw Francis (Learning Mentor). The photographs of the safeguarding team with their names are displayed around the Academy so that any student or staff member knows who to go to if they are concerned about something.

If you have a concern out of Academy hours then you can contact **Greenwich MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 0208 921 3172** or **Bexley Social Care for Children on 0208 303 7777**. If you believe that a child is at risk or has been exposed to risk it is your duty to inform the Police or Social Care (previously known as Social Services) in the borough that you reside in.

I hope you have a good weekend. The weather returns to a more autumnal norm next week so hopefully everyone will feel a little more comfortable in lessons and on their journey to and from school.

I look forward to meeting you in the course of the academic year.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Ward', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Ward
Principal