Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College
Specialist Mathematics and Computing College
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Friday, 3rd March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all had a lovely half-term break last week. We started this week with an extended Emmaus time to mark the start of Lent. As Ash Wednesday fell during the half-term break, Emmaus tutors guided the students through the importance of the season of Lent and prepared Stations of the Cross with the students. It was also the start of our new gospel values foci of mercy and forgiveness and service and sacrifice. In fact, our Catholic Social Teaching this half-term is preferential option of the poor and in Acts of Worship we reflected on how the cost of living crisis, the war in Ukraine and the earthquake in Turkey and Syria are a few opportunities where we can ensure our voice is heard and we can implement the lent practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Additionally, Year 7 participated in their 'WOW' day, a careers experience focused on STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths), Year 8 visited Harry Potter World, Year 11 students visited the GCSE poetry live experience and all students marked World Book Day with reading throughout the day. I must congratulate our students on their impeccable behaviour on the various trips and visits. It is always wonderful to hear the feedback from staff and members of the public, who are so proud of the fact that Painsley students 'stand-out' for their enthusiasm and commitment to learning in all contexts. Equally I have to congratulate the students for their excellent behaviour and commitment on Wednesday. Whether students were learning from home (Year 10) or in school, students were exceptional in their engagement with lessons and learning activities.

Many thanks to the staff and students who supported the North Staffordshire Vocations mass last night at St Giles and many congratulations to the Sixth Form football team who competed against Denstone College in football on Wednesday afternoon and secured a 5-2 victory.

On Thursday we also had a pastoral/citizenship session which in the main focused on financial education appropriate to the age of the students. Year 13 students engaged in their progress day and Year 11 had their year group photograph and individual/friendship photographs. This weekend the ski trip departs and we wish the staff and students a safe and enjoyable visit.

As we move into the week ahead, we embark on our assessment fortnight for Years 7-10 and final set of mock examinations for Year 11. We have sent out letters for our second Year 11 parents' evening of the year on 9th March from 5.00pm to 7.00pm and it is crucial that all parents attend. On the evening, we will be giving out the revision timetable for Easter and May half-term opportunities, in addition to guidance available for revision in all subject areas.

In the gospel on Sunday, we hear the story of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9). Each year on the second Sunday of Lent, we read the account of the Transfiguration. It was the moment when the disciples were shown the divinity of Jesus on the Holy Mountain. The scene is reminiscent of Moses' encounter with God on Sinai, when his face, too, shone like the sun. Peter attempts to 'freeze' the moment. The awesome moment of revelation cannot, however, last, and Jesus brings his disciples back to the realities before them with the reminder that his death must precede the revelation of his glory at the Resurrection. How are we preparing ourselves for the sacrifice of Jesus' death and the glory of the Resurrection?

God Bless

Mrs R Waugh

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