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, 15th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of our first fortnight in college, I would like to congratulate all the students on their fantastic start to the academic year. It has been wonderful to see their positive approach to learning and to college life in general. Year 7 have settled so incredibly well and it feels like they have been part of the Painsley family for a long time already. It is lovely to see so many of last year's Year 11 returning to study in the sixth form and getting used to their studies in a new phase of learning. Thank you to you as parents for supporting our young people and engaging with their learning by asking them about their college day.

We have also started in our preparations for September 2024, with Year 6 joining us for our feeder school retreat day on Tuesday and our incredibly vibrant Open Evening on Wednesday. School admissions for September 2024 are now open and applications can be made via the local authority before 31st October 2024. Please see our website and Facebook pages for our updated video.

Already this year we have celebrated with 190 students, who achieved the most achievement points in the last academic year with a day at Alton Towers. This is one of the many reward thresholds open to students. as outlined in our values and expectations policy, which can be viewed on the website. Our drama students made a visit to the theatre, Staffordshire university came in to talk to our sixth form students and Year 7 & 9 students have had their college photographs.

It has been lovely to hear of fantastic sporting success over the summer in swimming, badminton and motorsports for our young people and I remind you to let us know of achievements outside of college so we are able to celebrate and congratulate our young people. Please e-mail us on achievements@painsley.staffs.sch.uk.

I am delighted to share with you that over the summer, we heard that we had been reaccredited for 360 degree safe online safety award, recognising our work both in the classroom in teaching our young people but also with the systems we have developed in college to keep us all safe. Feedback from the assessors included:

There is new leadership of online safety in the school and this has been broadened with a shared responsibility by the Director of IT and the DSL, the development of the "Change Team" and further enhanced by the involvement of the Pastoral Leads.
The school has shown itself to be responsive to changes in technologies and related behaviours. During the pandemic the school coped easily with the transition to online/remote learning and was able to ensure safe use and support parents and students in its use. Its recent work on educating users about AI and ChatGTP further emphasises this point.
Staff receive timely updates on online safety issues to enable them to recognise and understand current online safety issues (e.g. training on how to spot and deal with spam emails). The DSL has also taken on the role of sharing this training with other schools in the MAC. Staff and Governor online safety training is based on school/staff needs and current online safety issues.
Technical security is a strength – particularly with the use of MFA, cloud services and penetration testing. The school has shared its good practice and knowledge with other schools in the MAC – in particular, the recent work on cyber-security.
The online safety curriculum has developed further and is now more embedded across the curriculum.
There are strong student voice opportunities in place.
It is clear to see that good online safety practice is far more embedded in the work of the school.

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

We are delighted to announce that we have been designated as one of 19 Languages Hubs in England. We will be working as a co-lead school with Arthur Terry School to develop high quality modern foreign language education across our local areas and with our partner schools.

Equally, we will be embarking on the reaccreditation of our wellbeing award. The process of the reaccreditation enables us to thoroughly evaluate our current practice and develop further strategies to support students and staff alike. As part of the reaccreditation, we will be asking parents to contribute to a survey which will inform our future development. Please look out for the link next week.

As we move on through the term, I would like to draw your attention to my letter regarding the importance of attendance. As both a national and local priority for education, it is important that I share with you explicitly our expectations and support available for you as parents and carers of our young people.

In the gospel on Sunday (Matthew 18: 21-35), Peter asks Jesus 'How many times should I forgive my brother?'. Jesus' response reminds us that even though we may not always make the right choices, we should always forgive those who seek forgiveness. Our Painsley Way this first half-term is focused on the gospel values of purity and holiness and our Catholic social teaching on human dignity and the dignity of work. As we journey through the term, may we all be moved by the dignity of each human being to forgive whenever necessary.

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs Waugh

The Painsley Catholic Academy.
A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with company number 08146661.
Registered Office Address: Station Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire ST10 1LH.