



ST PAUL'S ACADEMY

You are God's work of art

Abundance | Achievement | Ambition

Spring 2 2024



Principal's Message

The Academy community has been privileged to gather in year groups this week for Passion Services and recalling what the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane teaches us about the depths of God's love.

Students from across every year group led their peers in prayer, liturgical dance, singing, spoken word, solos and dramatic presentations offering a beautiful invitation to pray, to remember that our personal challenges and failures don't make us less loved by God, but often are the 'weaknesses' that God uses as openings for his grace.

I want to say a huge thank you to the staff of the school who have worked incredibly hard this term, particularly in preparing the Year 11 students for their PPE examinations and the marking and feedback that goes with that. Our Year 11 students are on the last stages of their academic and personal journey here at St Paul's but the remaining months are critical to them stepping confidently into the next stage of their education. We hope all that has been invested in them during their time here will equip them for a beautiful life.

There have been some excellent enrichment opportunities which you will see written about in the newsletter. Our retreats with Year 9 were really appreciated by the students, the Duke of Edinburgh overnight event provided deep opportunities for personal development and a full year group out to Christ the King Sixth Form College for a progression event. So many other opportunities are given every week by the teachers and support staff running enrichment clubs. There will be a refreshed timetable of the weekly offer when we return after Easter.

Please use the holiday time to revisit your expectations for your child regarding behaviour before, during and after their school day and particularly remind them of the gift of education and how much they ought to treasure it.

Please enjoy a safe Easter holiday and one that gives a little more space and time for family and friends. I look forward to welcoming your children back to the Summer Term on Monday 15th April.

Mrs Ward

God's Work of Art

Lent at SPA

This half term we have been journeying through the Season of Lent together as a school community. Students have been involved in many activities including daily acts of kindness and completing their Lent bingo cards. Students fully embraced the idea of going out of their way to help and support others each day by doing things like opening doors and taking time to ask both their friends and staff how their days are going.



Lent is also the time when we have our annual 'SPA Gives Thanks' when students and staff complete a postcard giving thanks for one another these are then delivered sharing joy in our school community. It is so lovely to see students genuine gratitude for one another and for staff in our school.

As well as our Acts of Kindness and reaching out to each other, we have spent a lot of time with God in prayer. Week 3 of Lent was our week of repentance. As a whole school we had a focus on repentance and considered how we could be more forgiving and loving to one another. Students and staff were given the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation if they wished. The number of students that took up voluntary reconciliation was very impressive and they talked about how much they enjoyed the experience and felt renewed and closer to God.

Week 4 was our stop and pray week where students took part in a daily meditation after lunch to connect with God, as a community, three times a day.

Our Lenten fundraising was for The Mizen Foundation, with each year group having a cake sale run by the Youth SVP. We raised over £270, and we are very grateful for everyone who took part.

The culmination of Lent came in Holy week with our Passion services. These were led beautifully by our chaplaincy team and gave us the opportunity to reflect on the final days of Jesus' life and his ultimate sacrifice for us all.



Justice and Peace Group Easter Service

The Justice and Peace Group took part in their first Easter service on Thursday 28th March 2024 in the newly refurbished chapel. The student readers read the bible and bidding prayers beautifully.

Moreover, the congregation worked in collaboration with the readers and those lighting candles to create a reverent and respectful environment.

Abundance

World Book Day

The English department transformed into a cast of beloved book characters, bringing the magic of literature to life. From the whimsical world of Oz to the daring adventures of Hogwarts, our teachers showcased the power of imagination and the joy of reading.

There was a Book Bistro, a Library Murder Mystery and Guess Who which helped the students explore books in a different way.

As the curtains close on a successful World Book Day, we're reminded of the stories that connect us, the characters that inspire us and the endless worlds waiting to be explored through the power of reading.

Overall, we saw a 131% increase in book borrowing on World Book Day!

Year 11 Geography Physical Fieldwork - River Cray

The Year 11 Geography students attended the River Cray on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th March, to support Component 1 of their GCSE studies. It is a mandatory requirement to complete the physical and human fieldwork as part of the GCSE course. Students were testing a hypothesis to whether or not it was correct by collecting data along the river's course. This will be assessed in Paper 1.



Students who attended the Fieldwork on Tuesday battled the elements and braved the cold river waters, already wet from the torrential rain. Thursday's group however, was blessed with glorious sunshine! Students had a great time on the fieldwork and were a credit to the Academy! Their attention to detail and teamwork was fantastic to see and Thursday's group even got to complete two sites!!



A huge well done to all Y11 Students from the Geography Department!

Pokemon Card Club

This half term saw the first meeting of our Pokemon Card Club. Mr Webb welcomed the students so that they could meet, chat and battle! Well done to all the students and thank you to Mr Webb. You gotta catch 'em all!



*You are God's work of
Ephesians 2:10*

Abundance

A Journey of Discovery: My DofE Practice Expedition Experience by Rebecca (Y10)

As a Year 10 student at St Paul's Academy, participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Program has been an adventure unlike any other. Recently, our groups embarked on a Practice Expedition from our school grounds to Shooter's Hill, a journey that tested our limits and strengthened our bonds as a team.

Before setting off on our expedition, one of the first challenges we faced was pitching our tents. As a novice camper, I was both nervous and excited to tackle this task. With the guidance of our DofE leaders, we worked together to assemble our temporary shelters, ensuring they were secure and ready for the night ahead. It was a rewarding experience, filled with laughter and camaraderie, as we learned the ropes of outdoor living.

Once our tents were pitched and our gear packed, we set out on our journey, eager to explore the wilderness and put our navigation skills to the test. The trek to Shooter's Hill was not without its challenges – steep inclines, winding trails, and the occasional wrong turn kept us on our toes. But with each obstacle we overcame, our confidence grew, and our bond as a team strengthened.

After a day of hiking and navigating, we finally reached our destination: Shooter's Hill. As we admired the breathtaking views, a sense of accomplishment washed over all of us. I realized how much I had learned and grown throughout the journey, both as an individual and as part of a team.

But the adventure didn't end there. Upon our return ride to St Paul's Academy, we were treated with hamburgers and s'mores, courtesy of our incredible DofE leader Mr Davis and the amazing staff who assisted with our expedition. The scent of s'mores filled the air, instantly lifting our spirits and bringing smiles to our faces.

Gathering around the fire, we shared stories of our journey, reminiscing about the challenges we had overcome and the memories we had made along the way. It was a moment of celebration, a chance to reflect on our achievements and bond with our fellow adventurers.

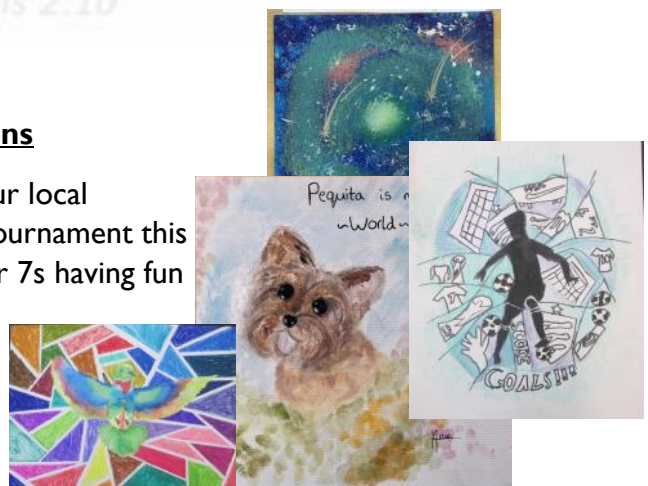
I couldn't help but feel grateful for the experiences the DofE Program had provided me. Not only had I discovered a newfound love for the outdoors, but I had also forged friendships that would last a lifetime.

In the end, the DofE Practice Expedition was more than just a hike – it was a journey of self-discovery, teamwork, and adventure and this experience will certainly impact our skills positively in the qualifying expedition in July that I'm sure we are all looking forward to.



Primary School Competitions

St Paul's Academy welcomed our local Primary schools for a football tournament this half term. It was so exciting to see all of our local Year 7s having fun and competing. We also had so many amazing entries into the primary art competition and wanted to share the winners with you all!



Ephesians 2:10

Achievement

Year 7 Sportshall Athletics

At the London Finals for the Sportshall Athletics the Year 7 team finished 3rd and secured their bronze medals!



Year 8 Kent Cup Final

The Year 8 Boy's Football Team ruled Kent by winning 5-2 against Maidstone Grammar in the Kent Messenger Cup Final. SPA dominated the match from start to finish with one player scoring 4 of the goals!



Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge by Petra (Y10)

The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge is an amazing opportunity for young people; helping to build their confidence and encouraging them to use their voices.

Recently, a group of Year 10 students (including myself) were given the chance to participate in one of these expert-led workshops. We were offered training sessions, interactive activities and a chance to partake in a public speaking competition at the end.

In the morning, our group set about determining what a perfect workshop would look like for us. We decided on three words: interactive, fun and interesting. Our mentor for the day (Aunty) Ore, went above and beyond – ensuring that the experience met our criteria and so much more.

During the day, we worked on building the necessary skills for public speaking. For example, we considered the three key aspects of speech making:

- Content: what the speech is about
- Structure: how the speech is organised
- Delivery: how the speech is presented

We learned that these three main things would allow us to express ourselves more effectively, getting our message across to the audience.

Additionally, by practicing impromptu speeches, we strengthened our abilities to formulate fluid answers without preparation. Though this activity was fairly fast paced, it taught us the value of pausing to consider our point and conclusion before beginning to talk.

The performance, though a bit nerve-wracking, was one of my favourite parts of the day. Not only did it allow us to challenge ourselves and showcase the new things we had learned, but it also meant we could connect with our peers in a way we might not have usually done.

I am truly grateful to have been given the opportunity to participate and want to pass on my congratulations to the SPA students who were selected to represent our school at the regional finals.

Achievement



Attendance

Year Group	Number of 100% Attendances this Half Term
7	102
8	95
9	79
10	88
11	92

Top Tutor Attendance	Attendance
7F	96%
8HH	96.96%
9ES	97.95%
10AT	95%
11TM	97.69%

Name	Bedrock Points
Agustine	2407
Jaslyn	952
Oluwadarasimi	899
Christine	848
Kamsiyochukwu	597
Nicole	587
Bria	569
Felicia	537
Inioluwa	492
Kelly	479

EduLink Top Performers



Year Group	Name	Net Points
7	Aiona	56
8	Ellie	51
9	Anjola	65
10	Zainab	64
11	Brian	74



God's Work of Art

Chaplain's Prayer

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day.

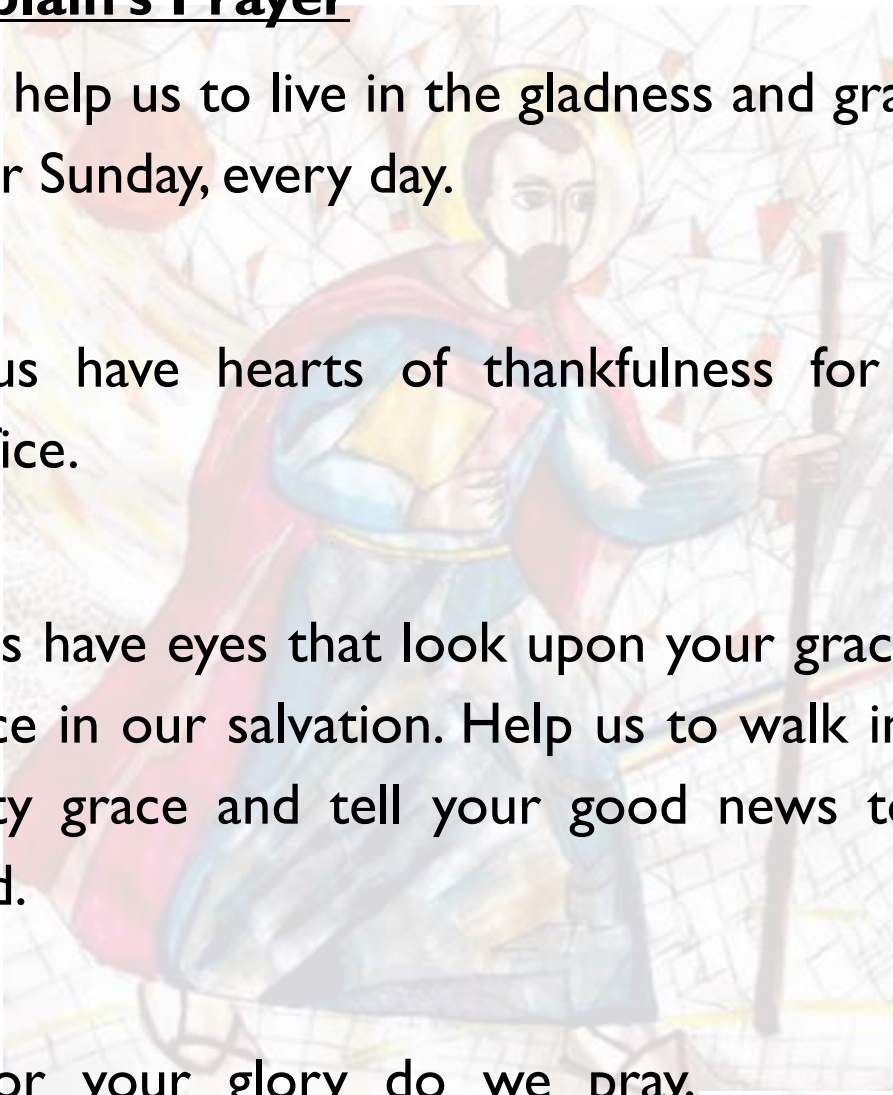
Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world.

All for your glory do we pray,
Lord,

Amen.

*'You are God's work of art'
Ephesians 2:10*



Ambition

'Languagenuts'

366 students in KS3 and KS4 participated in the Spanish Languagenut Global Competition this half term, showing their Spanish skills and becoming excellent SPA language ambassadors. Over two weeks, students engaged and showed their vocabulary, phonics, grammar and writing skills on this MFL online platform. Jaslyn in Year 7 was the student with the highest score, leading with 404,200 points! The following top 20 linguists at SPA received a certificate and stationery for their achievements: Tobi (Y7), Laetitia (Y10), Peniel (Y10), Anita (Y10), David (Y10), Augustine (Y8), Kelly (Y8), Brian (Y11), Patrick (Y7), George (Y11), Olivia (Y11), Nicole (Y8), Felicia (Y8), Jakub (Y11), Jayden (Y10), Emmanuelle (Y10), Dara (Y11), Kelvin (Y10) and Aaron (Y10).

¡Enhorabuena lingüistas! Ms Martinez and Mr Rodriguez

GCSE Options Evening

On Wednesday 21st February we welcomed our Year 9 students and their families to come and find out more about the GCSE Options process, the event was very well attended and feedback was positive with students saying that the event helped them to make informed choices about the next steps on their journey at St Paul's Academy.

We offer over 20 different GCSE and BTEC subjects and students were able to talk to subject teachers, look at resources; see past exam papers and they were able to speak to our student subject ambassadors to get first-hand accounts of what studying the subjects is actually like.

Parents and carers were also given advice on how best to support their children through process which can be both exciting and challenging at the same time. For more information about our options process please see the school website.

CTK Trip

The whole of Year 10 had a brilliant trip to CTK to learn more about what opportunities are out there after they leave SPA. Our students travelled there alone and spent time with SPA alumni. Following this, they were treated to some A-

Level lessons. A great taste of what is to come!

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Ephesians 2:10*

