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 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Our Advent journey is well underway, with students being led through the liturgical season during their acts of worship, prayer themes and actions. On Monday, we welcomed a number of priests from the local parishes. All Year 7 were invited to share in the sacrament of reconciliation and other year groups were invited to take part. We also had a focus on our social actions for Advent during pastoral/citizenship time, in addition to covering our RSHE curriculum. It has been lovely to see so many students engaged in fundraising for their chosen CAFOD world gifts.

We also held our annual Christmas party for the friends of Painsley and our sixth from enrichment students hosted Equalbase for the afternoon. As we approach the end of term, Year 11 will take part in a retreat morning, which will include the celebration of the Eucharist and Year 12/13 will have their annual carol concert at St Giles'. Year 8 will also have an Advent Mass at St Giles' and we will invite students from other year groups to take part.

We are also holding our Christmas Supper and concert on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Remember to return any final raffle tickets and money to college, as the raffle will be drawn on the second evening of the concert. Our end of term will be marked with the traditional talent shows. We will be having a non-uniform day on the final day of term, Friday, 22nd December. Students are invited to wear a Christmas jumper (if they choose) and their donation will include entrance to the end of term talent show. As we are now a cashless college, you are welcome to make your donation to CAFOD for the non-uniform day on Parent Pay or by bringing it into college in cash. Students are asked for a donation of £2 for the day. All money raised will be to support the students' CAFOD world gift choices.

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.

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.

In relation to the above, our values and expectations policy is available for all parents on the website. Students are reminded about different aspects of the policy on an ongoing basis through Emmaus time.

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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.

We aim to ensure you have opportunities to come into college throughout the year, most importantly through in person parents' evenings where you can meet the teaching staff, pastoral team and leadership group. Other visits can be made by arrangement.

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!

Please do let us know of any changes to your circumstances. Our students flourish most when we work in communion with each other.

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.

I thank you for your involvement in our parental questionnaire. I look forward to sharing the common themes and outcomes with you in the new term. Indeed, throughout this term there have been further opportunities for your input, including the Year 7 transitional survey, wellbeing parent survey and through the invitation to work with the change team.

Parishes	We will work with you and the parish so that your child has the opportunity to embrace the word of God.

We endeavour to work with all the parishes and ensure our partnerships are flourishing. We have a parish links meeting termly, where members of each parish join with us to share events and activities taking place in the parishes and school. During Advent, we have been delighted to support the Christ the King Mass at St Mary's Leek, the Christmas fayres at St Giles' and St Thomas' and St Mary's, Uttoxeter and the carol service at St Mary's, Leek.

Please look out for our end of term newsletter next week, which will contain a summary of all that students have been doing during the Advent term and I will share with you staff that are leaving at the end of term.

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This Sunday marks the third Sunday of Advent. In the Gospel (John 1: 6-8, 19-28), Jesus' coming is referred to as the light. Let us pray that this holy season is blessed with Jesus' light.

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs Waugh

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