



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

As we come to the end of our testing in school I must pay tribute to the students for their maturity, cooperation and understanding of this important part of returning to school. They have all be fantastic and well-rehearsed in the testing procedure. I would like to pay tribute to the 40+ staff who have willingly supported the testing process by preparing, registering, testing, processing and recording in excess of 4,000 tests over 10 days, whilst continuing to carry out all their other teaching and learning commitments. It has been truly remarkable and wonderful to have our college full of life and learners once again.

Students will have all received two boxes of home testing kits to date. Each box contains 3 kits and will allow students to test at home twice weekly up to Easter. As a reminder, any positive test must be followed up by a PCR test and all results must be registered with NHS test and trace and the school (via the link on the homepage of our website). Students will be given further testing kits prior to the Easter holiday to cover the Easter period.

I congratulate the Year 12 and 13 students who received their examination results from their January exams this week. They are exceptional and truly deserved.

Year 10 and 12 continue with their assessments next week and these will really help us to tailor our teaching and learning to the needs of the students following remote learning.

We look forward to talking to Year 8 parents this week during Parents' Evening on Wednesday 24th March. As a reminder, this is via School Cloud and all the information has been emailed to you. Following the evening we look forward to receiving your options forms by 30th March.

Year 7 and 8 will begin to receive their data reports next week. Year 9 full reports will follow after the Easter holiday. A polite reminder that all students should be in their Emmaus bases by 8.45am ready to start the day.

Looking forward to the end of term, we break up on Maundy Thursday (1st April) and students return on **Tuesday 20th April (Monday 19th April is a designated staff INSET day)**. In order to mark Holy Week together, we will be participating in a virtual school Mass on Tuesday 30th March.

I am delighted to share with you the news that 5 of our students across Year 7, 8 and 9 have been nominated as finalists in the Staffs University Future Journalists Award. We look forward to joining the virtual awards ceremony alongside them. Our finalists are Erika Lasmene, Alfie Bonehill, Oliver Baskeyfield, Lara Cripps, and Samantha Dalgleish.

Additionally, Y12 and 13 physics students participated in the British Physics Olympiad at the beginning of March. This is the first time we have been involved in the Olympiad and it was really pleasing to see so many students achieve the gold and silver award. (Gold: Marios Stamoulis, Caio Santos Pasta. Silver: Elizabeth Hartmann, Benedict Harris, Filip Gronkiewicz, Izaak Oakden, Bradley Campbell).

The following is a quote sent alongside their results;

"About **5270 students** participated from **380 schools**, which was most encouraging. The competition could certainly have been made easier with fewer and simpler questions, but the BPhO is here to push students and encourage them to aim high in their physics, allowing them to participate in a national competition taken by the most able physicists of their own age in the country."



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Artsmark Silver Award
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On Tuesday 23rd March we will be joining the nation in prayer and reflection for those who have lost their lives due the pandemic. Students and staff will be invited to pray and participate in a minute's silence at 12pm.

In the Gospel on Sunday (John 12: 20-33), Jesus uses the image of the grain of wheat, which dies to produce a rich crop, to show us that his death was necessary if many were to receive eternal life. Jesus encourages his followers to give him first place in their lives. Jesus wants us to make following him our most important priority. Pope Francis has dedicated a 'Year of St Joseph' and special 'Year of the family' for the Church, starting this week until 26th June 2022. St Joseph is the patron saint of families. As we move towards Holy week with the school family reunited, we pray that God is with us in all our words and deeds.

God bless

Mrs Waugh
Principal



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