



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, 24 November 2023

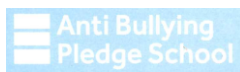
Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had a wonderful swimming gala in college this week, with many students from Year 7-10 of all abilities taking part. It is wonderful to see students working in solidarity with one another to represent their house saint. We have also had a very busy SEND coffee morning this week. Thank you to all of you for attending; it was lovely to meet with you to discuss the provision for your son/daughter. We also had a KS3 wellbeing evening, with the opportunity to meet and talk to appropriate staff and a pastoral/citizenship session focusing on the dangers associated with drugs and alcohol.

On Wednesday morning, students had an extended Emmaus time to consider their Advent actions related to solidarity and the common good. As with last year, our main fundraising focus for Advent will be for CAFOD world gifts. All Emmaus groups have chosen a world gift and devised ways to fundraise to realise their gift. Additionally, as a college community, we will have a non-uniform day at the start of Advent and a Christmas jumper day on the last day of term. Details will be sent to you in advance of both days and the method to donate and support the students in their fundraising efforts. Additionally, this year students are given the opportunity to pursue a social action which has been suggested by sixth form students in their house. This is to ensure that we have a variety of actions which reflects the identity of their saints and students have been made aware that if they wish to pursue an action other than the one given to their house, they are able to do so. Where students are invited to bring in a donation, please be assured that this is not an expectation and that we understand that not all students will be able to do so. The hope is that some students in each house will be able to contribute so that we can support as many local charities during Advent as possible. The deadline for donations is 11th December so that they can be distributed in time for Christmas and the cards and letters will also be completed on this day, with students being able to write a card rather than a letter if they choose to do so. Students will be supported in college and with the assistance of their corresponding sixth form Emmaus groups. The actions are as follows:

- St Joseph the worker – a letter to a prisoner or someone who may feel alone at Christmas time
- St Francis of Assisi – a Christmas present for a child who otherwise may not get one
- St Chad of Lichfield – an item of festive food for a family who may otherwise not have any
- St Mother Teresa – a card for an elderly person who may be lonely at Christmas time
- Holy Family – a new pair of socks for a homeless person
- St Maximilian Kolbe – a letter to a prisoner who may be lonely at Christmas time
- St Teresa of Lisieux – an item for a shoe box for a child in or from Eastern Europe
- St Vincent de Paul – a festive item for a hamper for the Friends of Painsley Christmas party

I would like to remind all parents of our overarching educational principle: *'We believe that exceptional communication skills enhance the spiritual development, the life chances and opportunities of all in the community'*. Parents are reminded of our communication charter. The charter sets out what we strive to achieve for all our parents, but also indicates what we expect from our parents. We welcome feedback on anything you feel we are doing well, but also any areas where we still have work to do. Over this term, I will share with you individual strands of the charter and how we can work together effectively and productively to ensure exceptional communication for the benefit of all in our Painsley family.



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



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Policies	We will always consider (and, where appropriate, involve) parents when drafting policies. We aim to make policies accessible and easy to understand.
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Policies are made available to parents through the website. You are welcome to request a hard copy of any policy at any time. Policies are reviewed in accordance with the MAC timescales, most are reviewed annually. Parent voice collated throughout the year is always considered when reviewing policies.

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.
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We aim to acknowledge all e-mails and respond within 3 days. We are a busy school so we would kindly request that if a more urgent response is required, you phone the college. You will receive a phone call back as soon as possible. I thank you in advance for not e-mailing staff outside of 8-5 Monday to Friday in the interest of wellbeing.

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.
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There are times when our decisions are guided by regulations beyond the college. We will always explain these to you. Holidays in term time is an example. We are not permitted to authorise holidays in term time. Please be understanding that we are bound by the law and we have no choice but to forward any holidays to the local authority.

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.
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Attendance is both a national and local priority following the pandemic. Indeed, school attendance is well documented at being well below pre-Covid levels. All students at Painsley have an attendance target of 97% and your child's attendance can be tracked through the satchel app. Please refer to the attendance letter sent sharing our support with attendance.



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In the week ahead, Year 12 geography students will be attending a conference, Year 12 and 13 D&T students will be attending an event at Staffordshire University and it is the deadline for sixth form applications for 2024/25 on Friday 1st December. It is the assessment fortnight for Year 7-10 and mock fortnight for Year 11. I would encourage all students to give of their very best to ensure we can respond according to the students' needs moving forward. As a reminder, Friday 1st December is an INSET day and no students are required to attend college. Indeed, the college site will be closed as Painsley staff are training along with our colleagues across the MAC.

In the gospel on Sunday (Matthew 25: 31-46), we hear the parable of the sheep and the goats. We are reminded that we are to feed the hungry and thirsty, welcome the stranger, cloth the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned and in doing so we are doing those things to God. How appropriate when we are planning and preparing our social action and fundraising for the Advent season.

God Bless

Mrs Waugh



Artsmark Silver Award
Awarded by Arts Council England



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