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

Friday, 13th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of our ongoing self-evaluation, I invite all parents to complete the Catholic Schools Inspection: Parent survey. As a Catholic school, we are under the direction of the Bishops of England and Wales. As a result, Catholic schools are subject to a Catholic School Inspection which focuses on three main areas:

- Catholic Life and Mission
- Religious Education
- Collective Worship (prayer and liturgy)

As a Catholic school, these areas are of paramount importance to our strategic development, in addition to our daily life and practice. I would ask you to reflect on what makes our Catholic family unique and consider the reminders set out below and share your thoughts by responding to the survey by Friday, 20th January. Your time and support, as always, are appreciated.

https://forms.office.com/e/EhLS65REZT

Catholic Life and Mission

- *Mission statement permeates all areas of college life*
- *Vibrant Chaplaincy team with Priest Chaplain (Fr Eric Kemball) and Lay Chaplain (Mrs Sowter) and student chaplaincy teams*
- *'The Painsley Way' which guides half-termly focus on Gospel values and Catholic social teaching*
- *Catholic social teaching is reflected in every department area as appropriate*
- *Culture of welcome, especially for those who are more vulnerable*
- *Positive relationships throughout the College where staff go the extra mile to support all in the Painsley family*
- *Weekly newsletters and half-termly newsletters which focus on the spiritual life of the college and support parents in communion with the faith of the Catholic church*
- *Highest levels of pastoral care with LG Pastoral Leads, Pastoral Leads, Emmaus tutors, safeguarding team, SEND team, counsellors, education welfare worker, inclusion co-ordinator and lay chaplain all available for students*
- *Catholic character evident in the environment. Prayer corners in all Emmaus rooms, a crucifix in all rooms, chapel at the heart of the school and display around the College site*
- *Retreat and pilgrimage experiences for all year groups, either internally or externally*
- *Parish links and parish partnership and collaboration, afternoon tea, stations of the cross, SVP, Christmas party*
- *Outreach and charity work at a local, national and global level supporting students to demonstrate their faith in action in conjunction with our MAC family of schools*

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- *RSHE provision carefully planned and reflecting the Catholic ethos of the college*

- *Spiritual life student voice to inform Catholic life and mission*
- *Staff opportunities including adoration, retreat, journey of faith programme, prayer opportunities and spiritual life professional development*
- *Full communion with the Diocesan family and opportunities*

Religious Education

- *RE given the highest priority in terms of curriculum time and resourcing*
- *Dedicated team of RE specialist teachers*
- *High quality RE with proven track record of success at all levels and for all groups of students*
- *Engaging curriculum with opportunity for reflection*
- *Students are supported to work independently and are actively engaged in lessons*
- *Students know how they are doing and can articulate where they are to improve*
- *Religiously literate students who are able to reflect spiritually and think ethically and theologically*

Collective Worship (prayer and liturgy)

- *Prayer is central to the life of the college through daily prayer in Emmaus time and regularly throughout the day (before lunchtime and end of the day)*
- *Weekly act of worship prepared and led by students*
- *Prayer reflects the liturgical year and variety of traditions within the Church*
- *Scripture forms a part of all prayer and liturgy*
- *Prayer and liturgy opportunities throughout the year with the Chaplaincy team*
- *Student participation in liturgical ministries with confidence*
- *Mass celebrated for all year groups throughout the year and on each feast day (signposted to parish Masses for year groups not involved on feast days)*
- *Mass is celebrated both in school and at St Giles' church*

On Tuesday Year 11 had the opportunity to find out about methods that can be used to plan their future career. The strategies they investigated are used by management consultants to help clients have a clear focus and make progress. They involve aligning their future goals with possible career aspirations and assessing progress towards their goals. During the day they also produced their Achievement File which includes a CV and personal statement that can be used at interviews. Any certificates can be brought into school and kept in their Achievement Folder until they are presented to the students later this year.

Year 8 have had the opportunity to visit Beth Shalom, the National Holocaust Centre as part of their history studies. The Centre was the brainchild of James and Stephen Smith, along with their mother Marina, who in 1991 visited Yad Vashem - Israel's national Holocaust museum. This conscientious, thoughtful and considered Christian family was stunned and challenged by the information gathered during their journey. James and Stephen believed that their education of the Holocaust at school and university had been lacking, as there had never been an opportunity to consider what the Holocaust might mean for them as individuals. The trip in 1991 changed the lives of the family, as they came back to the

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UK and knew that the Holocaust had to be taught, discussed and understood by all. They were especially keen to see this done correctly for students learning about the Holocaust at school.

In the week ahead, we have a drama trip to the New Vic, Year 10 'You're hired' day, Year 7 Lion King trip and Year 10 parents' evening. I do hope all Year 10 parents can join us with the information sent out previously.

In the gospel on Sunday, we hear John describing Jesus as the Lamb of God (John 1:29-34). The image of the lamb reflects the sacrifices that are to be made by Jesus. What sacrifices do we make for the sake of others?

God Bless

Mrs Waugh

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