

Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College
Specialist Mathematics and Computing College
Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE
CEO: Mr S G Bell, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH
Telephone: 01538 493777
Email: office@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
Web: www.painsley.co.uk

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am delighted that pupils from Year 9 will be joining our live teaching sessions next week. I know that the lockdown is a difficult time and these sessions are truly reducing the gap between where a child would normally have been at this stage of the year and where they actually are in terms of their learning. In fact, in some subjects, we are actually ahead! This is a great testimony to the staff and pupils! We are conscious that not all of our pupils are receiving live teaching but are receiving on-line work instead. It is important that they spend sufficient time on this work. As a reminder, the following should be completed by each Year:

Years	Hours per day
Year 7 & 8	5 pieces of remote learning per day via SMH
Year 9	5 lessons a day – a combination of live streamed lessons and learning via SMH (see distributed timetable)
Year 10	5 live streamed lessons
Year 12	5 (unless non-contact time on the timetable) live streamed lessons
Homework/private study will continue as normal and in accordance with the homework timetable.	
NB: Year 11 and Year 13 lessons have now ended, with the exception of BTEC courses.	

Please do not hesitate to contact pastoral leads, if there are any difficulties with the work including accessing the activities through ICT. We will be contacting every family within the next few weeks to keep in touch and say hello!

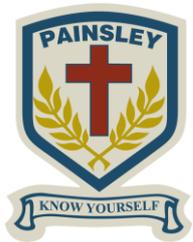
In other news, we are delighted to inform you of the following appointments at the school:

- Ms Mertz – Teacher of MFL
- Mr Birch – Teacher of ICT/ Computing
- Mr Parkes – Teacher of Chemistry and Maths
- Miss Jones – Teacher of Art and Technology
- Mrs Rowland – Teacher of Art and Photography
- Mrs Dubois – Teacher of Maths
- Mr Agwae – Teacher of Science

Indeed, we may have further appointments over the coming weeks and I will keep you informed of these in due course. We were very impressed with the quality of candidates who applied for jobs at the school and are excited about the future. There is no doubt that they will add a huge amount to our school. We look forward to you meeting them soon.

Yet again it has been another busy week as we continue to follow the government guidelines in relation to the grading and ranking of students. We are communicating with all of our primary schools regarding the incumbent Year 7

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students. We are developing a thorough programme of transition for Year 11 students returning to our Sixth Form. We are finalising option choices for Year 8 moving into Year 9 and indeed beginning to make plans for the next academic year. We are delighted that building work has now been able to commence on our T Level Digital Hub.

As you will have anticipated, a number of planned trips have had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. In addition other planned trips due to take place before the end of this academic year are, in view of the current situation, also likely to be cancelled. Understandably, we have received a number of enquiries from parents asking for a refund of monies paid for the trips.

We have insurance cover for such eventualities and are confident that we will be able to claim the irrecoverable costs of the trip. However, we are still awaiting confirmation.

I would like to assure you that, as soon as we receive details of the claim's value, we will distribute the money to you immediately. Obviously, we hope and anticipate that this will be 100% of the contributions paid but cannot guarantee this at this stage of the insurance claim.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your patience as I appreciate this is a financially difficult time for everyone. I will contact you again as soon as I receive details from the insurance company.

We are all missing attending Mass at the moment although the virtual Masses available on this link are a great source of support for us all:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>

The Gospel reading for this coming Sunday is as follows:

John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold

Jesus said:

'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some thief and a brigand. The one who enters through shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'



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Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

It made me smile reading about recognising voices when thinking about live teaching! It is so good to hear our teachers and each other's voices! There are, of course, many people whose voices we miss in person at the moment: our friends, family and Fr Eric. I am also sure that we read about the ability to move freely with a longing that we never thought we would feel! Jesus reassures us that our faith in Him will lead us to be saved; we pray for Jesus' help in these difficult times and remember His great sacrifice on the cross. We also remember all key workers in their self-sacrifice for helping others; a great example for the world! Maybe the outcomes of this pandemic will be a more caring and selfless world that reflects Jesus' wishes for us all. It could also be true that we hear the voice of Jesus and know that it does not belong to a stranger.

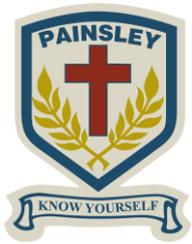
I thank you for your continuing support and pray that you stay safe and well.

God bless

Principal



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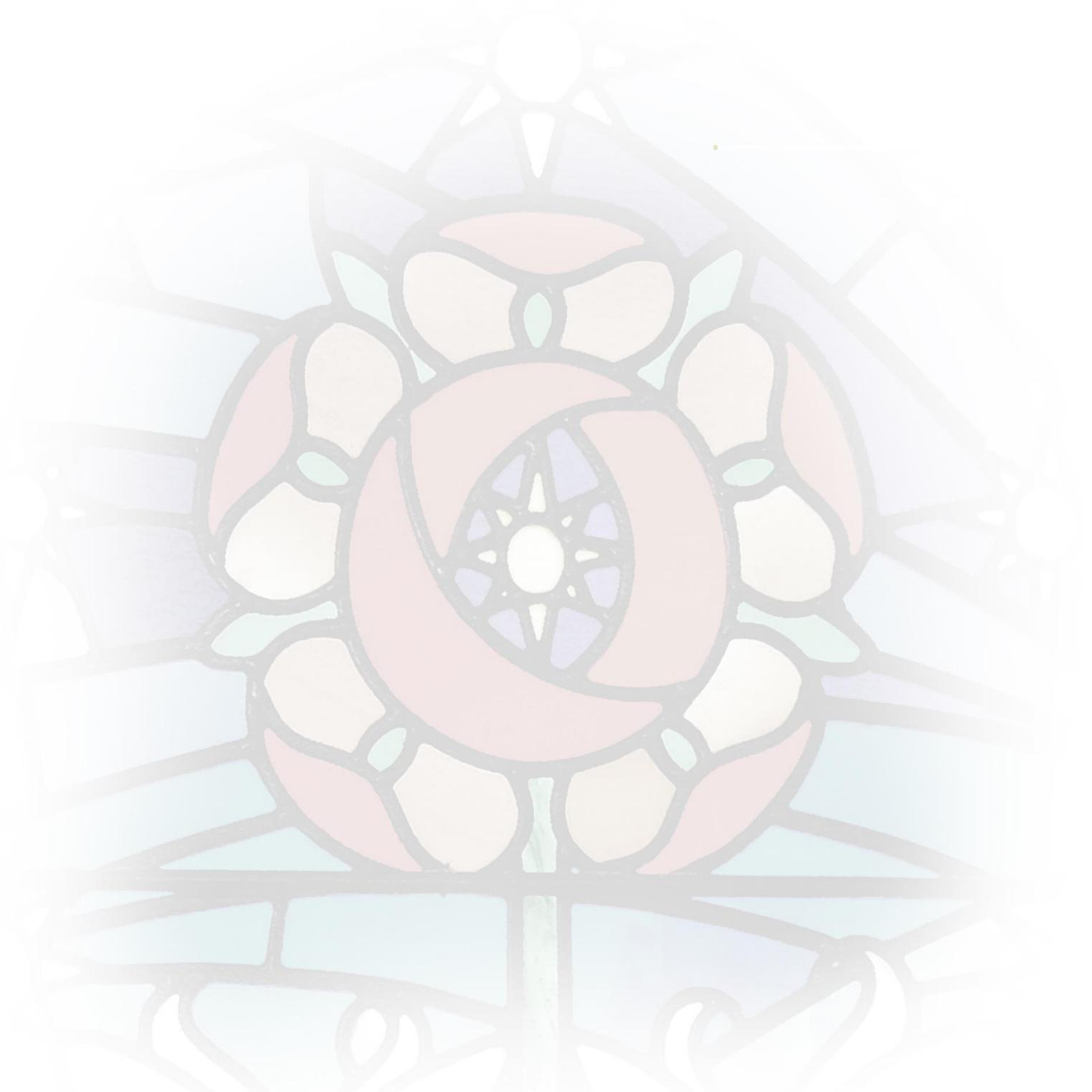
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