# 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
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Friday, 13th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In a week where we have had glorious sunshine and persistent rain, I thank students for their resilience and commitment to learning.

On Tuesday it was World Mental Health Day. Mr Bullock started the day by exploring the importance of talking to one another, in light of the national campaign "Britain get talking" and equally sent numerous resources home to encourage conversation at home. As I am sure you are aware, there is significant work done in college to support mental health and wellbeing, including:

- Increased school counsellor hours - we have two counsellors covering the full week, who see a number of students for mental health support
- Wellbeing displays around the school promote key phone numbers to mental health organisations
- The college has three mental health first aiders and more will be trained by the end of the year
- The college has anti-bullying reps and has achieved the anti-bullying award
- Student leaders have a visible presence throughout the college
- The college has safe rooms for individual students or groups of students
- The college has a wellbeing room where a member of staff is available for students to talk to if they require this support
- A number of weeks have been dedicated to mental health and wellbeing in Emmaus time
- The pastoral/citizenship curriculum has had a focus on wellbeing last year and even more so into this year
- The college has continued to have a change team (students, staff and parents) to look at improving wellbeing across the college
- The college ran a KS3 and KS4 drop-in evening so parents can have confidential one-to-one meetings with key members of staff for their child; this also happens as part of the SEND team coffee morning and PP coffee morning
- The college has prompted wellbeing apps through Emmaus time
- There is a wellbeing email on the school website for any student or parent that wants to email any wellbeing concerns; this is promoted as part of the drop-in evenings and made available to all parents and students
- There is an anti-bullying email on the school website for any student or parent that wants to email any bullying concerns
- The above-named email addresses are maintained email inboxes by approved personnel
- The college has a visible leadership group to students and staff
- The college seeks the voice of the students, staff and parents at regular intervals throughout the year
- Families receive attendance and wellbeing support through the school's education welfare worker
- The college received the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award, reflecting the rights students have in school
- The college has been reaccredited with the 360 Safe Mark for the quality of online safety provision
- The college has made a number of wellbeing referrals for students and families in need of support; some of these organisations are CAMHS, Young Minds, Changes, Savanna, Dove, Local Support Team, First Response, T3, NSPCC, Early Help Assessments
- Mr Bullock (DSL) has delivered a number of safeguarding and wellbeing Acts of Worship, including sharing the channels of support on offer to students
- PP statement has now got a definite section for wellbeing funding for disadvantaged students


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• The college development plan has a specific section on improving wellbeing and safeguarding across the college
• The college has a staff, student and parent charter to improve communication across the college

On Monday we will be circulating the link for your feedback, in order to shape the future development of this crucial area. We would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete it.

We have been sending out text messages to Year 7 & 8 parents sharing an insight into the curriculum being studied in the hope that this will spark some conversation at home regarding learning. Of course, talking is far more wide-reaching but it is hoped that this will give you some insight into your son/daughter's learning world. If you have any feedback on the text messages, we would love to hear your thoughts.

On Tuesday Year 9 and 10 Gifted and Talented drama students along with the sixth form drama students were invited to a behind the scenes tour of the Alton Towers Dungeons. Students got an insight into the rehearsal process of the actors, costume, makeup and set design as well as special effects. Students were then able to experience the dungeons as a guest, and to see these processes brought to life. The students were models on the day, posing for photos and they will appear on the marketing material for Alton Towers Dungeons.

A Y12 student commented: 'I thought the behind the scenes tour was really interesting and a valuable experience as drama students. The fact it was actor/director led was great as they gave us an insight into the job itself and elements of the tour such as touching set and props was really fun!'

A Y10 student commented: 'The trip has made me realise that there is much more to performing arts careers than acting, there were lots more career options in directing and design than I thought. I didn't realise how much work it would take to put on a performance like that!'

On Thursday evening, Painsley was represented at the Combined Schools Mass at St Gregory's, Longton. Thank you to all who joined in the Mass.

In the week ahead, Our Year 11 art and photography students will be travelling to Liverpool to experience some of the galleries and exhibitions and our sports students from Year 10 will be embarking on a residential visit to experience and hopefully master some of the sporting opportunities beyond the college offer. We look forward to hearing about their experiences.

In the gospel on Sunday (Matthew 22:1-10), we hear the story of an Invitation to the Wedding Feast. The message is clear that many are called but few are chosen. Are we alert and listening to God's call?

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs Waugh


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