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, 12th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the new term! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a restful and relaxing break. We are raring to go for our short Lent term.

This term, we are focusing on family, community and participation as our Catholic social teaching. This week in Acts of Worship, we have been reflecting on the importance of playing our part in our college family, in addition to our own families and having the confidence and self-belief to do so. I have to say a huge thank you to all the students, and to you as parents, for supporting our fundraising and social action during Advent. I am delighted to share with you that Painsley staff and students have raised in excess of £8,000 for CAFOD and along with our academy family of schools, the total is in excess of £26,000. Additionally, throughout Advent, our students wrote cards, collected goods and all performed some social action.

I welcome to the Painsley family Mr Brookes, who will be joining the computing team and Mrs Boswell, who has joined us as our senior lab technician in science. Mr Growcott (Assistant Principal) has been seconded to Cardinal Griffin as acting Vice Principal for the remainder of the academic year. Mr Growcott's roles have been distributed among the current leadership group. Therefore, Mr Hendley will lead on values and expectations, Mr Waugh and Mrs Rooney will be leadership group Pastoral Leads for Year 11, Mrs Lambert will lead on anti-bullying and I will lead on attendance. There have been some timetable changes to accommodate staffing changes and to ensure the students are taught by subject specialists. All students have been issued with new timetables and these can be viewed on Satchel.

Thank you to all who have supported your sons and daughters by addressing any uniform needs over the Christmas break. We have reminded the students of some of our expectations this week and will continue to do so throughout the term. We will be specifically focusing on why we uphold our expectations in light of our commitment for exceptional communication. I kindly request your support in upholding our expectations as part of The Painsley Way, notably:

- Uniform – please ensure skirts are not modified and worn to the knee, make-up is not worn to school (including false nails or eyelashes), haircuts should be no shorter than a grade 3 and there should be no bleaching and dying of hair, shoes should be just that and not trainers.
- Coats – In this cold spell, I would ask that all students wear a coat to school and when moving between buildings. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not sufficient. Students will be expected to remove their coats as they enter the college building.
- Attendance – All students have a personal target of 97%, the satchel app will allow you access to your child's attendance at all times. As both a national and school priority, we will be in regular communication with you should attendance not be at the expected standard, in accordance with the policy (this can be found on the college website). As I reminder, I am not permitted to authorise holidays in term time. Should term time absence need to be requested, please complete the form available from reception and bring it in personally to meet with

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.

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH
Telephone: 01538 493777
Email: office@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
Web: www.painsley.co.uk

a member of the leadership group. As a reminder, any unavoidable absence should be reported as soon as possible by telephoning reception.

- Punctuality – In line with the revised college day, students should be on site at 8:35am for an 8:40am prompt start. We have seen an increase in students who walk to school arriving beyond these times. Any student arriving past 8:40am must sign in at reception so we know that they are on site.

Thank you to those of you who completed the parent survey prior to the Christmas break. As a college family, we are looking at all the data and comments and will respond in due course. I particularly thank the parents who have personalised comments and we will contact you to further explore your thoughts and views to support the work of the school. If your comments were left anonymously but you would like to help us understand your views, please do not hesitate to contact reception and the most appropriate personnel will get back to you.

Thank you also to all the staff, parents and students who participated in the reaccreditation of the wellbeing award through questionnaires, panels, change team or most importantly the wellbeing of the staff and students on a daily basis in college. The process of the award enables us to thoroughly evaluate the work we do in school at every level and the impact it has on staff, students and parents. I am delighted to share some of the comments made in the report:

There were many strengths observed during the day. Perhaps the most impressive of them were:
1 the fastidiousness and drive of the Award Coordinator, whose attention to detail and fidelity to emotional wellbeing and mental health were outstanding;
2 the fact that the school employs two counsellors, working six days a week between them, which means students in need can be seen quickly;
3 the excellent transition programme from Year 6 to Year 7;
4 the Change Team containing parents as well as large numbers of students. which immediately gives a more authentic 'whole school approach' to the work of the Team;
5 the 'safe spaces' in different rooms in the school, where more vulnerable students can spend time and relax';
6 The Emmaus (form tutor time) and PSHE programmes, which are complementary and clearly valued by students.

It is also welcoming to be signposted to other schools who share the same commitment and enthusiasm for this crucially important area of college life and we look forward to working together to further enhance the experiences for all in our Painsley family.

This week, the staff have been involved in lots of professional development for the benefit of the students. I met with all of the academy principals and academy executive team, as we do every half-term to share the strategic vision of all our academy schools. Additionally, there have been opportunities for our science leaders, MFL and maths staff to work with colleagues from other academy schools. It is through sharing the very best practice that we all benefit, most notably the students.

On Monday in pastoral/citizenship, we explored elements of the RSHE programme. As a reminder, the RSHE programme is documented on the website for your information.

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

On Thursday evening, we welcomed back many of last year's Year 11 and 13, who collected their well-earned GCSE and A Level certificates. It was lovely to meet with them all and to find out how the next steps in their journey were taking shape.

On Friday and Monday, we will be meeting with all Year 11 students to discuss their most recent mock results and plans for the future. Next week, we have Year 10 parents' evening (letters have been sent separately). I would kindly ask all Year 10 students to be represented on Thursday evening, as it is a crucial opportunity to meet with pastoral and academic staff and discuss individual progress and attainment.

In the week ahead, Year 10 will be involved in their 'You're Hired' day as part of their careers programme, Year 10 food students will be involved in a food workshop and textiles students in a textiles visit and Year 13 have a specifically designed retreat afternoon, which should be a wonderful opportunity for students to take some time for themselves at this crucial point in the year. All students will begin to receive their data reports. Should you have any queries or comments, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Lead. There are a number of BTEC examinations scheduled for next week and we wish the students involved all the very best.

In the gospel on Sunday, we hear the story of the first disciples (John 1:35-42). In our call to follow Christ, first comes prayer and getting to know him, before we can actively work for Christ and bring others to share his joy. It poses the question: do we spend enough time in prayer as we get to know Jesus?

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.