



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

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Dear Parent/ Carer

Tomorrow marks VE day – Victory in Europe. In special celebrations, we have a Bank Holiday meaning that schools will be closed with the exception of our Hub at St Thomas’.

The photograph opposite shows some special people celebrating the event. **How many pupils can name the people and where do they think the photo is taken (answers below)?**



VE day followed nearly 6 years of war. On 7th May 1945, Nazi German officials agreed to a complete surrender; people in Europe were finally free to enjoy their lives again! The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, announced that the next day, 8th May 1945, would be a Public Holiday known as Victory in Europe day. There were huge celebrations with the Royal Family and the Prime Minister appearing 8 times in front of thousands and thousands of people. Dancing, music and other celebrations continued into the night! I wonder if we can imagine how fabulous the parties must have been after all those years of worry and upset.

What many people forget is that this was not the end of World War 2 as Japan continued to fight the allied forces. Japan did not surrender until 15th August, 1945. This became known as Victory over Japan Day. Rationing continued until 1954 nearly 10 years after the end of the war. The war had ended and the allies were victorious but people’s lives had changed forever.

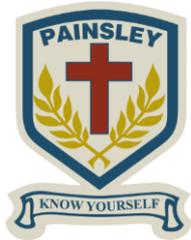
We are, of course, in our own battle now in 2020 against an invisible enemy. Just like in the war, heroes on the frontline are dying as they try to save people’s lives. Despite the suffering, dying and anguish, it is important that we remain positive in the face of adversity and thank God for the wonderful work of our doctors, nurses, scientists and, of course, our own teachers and support staff who continue to work tirelessly to maintain every child’s education.

We celebrate the following from our own community this week:

- The Year 7 students who sent in prayers to the chaplaincy team that have now been sent out to over 80 parishioners in our parish communities.
- Year 7 & 8 students and students in our hub who have designed and made VE day celebration posters, bunting and other displays. The school building is covered in bunting and the flag is flying.
- Year 9 for embracing the ‘live streaming’ of lessons – I am hearing great things!
- Year 10 for starting to write their student leader application letters – I look forward to receiving and reading them all.



The Painsley Catholic Academy.
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- The Year 11 students who joined our first Sixth Form 'meet' in preparation for September.
- Being able to talk to so many of you through our wellbeing calls – there are many more to follow.

We look forward to hearing the Prime Minister speak on Sunday as we anticipate the easing of the lockdown. We know we are in a long battle and do not expect things to be back to normal for some time. We will write again as soon as possible to announce our reaction to any potential measures that schools will need to adopt. Crucially, we will only open when it is safe to do so for our pupils and staff.

Please continue to remember that you can watch Sunday Mass on the following link:

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

We need our faith to strengthen us in these difficult times. Jesus reassures us in the Gospel on Sunday that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In Jesus, we trust.

God bless

Mrs R Waugh

Principal

Photograph answers

The following people appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace: Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II); Queen Elizabeth, consort of George VI, King of the United Kingdom who became known as the Queen Mother following the King's death in 1952; the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill; King George VI, King of the United Kingdom; Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon. We thank God for the long life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II.



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