



# GCSE results recognise students' hard work and commitment

St Paul's Catholic School is delighted to report some outstanding individual achievements by its students in their GCSE qualifications this summer.

Jo-Anne Hoarty, Headteacher at St Paul's Catholic School, said: "We were very happy to welcome Year 11 students to collect their GCSE results. The grades they received reflected a great deal of hard work and commitment over the last five years. We are so pleased with their results and they are thoroughly deserved."

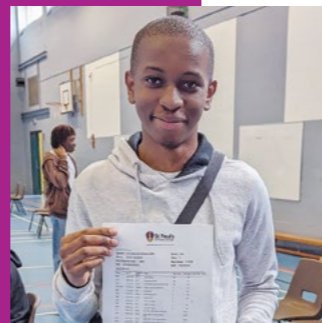
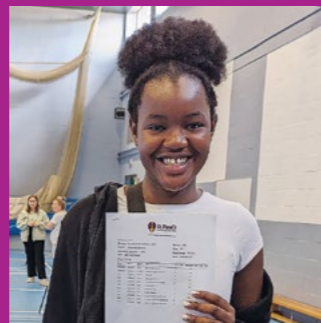
Congratulations to every individual who has secured such excellent grades today. We are particularly impressed by the achievements of:

Gabriella Ochieng, Dilane Sivakumar, Hannah Aiyeola, Ryan Mickle, Francisca Adjei and Daniel Gyabaah. Between them, these students achieved 31 grade 9s and 27 grade 8s.



**Jo-Anne added:** We are very proud of all our students for making the most of the opportunities offered by St Paul's, particularly during this challenging time, and are especially pleased that so many of them have chosen to continue their education in our award-winning Sixth Form.

A level results were impressive too, with students going on to study a range of subjects leading to careers in areas including Product Design, Computer Science, Biomedical Science, Psychology and Counselling, Fashion and Retail, Business Information Systems, Cyber Security, Midwifery, Automotive Engineering, Children's Nursing, Civil Engineering, the Police Service and the British Armed Forces.



## Work related learning day

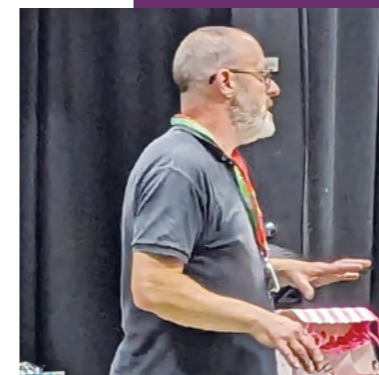
One of the most popular days in school is Work Related Learning Day where students in Years 7 to 10, and in Year 12, participate in a wide range of activities designed to prepare them for the world of work.

In the Soap Enterprise Challenge Year 10 teams created, manufactured and marketed a soap brand. The challenge sees students creating innovative, fun products and giving lively presentations to launch their sweet smelling soaps to classmates.

Year 7 students enjoyed mindfulness, smoothie making, art for wellbeing and Duke of Edinburgh style challenges. They also took part in sporting activities including table tennis, football fitness, boxing and frisbee.

Year 8 loved their STEM activities which included launching rockets on the school field, meeting rabbits (including some giant ones) and exotic animals, practising medical procedures and spending time in an inflatable planetarium. We are grateful to organisations including Network Rail, The Open University, Wonderstruck, Teaching Talons, Honey's Haven and Medical Mavericks for providing such fantastic experiences.

Year 9 had a Steps into Work Day and did fun team challenges where they built towers with newspapers, had 'find your job' workshops and took part in virtual career workouts with employers. Thank you to Worktree for helping to arrange the workshops and activities and to the employers who gave their time to give students a valuable insight into their jobs.



Mr Jones, who organises the careers programme at St Paul's, said: *Work Related Learning Day is one of the highlights of the year and it was wonderful to be able to provide such a rich variety of experiences for students. The day was enjoyed by all.*

# Marking the coronation with bake off fun

The accession of a new monarch provided exciting opportunities for the school with some lucky students and Mrs Hoarty attending the VIP reception for the visit of HM King Charles III to Milton Keynes.



In school we held a Grand Coronation Bake Off and St Paul's bakers produced an impressive array of cakes and sweet treats. The 35 entries included some spectacular crowns, orbs, Union Jack cakes, London scenes and even a St Paul's sword.

Year and Pastoral Leaders judged their Year Group's efforts, while our Catering Manager judged the staff entries. Criteria included taste, creativity and overall celebration of the Coronation. From these it was up to Mrs Hoarty to taste and select the overall winners, a job she really enjoyed. Congratulations to our Year Group Winners:

**Year 7** Isabella for her majestic crown cake

**Year 8** Eve for her regal choux pastry orbs

**Year 10** Oliver for his 'God Save This Cake' red velvet extravaganza

**Year 11** Daniel for his delicious Twix cookies

**Year 12** Kai for his impressive tri-colour sponge

The overall student winner was Oliver and the staff winners were our Medical Professionals, Tania and Gina, who created a wonderful crown. The cakes were sold to raise funds for our Coronation charity, NAWT Bedfordshire. We're grateful to all the students and staff who participated so enthusiastically in this event.



# Students enjoy days of recollection

Years 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed taking part in their Days of Recollection in the Maureen Grant Room. Each tutor group spends the day with their form, tutors and Pastoral Leader. Mrs Hoskins, Senior Chaplaincy and Pastoral Leader, said: "Days of Recollection are a valuable way for pupils to explore their spirituality, whilst bonding with their classmates and tutors."

Each Year Group's days had different themes. For example the theme of Year 7's day was getting to know each other better and learning about St Paul. They learnt about the communities they are part of and how to be a considerate, compassionate and courteous member of the St Paul's community.

Year 8 explored the theme of charity and looked at what charity means, the role of charities in society and the barriers that charities might face. As part of their discussions they also learnt more about the work of Catholic charity, CAFOD around the world. During Days of Recollection pupils also take part in fun games where they learn the value of team work and communication.

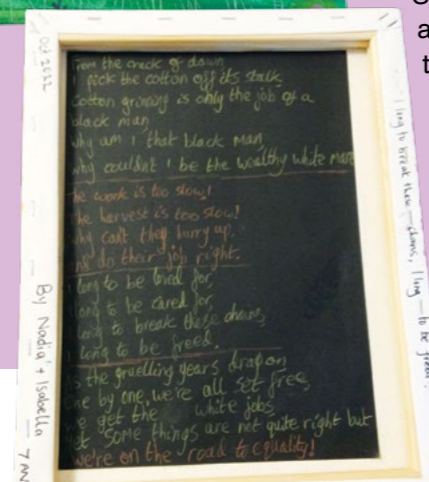


# Black History Month Competition

Students took part in a competition to mark Black History Month. The theme of the month was 'Action, not words – using our knowledge of history to make changes for the future'.

Students were asked to create something that celebrates and draws attention to the diverse cultures and identities of our St Paul's Community. This could be a piece of artwork, a dramatic piece, a song, a poem, a model or anything else that students thought of!

We received some fantastic entries and the first joint prize went to Nadia Partyka and Isabella Oxley from Year 7 for their beautiful painting and poem, with second prize going to Morenike Ogunleye from Year 9 for her wonderful PowerPoint presentation. The prize winners received tokens for our book vending machines.





## MK Breakers guide Year 10 boys

Year 10 boys experienced a personal development session with six members of MK Breakers Basketball Club. The session aimed to raise aspirations and encouraged students to challenge the stereotypical views surrounding masculinity.

Students were engaging in real life conversations and were challenged on their actions in particular situations. Mrs Beddow-Patel, who organised the session, said: "Our students were exceptionally forthcoming about sharing their truths and their struggles with the players and coaches and took on board advice to support them finding success in the future."

The session was followed up with a trip to watch MK Breakers play and the players and coaches came back during Pentecost term to check in with the students.



## Celebrating Maths Week



We celebrated all things numerical during Maths Week. As is tradition, the Maths Department wore Maths related outfits and this was also embraced by our English and Emmaus Student Support Departments.

On Pi Day our canteens served tasty pies. We also had special visitors from Balfour Beatty who worked with Year 8 to use their mathematical skills to build wind turbines.

Students had the opportunity to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum by completing the Maths Day starters, created by the Maths ambassadors, in all their lessons and solving problems. Students collected green stamps throughout the week for applying their numeracy skills in their learning and these were entered into a draw to win lots of fantastic prizes.



## D&T students visit Design Museum

We were delighted to give 100 Year 9 Design and Technology students the opportunity to go on a trip to the Science Museum in London. The aim of the trip was for students to witness the close links between Science and Design and Technology.

Students enjoyed the museum and the trip. There were several wonderful exhibitions on display including the 'David Sainsbury Technicians Exhibition'. This exhibition brought to life a wide variety of workplaces, from a blockbuster film set to a pharmaceutical lab, allowing students to experience the hidden yet vital careers of technicians.

Students were brilliantly behaved on the day and it was great to see them interacting with the displays at the museum. Students will now have plenty of opportunities to apply what they learnt on the day to their studies in Design and Technology

## Jaden appears in BBC Young Artist of the Year

Year 9 student, Jaden got all the way to the semi-final of a national art competition, BBC Young Artist of the Year.

Jaden saw a poster at school, applied and two months later heard that he had been selected to appear on the show. In episode one he had to create a piece of fan art. The contestants met an artist who has created fan art for some of the world's most famous films, and then tried some parkour to perfect their action poses for their final masterpiece.

In the semi-final Jaden went to Hackney to help at a community centre and to meet special guest Dr Ronx, an A & E doctor and TV presenter. The contestants then created a community themed piece of art. Although his journey ended here, Jaden was delighted to be a part of the show and enjoyed the whole filming experience. He said: "I wasn't expecting to get to the semi-final, I was surprised and excited."

Miss White, Jaden's Art teacher, said: "Jaden is an extremely talented young artist who spends an enormous amount of time and effort on the artwork he produces. We were so impressed to see him expand on his talents in this BBC series."



## Culture day recognises our diverse community

We had a joyful Day of Culture with students and staff celebrating across the school and wearing their national costume or clothing representing a culture they identify with.

Students and staff took part in dance performances in the theatre and we had some amazing African drummers entertaining us.

What a vibrant community we have.



## Student Leaders attend inaugural conference



Our inaugural Student Leadership Conference took place in January. Student Leaders worked together to think about how Jesus led and identified ways in which they could follow Jesus' example as servant leaders.

They wrote a vision for St. Paul's student leadership and then an action plan for their work this coming year. We are very excited about the ways in which our Student Leaders have served the school community this year.



## Science Week 2023

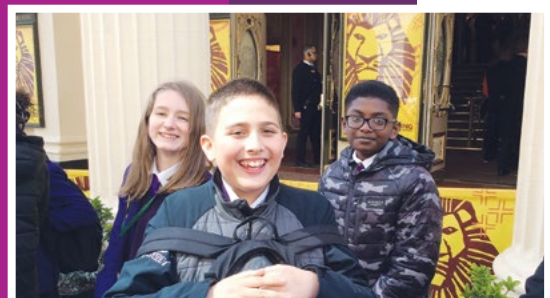
As part of Science Week we visited Catholic primary school assemblies and let pupils take part in some Science experiments. At St Monica's the pupils were amazing, their enthusiasm was great and their behaviour was impeccable. We heard from the school that they had a really good time, with some parents even mentioning the visit at their parents evening.

Another highlight was a Year 9 visit to a Women in STEM workshop, hosted by Anglian Water at Kent's Hill Park Conference Centre. Our pupils met lots of inspiring women who are working in STEM related jobs. The St Paul's team were praised for their determination and teamwork in a fun task where they built a house out of Lego.

## Year 7 experience London theatre

Year 7 students enjoyed two exciting visits to London theatres. They went to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in Southwark, where they took part in a workshop and had a tour of the venue. They learnt some fascinating facts about the Globe's history from when it first opened in 1599, how it was destroyed by fire in 1613 and subsequently rebuilt until it closed again in 1642.

It was a fascinating day for Year 7 and helped bring their studies to life in preparation for studying the plays of William Shakespeare. Year 7 also had a fun visit to watch The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre. For some of our students it was the first time they had seen a live theatre performance so excitement levels were high and we returned home with coach loads of tired but very happy children.



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