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, 23rd February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

At the start of Lent, we have reflected this week on all individuals being masterpieces of God's creation. We have looked at our gospel values of mercy and forgiveness and Catholic social teaching of preferential option for the poor and rights and responsibilities. During the season of Lent, as we pray, fast and give alms, we recognise and keep our gospel values and Catholic social teaching at the heart of all we do.

At a midway point through the academic year, I would like to remind you of some key information. As we all know, education is most successful when parents, students and staff all work in partnership. Communication is vital to our successful partnership. Please see the main points of communication below and please do not hesitate to contact the relevant person for your query. We send out a parents' calendar, weekly newsletter, text messages and Facebook posts, in addition to regular e-mails. The website contains a huge amount of information. We have a change team and seek parental voice at regular intervals throughout the year. Parents' evenings, curriculum evenings, SEND coffee mornings and Pupil Premium contact weeks are all opportunities for you to share your views in an appropriate forum.

Main points of contact:

- Emmaus Tutor - general enquiries and sharing pastoral issues/concerns.
- Pastoral Lead - more specific pastoral/academic concerns and queries. A list of all Pastoral Leads and contacts is on our website.
- Head of Department - specific departmental queries or concerns. A list of all HoDs can be found on the school website.
- Safeguarding team – Mr Bullock (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs Barker/Mr Johnson (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads).
- Attendance – Reception staff to report attendance. Further concerns should be directed to the Pastoral Lead or Mrs Barlow (Education Welfare Officer).
- Health – Mrs Sedgwick
- Special Needs - Mrs Comfort (SENDCo)
- Finance - Finance Department

Should your queries need further attention, please contact the most appropriate member of the Leadership Team:

Mr Bullock - Assistant Principal: Safeguarding and wellbeing
Mr Hendley – Assistant Principal: Values and expectations, personal development, PSHE, RSHE and citizenship
Mrs Lambert - Assistant Principal: transition, continuous professional development of staff, the learning environment and anti-bullying strategy
Ms Oberman - Senior Assistant Principal: Teaching School Hub, Maths Hub, Behaviour Hub & MFL Hub
Mr Palmer - Assistant Principal: Curriculum, timetable & options, daily detail
Mrs Rooney – Vice Principal: Teaching & learning & Catholic life
Mrs Talbot - Business Manager and oversight of support teams
Mr Waugh - Vice Principal: Impact of teaching and learning, including data and examinations and Pupil Premium
Mrs Waugh - Principal

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As part of our ongoing pursuit of exceptional communication, we the Painsley multi-academy company share in the following overarching educational principal:

We believe exceptional communication skills enhance the spiritual development, life chances and opportunities for all in our community.

As a result, we share with you our parent charter:

Parents	**Key points**
General ethos	**<u>Relevant Painsley MAC Values:</u>** **People Really Matter!** The very best learning opportunities for our pupils An outstanding partnership with parents that is built on trust and respect *Associated Gospel value: dignity and compassion* *Associated Catholic Social Teaching: dignity of work and rights of the workers*
Relationships	We aim to develop a partnership with all of our parents. We believe in your child and will do all we can to work with you. This is something that happens continually. All staff, from the Principal down, are happy to meet you at a mutually convenient time.
Advice and guidance	We provide practical strategies to support learning at home so parents work in partnership with us in terms of their child's spiritual, social and academic development.
Communications	We tailor school communications to encourage positive communication about your child's learning throughout the year. We will not simply give you information but we aim to actively seek out information from you about your child.
Your child's learning	Your survey responses tell us that you do not always feel that you are being updated about what your child is learning in class. Therefore, as a MAC family, we will be trialling strategies to keep you regularly informed about what your child is learning in class so you can have discussions about the subject content. Please do let us know your thoughts about the strategies/any possible suggestions.
Parents' evenings	Parents' evenings are a positive experience that build on the belief that your child can succeed. We offer practical advice for what your child needs to do to develop their work/approach to school life.
Additional support	Parents know their child best. Therefore, we ask that parents contact school if there are any issues of concern and we will give additional support as necessary. We all want the best for your child.
Reports	We time reports so they are meaningful and inform you of the way forward. We will be honest about any barriers in terms of your child's progress and will offer solutions to these, working in partnership with you.
Policies	We will always consider (and, where appropriate, involve) parents when drafting policies. We aim to make policies accessible and easy to understand.
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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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.
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.
Praise	We appreciate any positive feedback and recognition of our actions. Please do let us know any positive feedback via email: tellus@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
Resolutions/ Complaints	Sadly, there are times when relationships can be strained. Therefore, we have an easy-to-follow resolution and complaints procedure. If a parent is unhappy with any aspect of the school, please follow the policy and we will work together to resolve the issue. For general recommendations on improvements, please email: tellus@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
Phone calls	Reception staff will ensure that **parents receive a call back on the day** of an incoming call. If this cannot be the case, parents will be called to inform them when the call will be made. If the matter is urgent, a senior member of staff will either take the call immediately or contact you on the same day.
Induction	All pupils and their families are entitled to a full induction programme consisting of at least an initial meeting and a tour of the school, along with sessions in school to ensure you feel fully supported and are happy with your child's education.
Pupil wellbeing	If you notice any changes in your child at home, please let us know. We will not tolerate any form of bullying at school and will work with you to ensure your child is not in any harm. Sometimes, a child behaves differently at home compared to school so it is important you contact us. We care very much about your child. We will also regularly signpost you to services that the Local Authority offers.
Staff wellbeing	Staff work very hard to support your child. We ask, in a spirit of positive relationships with our Catholic school, that staff are treated with respect at all times, and we will do the same with you.
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.
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.
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!
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.
Parishes	We will work with you and the parish so that your child has the opportunity to embrace the word of God.

Additionally, I would like to draw your attention to our home school agreement which was sent to all families and signed at the start of the academic year. This is also available on the college website.

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In college this week, we have had three marvellous evenings where students have displayed their talents, enthusiasm and skills in our annual production of 'Legally Blonde'. It was lovely to see such commitment and engagement with the production over a significant number of weeks, with such brilliant outcomes. Thank you also to the Lourdes group for their dedication to hospitality over the three evenings.

The chaplaincy crew participated in a retreat day on Monday at Alton Castle and the other half of Year 8 visited Staffordshire University as part of the 'What's University Like' day.

As we move into next week, we wish our skiers a pleasant trip, Year 7 will participate in their 'WOW' day, Year 8 will have the opportunity to take part in the Harry Potter trip as part of their Arts curriculum and Year 11 will have their final photographs taken as a year group and individually.

In the gospel on Sunday (Mark 9: 2-10), we hear of the Transfiguration of Jesus. The words 'This is my son, the beloved, listen to him' reminds us of our vocation, especially in this time of repentance and preparation.

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs Waugh

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