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

Tuesday, 5th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a new academic year. I hope you have had a wonderful summer break, full of family, friends and good times.

At the start of the new term, I must congratulate our Year 13 and 11 students on their examination results. Year 13 results were superb and, coupled with the Ofsted 'Outstanding' rating for the Sixth Form, demonstrate what an amazing place our Painsley Sixth form is. Please read the press release on our website www.painsley.co.uk. Equally, Year 11 achieved excellent examination results. These are even more impressive after the educational disruption they have faced over the last three years. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Please read the press release on our website www.painsley.co.uk.

We welcome the following staff to our Painsley family:

- Mr Gradwell (Head of Physics)
- Dr Shave (Head of Maths)
- Ms Davies (Teacher of Science)
- Mr Hurdley (Teacher of Music)
- Miss Wright (Teacher of Music)
- Ms Eamens (Maths Hub Coordinator)
- Mrs Geaney (Administrative and Finance Assistant)
- Mrs Barker (Senior deputy designated safeguarding lead)

Welcome back from maternity leave:

- Mrs Chell (Design and Technology – textiles)
- Mrs Taylor (History)

Change in roles:

- Mr Jeff Hendley – Assistant Principal (Personal Development)

We wish them all a long and happy vocation serving our wonderful students. Additionally, I would like to welcome our 230 Year 7 students and 120 students who have re-joined our Painsley Sixth Form.

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The Painsley Way

As you know, our Painsley Catholic College Mission Statement sets out what we aim to do each and every day:

"In our College we value and respect every person as a child of God, as we grow together in faith, knowledge, understanding and love to serve the community."

In living the Mission Statement, we ensure every student follows our motto to 'Know yourself'. Everything we do is focused on the life and teachings of Jesus and rooted in Gospel Values. The Painsley Way sets out a Gospel Value focus for each half-term. The first half-term of this academic year will be focusing on **Purity & Holiness** (humility & gentleness) – as we show the life and teachings of Jesus in our actions and treatment of others. This is linked to our Catholic Social Teaching of **Human Dignity** and character value of being spiritual and prepared for the next stage of our lives and supports the British Value of tolerance.

Start of Term

In the first week of term, you will be receiving the parents' calendar of events and the Home School Agreement. It is crucial we work in partnership together and I would ask that you kindly sign the home school agreement and return it to your son/daughter's Emmaus tutor. Equally, I would ask you to keep the calendar somewhere prominent so that you are always aware of the key dates relating to your child's education.

At the start of the academic year, I ask you to pay your school fund contribution of £30. This has been frozen over the last few years to recognise the rise in the cost of living, but is crucial to support the work of the College as we continue to strive to provide an 'Outstanding' quality of education (as confirmed by OFSTED in May). School fund is used to purchase new books, resources and ICT equipment for the benefit of all students. Payment should be made via ParentPay by Friday, 17th September. Thank you for your invaluable support on this matter.

Attendance 'First Day Contact'

Please remember that we need to be informed early on the first day of absence if your son/daughter cannot attend College. Please also ensure that we have updated emergency contact numbers and that, in particular, any telephone numbers for places of work are correct. **We must have a minimum of 2 contacts for all students**. We also operate a free text service so please ensure that we have a correct mobile phone number. Please note that, if a student is absent and parents have not contacted us, we will contact you at home or work to determine that the absence is genuine. The College Attendance Policy can be viewed on our website at www.painsley.co.uk. All students have an attendance target of 97%. If there have been any changes to the health care needs of your son/daughter, please ensure these are shared with Mrs Sedgwick so that we can ensure the appropriate healthcare plans are in place.

The Golden Thread Teaching School Hub
Anti Bullying Pledge School
Wellbeing Award for Schools 2019-2022
Dyslexia friendly
Leading Parent Partnership Award 2017-2020
World Class Schools

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Holidays in Term Time

Legislation states that I am not able to grant holiday requests – in fact it is illegal for me to do so. Furthermore, holidays in term time may result in the local authority issuing parents with a £60-£120 penalty notice. Therefore, I ask you to ensure that all holidays are booked outside of term time. I know that this may seem punitive but it is the law and I have no option but to follow it – I am sure that you will understand and co-operate.

Buses

If your son/daughter is using the college buses, please ensure all payments are maintained and up to date. Failure to so may result in the seat being withdrawn.

Values and Expectations policy

We aim to ensure that all students value and respect each other and are rewarded for doing so. As a reminder, all parents can see their child's achievement and behaviour points by downloading and logging into the school gateway. You will also be able to view your son/daughter's timetable.

College Day

I would like to remind you of the changes we have made to the college day as a result of staff and student feedback:

8:40am – 8:50am – Emmaus time
8:55am – 9:55am – Period 1 (60 minutes)
10:00am – 11:00am – Period 2 (60 minutes)
11:00am – 11:20am – Break (20-minute break)
11:20am – 12:20pm – Period 3 Year 7 & 8 (60 minutes)
11:20am – 12:30pm – Period 3 Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 (70 minutes)
12:20pm – 1:05pm – Year 7 & 8 lunchtime
12:30pm – 1:15pm – Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 lunchtime
1:10pm – 2:20pm – Year 7 & 8 registration and period 4 (70 minutes)
1:20pm – 2:20pm – Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 registration and period 4 (60 minutes)
2:25pm – 3:25pm – Period 5 (60 minutes)
3:30pm – 4:15pm – Period 6 – for relevant Year 11 & 13 students

You will see from the times of the college day above:

- The college day begins 5 minutes earlier – bus companies have amended their pick-up times by 5 minutes. All students will need to be on site at 8:35am and in Emmaus bases ready to begin at 8:40am.

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- 5-minute movement time has been built in to ensure students can move around the site. The times in bold mark the beginning of lessons and students arriving after this time will be marked as late.
- 20-minute morning break to enable students to access the canteen and toilets as required.
- Staggered lunchtime so Years 7 & 8 can access the dining room before Years 9, 10 & 11. Lunchtime will be 45 minutes for all students. Extra-curricular opportunities will still be available during this time and any student who commits to participating will be issued with a lunchtime pass to enable them to access the canteen whenever they need to.
- The college day ends 5 minutes earlier – bus companies have amended their drop-off times by 5 minutes.

I hope that you can appreciate the positive steps being made to support all students and staff throughout the day. As always, we will keep the new timings of the day under review through staff, student and parent voice to ensure the greatest use of our college day. The Year 11 student leaders believe the changes will be an enhancement to the student experience and make greater use of learning time. I welcome their honesty and input and your ongoing support.

Communication policy

As you know, education is most successful when parents, students and staff all work in partnership. Communication is vital to our successful partnership. As a reminder, please see the main points of communication below and please do not hesitate to contact the relevant person for your query. We send out a parents' calendar, weekly newsletter, text messages, Facebook posts in addition to regular e-mails. The website contains a huge amount of information. We have a change team and will be seeking parental voice at regular intervals throughout the year. Parents' evenings, curriculum evenings, SEND coffee mornings and Pupil Premium contact weeks are all opportunities for you to share your views in an appropriate forum to support the ongoing development of the College.

Main points of contact:

- Emmaus Tutor - general enquiries and sharing pastoral issues/concerns. The pastoral teams are attached with this letter for your reference.
- Pastoral Lead - more specific pastoral/academic concerns and queries. A list of all Pastoral Leads and contacts is on our website.
- Head of Department - specific departmental queries or concerns. A list of all HoDs can be found on the school website.
- Safeguarding team – Mr Bullock (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs Barker/Mrs Jepson/ Mr Johnson (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads).
- Attendance – Reception staff to report attendance. Further concerns should be directed to the Pastoral Lead or Mrs Barlow (Education Welfare Officer).
- Health – Mrs Sedgwick

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- Special Needs - Mrs Comfort (SENDCo)
- Finance - Finance Department

Should your queries need further attention, please contact the most appropriate member of the Leadership Team:

Mr D Bullock - Assistant Principal: Safeguarding and wellbeing
Mr A Growcott - Assistant Principal: Values and Expectations, attendance, anti-bullying
Mr J Hendley – Assistant Principal: Personal development, PSHE, RSHE and citizenship
Mrs S Jepson - Assistant Principal: Sixth Form Lead
Mrs T Lambert - Assistant Principal: transition, continuous professional development of staff and the learning environment
Ms C Oberman - Senior Assistant Principal: Teaching School Hub, Maths Hub & Behaviour Hub
Mr M Palmer - Assistant Principal: curriculum, timetable & options, daily detail
Mrs C Rooney – Vice Principal: Teaching & learning & Catholic life
Mrs C Talbot - Business Manager and oversight of support teams
Mr F Waugh - Vice Principal: Impact of teaching and learning, including data & examinations and Pupil Premium
Mrs R Waugh - Principal

As part of our ongoing pursuit of exceptional communication, we the Painsley multi-academy company share in the overarching educational principal:

We believe exceptional communication skills enhance the spiritual development, the life chances and opportunities for all in our community.

As a result, we share with you our parent charter:

Parents	**Key points**
General ethos	**<u>Relevant Painsley MAC Values:</u>** **People Really Matter!** The very best learning opportunities for our pupils An outstanding partnership with parents that is built on trust and respect *Associated Gospel value: dignity and compassion* *Associated Catholic Social Teaching: dignity of work and rights of the workers*
Relationships	We aim to develop a partnership with all of our parents. We believe in your child and will do all we can to work with you. This is something that happens continually.

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	All staff, from the Principal down, are happy to meet you at a mutually convenient time.
Advice and guidance	We provide practical strategies to support learning at home so parents work in partnership with us in terms of their child's spiritual, social and academic development.
Communications	We tailor school communications to encourage positive communication about your child's learning throughout the year. We will not simply give you information but we aim to actively seek out information from you about your child.
Your child's learning	Your survey responses tell us that you do not always feel that you are being updated about what your child is learning in class. Therefore, as a MAC family, we will be trialling strategies to keep you regularly informed about what your child is learning in class so you can have discussions about the subject content. Please do let us know your thoughts about the strategies/any possible suggestions.
Parents' evenings	Parents' evenings are a positive experience that build on the belief that your child can succeed. We offer practical advice for what your child needs to do to develop work/approach to school life.
Additional support	Parents know their child best. Therefore, we ask that parents contact school if there are any issues of concern and we will give additional support as necessary. We all want the best for your child.
Reports	We time reports so they are meaningful and inform you of the way forward. We will be honest about any barriers in terms of your child's progress and will offer solutions to these working in partnership with you.
Policies	We will always consider (and, where appropriate, involve) parents when drafting policies. We aim to make policies accessible and easy to understand.
Emails	We will respond to emails within **3 working days**. If a matter is **urgent**, please contact reception and we will **speak to you that day**. We ask that parents refrain from emailing staff outside the hours of 8-5 Monday to Friday.
Understanding	Any relationship is built on understanding. We are limited by law regarding our decisions on certain points, such as holidays in term time. Please respect the legal frameworks we operate in.
Attendance	We will work with you to ensure that your child attends school regularly and arrives on time. This is because your child will quickly fall behind if they are not present or are late. We have busy, fun days! If there are any barriers to your child attending school, please let us know.
Praise	We appreciate any positive feedback and recognition of our actions. Please do let us know any positive feedback via email: tellus@painsley.staffs.sch.uk

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Resolutions/ Complaints	Sadly, there are times when relationships can be strained. Therefore, we have an easy-to-follow resolution and complaints procedure. If a parent is unhappy with any aspect of the school, please follow the policy and we will work together to resolve the issue. For general recommendations on improvements, please email: tellus@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
Phone calls	Reception staff will ensure that **parents receive a call back on the day** of an incoming call. If this cannot be the case, parents will be called to inform them when the call will be made. If the matter is urgent, a senior member of staff will either take the call immediately or contact you back on the same day.
Induction	All pupils and their families are entitled to a full induction programme consisting of at least an initial meeting and a tour of the school along with sessions in school to ensure you feel fully supported and are happy with your child's education.
Pupil wellbeing	If you notice any changes in your child at home, please let us know. We will not tolerate any form of bullying at school and will work with you to ensure your child is not in any harm. Sometimes, a child behaves differently at home compared to school so it is important you contact us. We care very much about your child. We will also regularly signpost you to services that the Local Authority offers.
Staff wellbeing	Staff work very hard to support your child. We ask, in a spirit of positive relationships with our Catholic school, that staff are treated with respect at all times, and we will do the same with you.
Positive behaviour	We strive for a consistent approach to behaviour between parents and the school, for example, by sharing expectations with parents. Working in partnership provides for a much better understanding between us and benefits your child.
Invites to school	We warmly welcome you to visit school throughout the year, including the opportunity to visit lessons and understand the strategies we use to maximise learning.
Changes to circumstances at home	We understand the pressures of life including relationship breakdowns, financial difficulties and other challenges we face. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any support or just a friendly person to talk to!
Surveys	We will carry out an annual survey in order to understand how parents feel about communication with the school and follow up any areas in partnership with parents.
Parishes	We will work with you and the parish so that your child has the opportunity to embrace the word of God.

Please consider supporting our PTA through the monthly draw. Please contact Mrs Rhodes for details.

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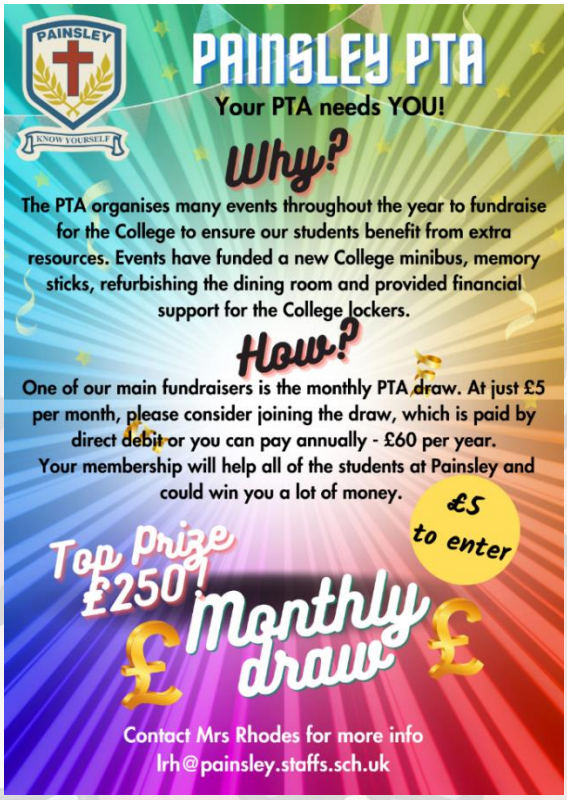

In the Gospel on Sunday (Matthew 16:21-27), we heard Jesus predict his death. Jesus reminds his followers that "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me". As we begin our new term together, we recognise that the path of following Christ is not always easy, but with purity and holiness we can inspire in others the recognition of human dignity and encourage all we meet to become the people God intended them to be.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your support on upholding 'The Painsley Way'. I wish you all a very successful and happy year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Waugh

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