WELCOME TO THE PAINSLEY

NEWSLETTER

Lent Term 1

The Painsley Way

Gospel Value - Faithfulness and integrity/dignity and compassion

Catholic Social Teaching - Family, community and participation

Introduction from our Principal, Mrs Waugh

Well, what a short half-term! It only seems like a blink of an eye since the start of term and yet here we are at the half-term point. Despite the length of the term, there has been so much going on in all curriculum areas and beyond the classroom. You only need to flick through the newsletter to see the wealth of opportunities on offer to the students.

This half-term, we have been focusing on family, community and participation and there have been so many examples of our students working together as part of the Painsley family to bring out the very best in each other.

During the half-term break, we enter the season of Lent. On return to college, we will be reflecting on the gospel values of mercy and forgiveness and the Catholic social teaching of preferential option for the poor and rights and responsibilities. This is an ideal opportunity for students to demonstrate the traditional Lent practices of prayer, fasting and alms giving.

I wish you a wonderful half-term break and look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 19th February.

RE and Chaplaincy

Christmas Sixth Form Carol Concert

"All of the sixth form were invited to St Giles' church for their annual carol service before we broke up for Christmas. During the service, we had three gospel passages read by our students that told parts of the nativity story. We also had a poem read by one of the students called 'The Magic of Christmas'. Father Eric led us in the service and we sang a few carols and reflected on the true meaning of Christmas. After the service, the students had the opportunity to have a hot chocolate and a biscuit. A lovely end to the college day."
William and Sienna

Year 8 Advent Mass

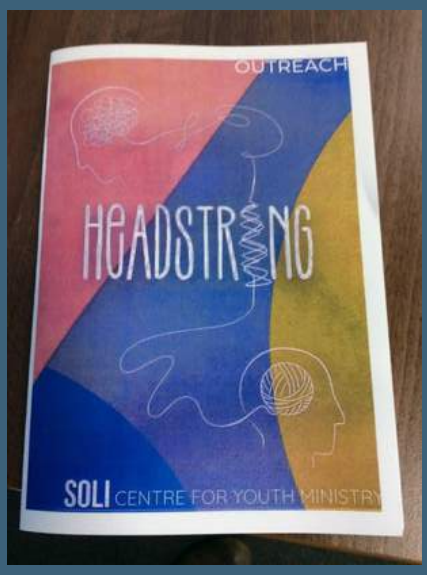
"On Thursday 21st December, Year 8 students went to St Giles' Church for their Advent Mass before we broke up for Christmas. During Holy Mass, Fr. Eric told us about the real reason for Christmas and how we should take time during all of the celebrations and present opening to reflect on the true meaning - and encouraged us all to go to Mass over the Christmas season."
Elodie and Amy

Adoration in the Chapel

"Every Tuesday, the Chaplaincy Crew meet in the Chapel for workshops, prayer and worship. During this 'Year of Prayer', we finish the session with Adoration. It is a time when we are quiet, reflective and reverent with the Lord. We really enjoy this time of prayer, we feel close to God and love the stillness and calm."
Year 7 Chaplaincy Crew

Year 13 'Headstrong' Retreat

Year 13 welcomed the Soli House team into college to celebrate their 'Headstrong' retreat afternoon. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to take a step back from their busy college lives and have time to reflect, think and pray.



RE and Chaplaincy (continued)

Here are a few words from one of the Year 13 students who participated:

"I really enjoyed the 'Headstrong' Wellbeing retreat afternoon because it gave us some tips on handling anxiety, building teamwork and strengthening resilience. The questions and tasks given to us made me think differently about these aspects and consider taking the information forward in my life. I also appreciated the time that was given to us to reflect on our own wellbeing as that quiet time served as a welcome break from the chaos of normal school life, especially leading to exams and coursework deadlines."

Year of Prayer

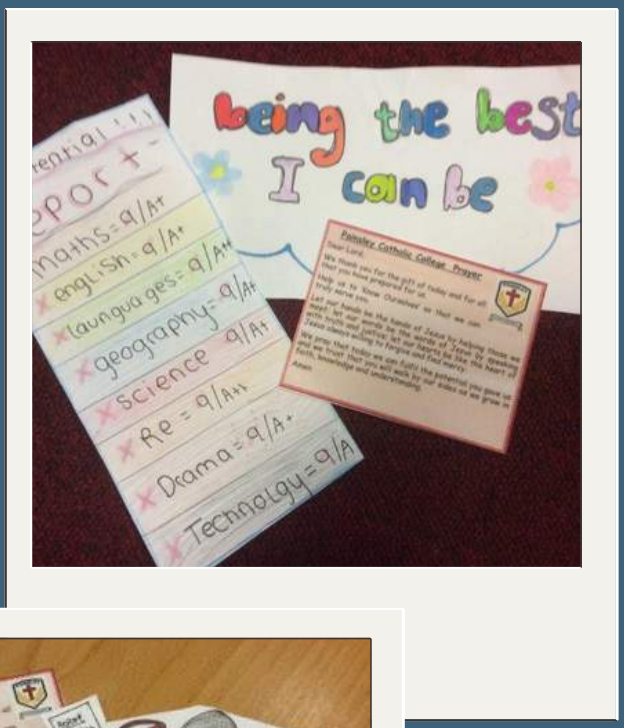
During this Year of Prayer as a college community, we are deepening our prayer life by exploring the true meaning of our school prayer.
Our school prayer is a witness to our school values, aims and uniqueness. When we say our school prayer together, we are uniting every single member of our community together. It's a series of words and they all have deeper meanings, it is a source of learning, action and inspiration for us.

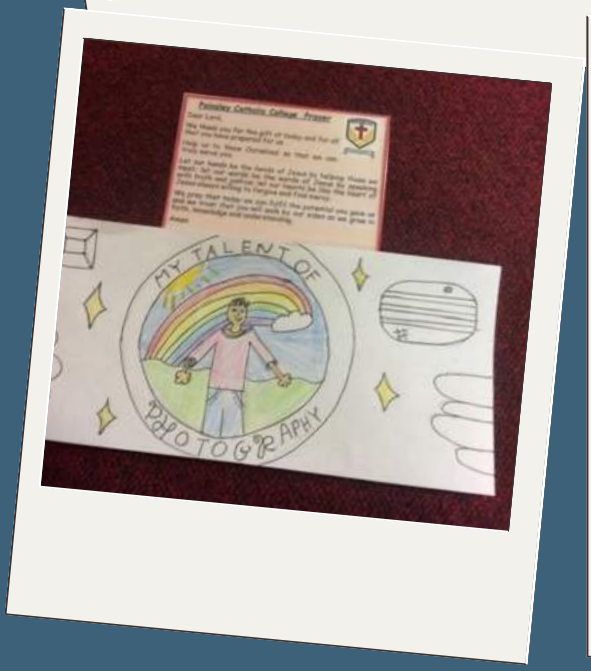
Our school prayer is unique and has been written by students themselves. Each year group has been given a few words from the prayer to relate to and explain what those words mean to them in their lives.

Year 7
'Help us to know ourselves so that we can truly serve you'
Year 8
'We thank you for the gift of today and for all that you have prepared for us'
Year 9
'Let our hands be the hands of Jesus by helping those we meet, Let our words be the words of Jesus by speaking with truth and justice, Let our hearts be like the heart of Jesus always willing to forgive and find mercy'
Year 10
'We trust that you will walk by our sides'
Year 11
'We pray that today we can fulfil the potential you gave us'

RE and Chaplaincy (continued)

These pieces of work that the students write will then be collated and put on the wooden letters 'YEAR OF PRAYER' ready for our whole school Mass in June.

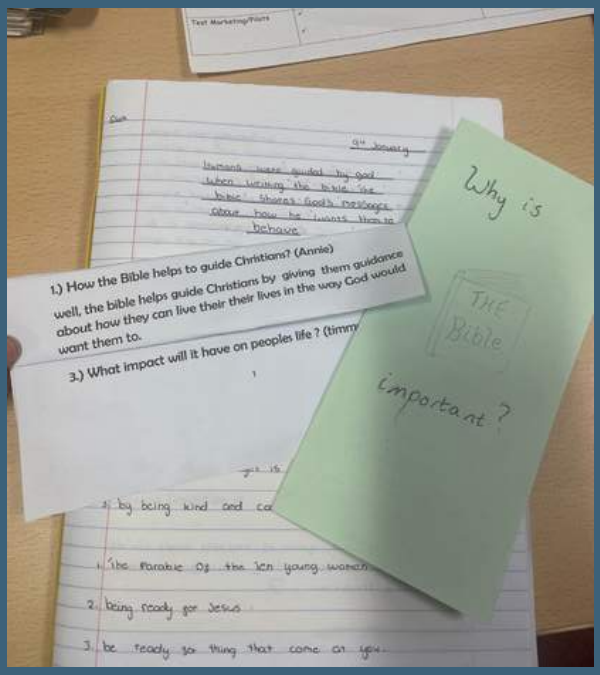


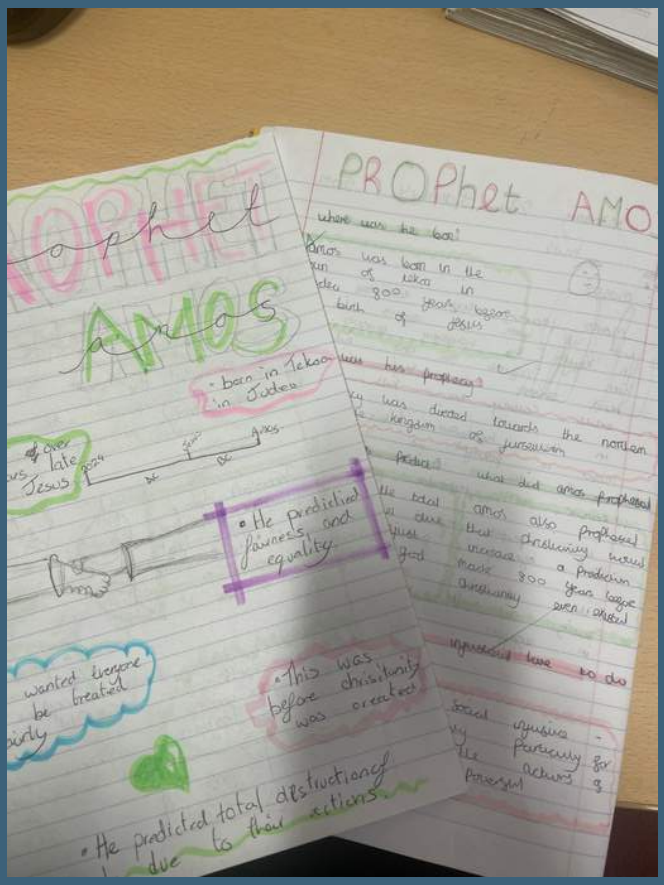


RE and Chaplaincy (continued)

Year 7

Year 7 are journeying through the 'prophecy and promise' topic. They have been considering why the Bible is authoritative. They have been studying the Catholic belief that the Bible is without error and contains the information that guides humans to salvation. Year 7 have been learning that scripture is central to the life and practice of the Catholic faith. They have completed some fantastic work based on the importance of the Bible today, creating some fantastic leaflets, posters and even radio scripts.





Year 8

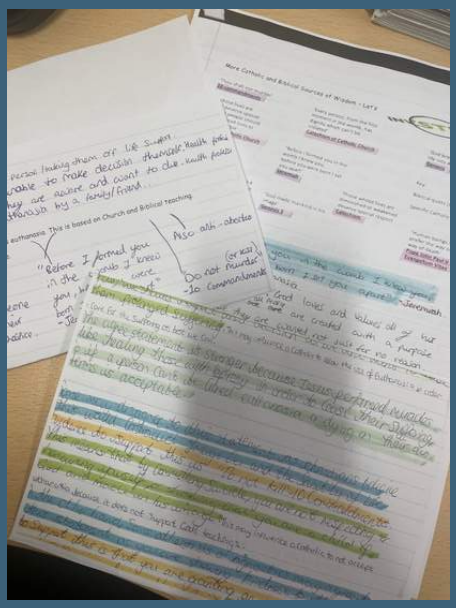
Year 8 have been exploring the topic of prophecy. They have been learning about Old Testament prophets and their key messages. They have considered the importance of their messages today, such as Prophet Amos' message to promote social justice.

Moving to the modern day, they have been looking at modern day prophets, such as Saint Mother Teresa and the importance of their messages and teachings in our lives.

RE and Chaplaincy (continued)

Year 9

Year 9 are currently learning about Judaism practices. They are exploring the use of the synagogue, daily prayers and festivals such as Rosh Hashanah and Shabbat. Throughout the topic, they are evaluating how religious beliefs impact the lives of believers.



Year 10

As part of their EDUQAS course, Year 10 are exploring the topic of life after death, eschatology and beliefs about the resurrection. Year 10 have completed some fantastic work based on the ethics surrounding the life and death topic.
Poppy has produced a brilliant exam-style response considering the ethical and religious arguments surrounding euthanasia. Well done!

Year 11

Year 11 are busy preparing for their final mock GCSE exam. They have been completing long-term retrieval of Judaism and Theme B alongside their Theme A topic. As part of their preparation, their homework revision tasks have been based on 'tricky topics' and common misconceptions and the students have been creating their own 'freestyle' revision maps.
Keep up the hard work, Year 11!

Personal Development

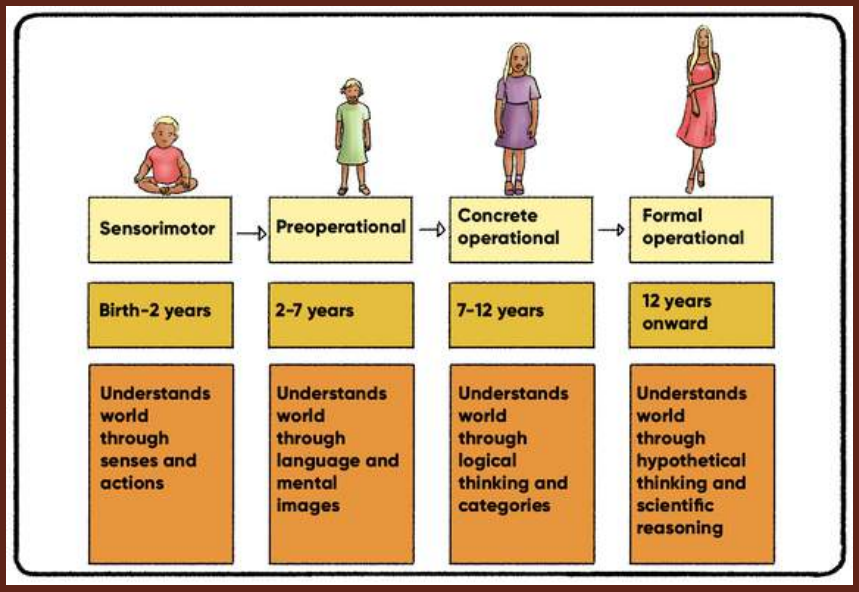
This half-term has sped by at an exceptional pace but has still been absolutely packed with personal development opportunities for Painsley students. Students were greeted on the first day back in January with an important PSHE session where they were taught using the 10/10 'Life to the Full' programme and staff delivered important sessions ranging from the value of students as individuals to topics such as fertility, parenthood and birth control.
There was a swimming gala at the beginning of the term where students could test their swimming skills against their fellow classmates. The Year 10 'You're Hired' day also took place on 16th January where students were taught invaluable skills and knowledge about careers. There was a Year 13 retreat day and also a visit for year 10 food students by Gary Wenn. Textiles students in Year 10 were also treated to an excellent workshop where they were able to hone their skills in the subject. Mr Birch even managed to fit into a session with Year 7 on critical thinking skills. The fabulous Mrs Allen also was able to organise yet another special careers day for Year 11s who were also interviewed in preparation for their GCSEs and to support them on their journey to College or Apprenticeships.
The Legally Blonde school show has also increased the intensity of its rehearsals, as staff have heard the phrase "Oh my God you guys!" ringing throughout the halls many an evening after-school. We look forward to seeing the completed show!
Some Year 13 students have also managed to squeeze in a visit to the breath-taking Prague for a business residential. Painsley also hosted the National Theatre which didn't go exactly as planned and become more of a workshop than a show (but was still excellent nonetheless).
The final PSHE sessions for this half-term focuses on Physical Health as well as staying healthy during the exam season for Year 11. Even more exceptional trips, visits and workshops await students after half-term.

Sociology

Students have been working really hard this half-term in sociology. They have been gearing up to the next set of mock examinations, which will take place after the half-term holiday. Year 12 are having their mocks marked by an external examiner, which gives them plenty of opportunity to show off their knowledge and skills.
We are also looking forward to our Glastonbury trip, which is taking place on the 7th March 2024. We will be getting a coach down to Glastonbury and spending the day participating in activities that will consolidate our 'Beliefs' topic that we study in Year 13. Highlights include walking the Tor and visiting the sacred wells.

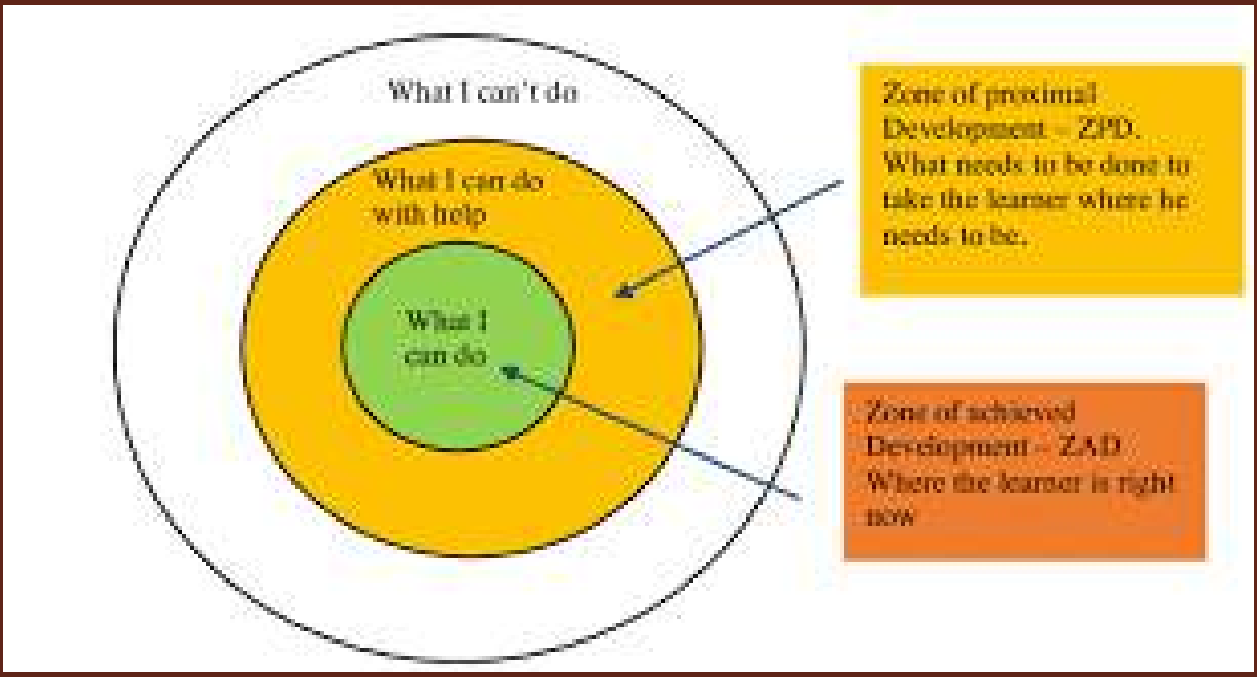
Psychology

During this term of Lent, we have been looking at child cognitive development in Year 13. The two key developmental psychologists are Piaget and Vygotsky. Year 13 have been looking at how these two very influential psychologists in education have shaped the educational system as we see it today.
Piaget states that children should learn by doing things for themselves, as this makes them independent learners. He also states that children develop cognitively in stages and this is where the ideas of key stages in the curriculum are first borne out.



Psychology (continued)

Vygotsky, on the other hand, states that children need other people to help them to develop. His main concepts are the zone of proximal development and scaffolding. In this, the teacher is more than just a facilitator, they actively intervene, demonstrate and model good practice.



Year 12 have been busy working through the practical side of psychology via research, looking at what good research looks like and how to design research.
Students should now be very aware of variables, formulating directional and non-directional hypotheses, data presentation via graphs and inferential statistics based on the probability of the results occurring due to chance or error.

For Lent 2, Year 13 will start to look at brain plasticity and Year 12 will start to look at social influence.

Geography

Year 7 have continued to build their skills and knowledge base in geography. Their most recent topic has been 'Weather and climate' – looking at the features of the weather at different scales and in different places.

The focus of our studies in Year 8 has been 'Tectonic hazards'. We have looked at the causes, consequences and dealing with the aftermath of earthquakes and volcanoes in various scenarios around the world. This has culminated in an exciting visit to the Natural History Museum in London in February for the majority of the year group.

Year 9 have continued their Paper 1 GCSE studies looking at 'Ecosystems', including 'Tropical rainforests' and 'Hot deserts'.

Year 10 have started the new topic of 'The challenges of uneven development' . The letter for the annual residential to Cornwall in July next year went out in late January. We have been heavily oversubscribed (apologies to those that have missed out) – we tried to be as 'fair' as possible but disappointment is inevitable on such place-limited visits.

Year 11 have now completed their work for Paper 1 and 2 and revision has now begun on the path to the summer exams. Revision materials have been issued and the run-in has definitely begun! We still have elements to complete for Paper 3, but we await the pre-release of the topic for section A – Issue Evaluation - part of that paper just prior to Easter.

Year 12 have begun their new topics of 'Regeneration' and 'Coasts'; they will be undertaking 4 fieldwork day experiences in the second half of this term to support them in making their choice for the topic they will be focusing on for their NEA study over the final term.

Year 13 are again focusing in on the key areas to make improvements ahead of the next (and final) mocks in February. They are also continuing to work hard on their NEA. We have 2 topics left to complete then it will be revise, revise, revise! The finishing line is in sight, Year 13!

The Year 12 and Year 13 Italy residential is just around the corner now. The Amalfi coast and Naples await ..... we can't wait!

Mr Edwards and the geography team

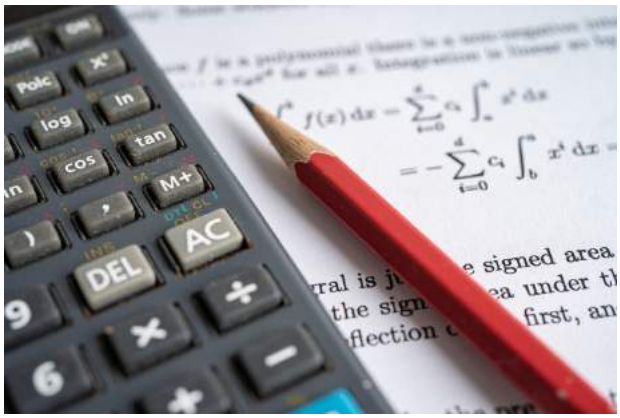
Health and Social Care

'The sixth form Year 12 health and social care students have visited Staffordshire University's Centre for Health Innovation for a day of health science masterclasses. They were put through their paces in a paramedic science specialised simulation area, where they experienced the reality of being in the driving seat and in the back of the ambulance and the consequences of a RTA. They competitively completed CPR in the adult nursing mock ward room. In the midwifery room, they examined a simulated pregnant belly to assess how the baby was lying and held a simulated new born. The weight of a new born and the sight of a simulated placenta stirred quite a discussion!
To complete the day, they had a simulated experience of intubating a patient using a variety of methods and equipment and a talk on the role of an OPD.
The students loved the experience, with most being inspired to pursue or consider a career in one or more of the degrees/apprenticeships discussed today. It was a fantastic, fun insight into health.

Maths Department

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Our top Year 9, 10 and 11 mathematicians recently took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a particularly challenging maths quiz designed to make students think hard about maths, and often outside the way they think about it in class. The students worked very hard and given our recent success in the Senior Maths Challenge, we hope to get some excellent results. These will be announced in the next newsletter!



Business and Economics

Greetings from Prague! Our sixth form business and economics students are currently immersed in an enriching and thrilling school trip to the picturesque city of Prague. This expedition promises a blend of historical exploration, technological fascination, sweet indulgence, artistic marvels, scenic beauty and economic insight.

The adventure kicked off with a guided walking tour through the cobbled streets of Prague, offering students an opportunity to marvel at the city's architectural gems. The highlight of the tour was undoubtedly the visit to Prague Castle, where students had the privilege of exploring its majestic interiors and learning about the historical significance of this iconic structure.

Adding a touch of modernity to the trip, our students also had the chance to visit the Skoda Car Factory. The factory tour provides valuable insights into the world of automotive manufacturing, showcasing the intricate processes involved in creating the renowned Skoda cars. It is a unique experience that bridged the gap between classroom learning and real-world application.

Switching gears from technology to the world of sweetness, our students will visit the Chocotopia chocolate museum. Here, they will not only indulge their taste buds but also engage in a hands-on workshop, unraveling the secrets behind the art of chocolate-making.

The exploration will continue at the Rückl Crystal glass factory, where students will witness the meticulous craftsmanship behind the creation of exquisite crystal glass. The guided tour provides a fascinating insight into the delicate artistry that goes into producing these timeless pieces.

Prague's enchanting Vltava river will set the stage for a relaxing and scenic river boat cruise. As the students drift along the river, they will be treated to breathtaking views of the city's landmarks, creating lasting memories against the backdrop of Prague's stunning architecture.

To round off the trip, our students will have the privilege of attending an economic lecture by Mr. Jirovsky. His insights into the local and global economic landscape will provide a valuable perspective, linking classroom theories to real-world scenarios.

As our students continue to explore the beauty and culture of Prague, we eagerly await their return, knowing that this journey will not only be etched in their memories but will also contribute to their holistic development and cultural capital. We look forward to hearing more about their adventures and the knowledge they've gained during this exceptional school trip. Safe travels, explorers!

English Department

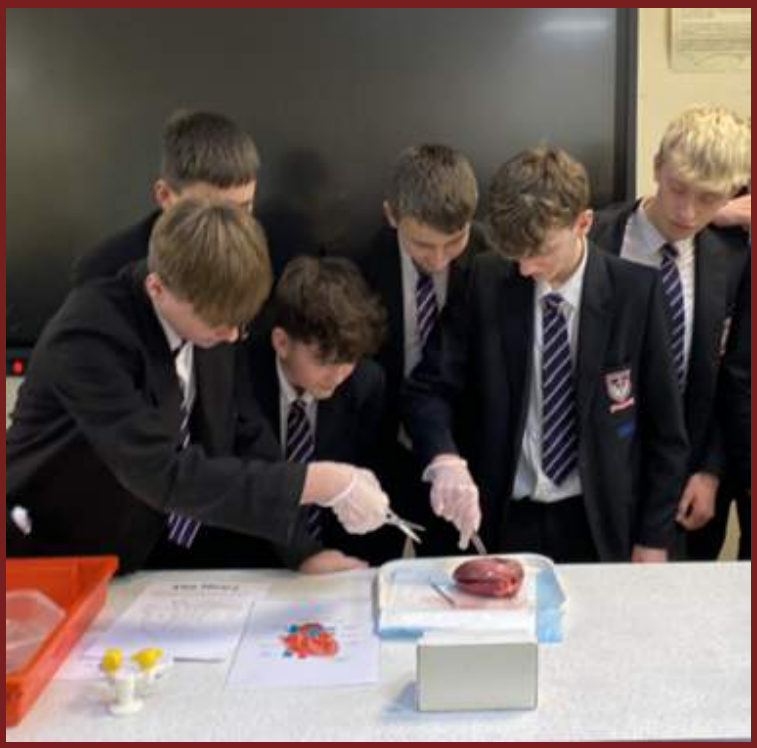
Many of our Year 11 students went on an exciting trip to Nottingham to the national Poetry Live conference! During the day, students were able to gain a greater understanding of their power and conflict GCSE poems and met the poets. There was a question and answer session, during which students were able to gain an insight into the deeper meanings behind the poems we have been studying this term. A brilliant day was had by all. Thank you to Miss Boon and Mr Pierpoint for organising this great day out!

Art Department

Well done to the Year 7 and 8 students who participated in our recent workshop with Caverswall Creative Hub and Bolton Gate Arts.
Students created their own artwork inspired by the local area and their work will be featured in the Community Arts Trail- details TBC.

Science Department

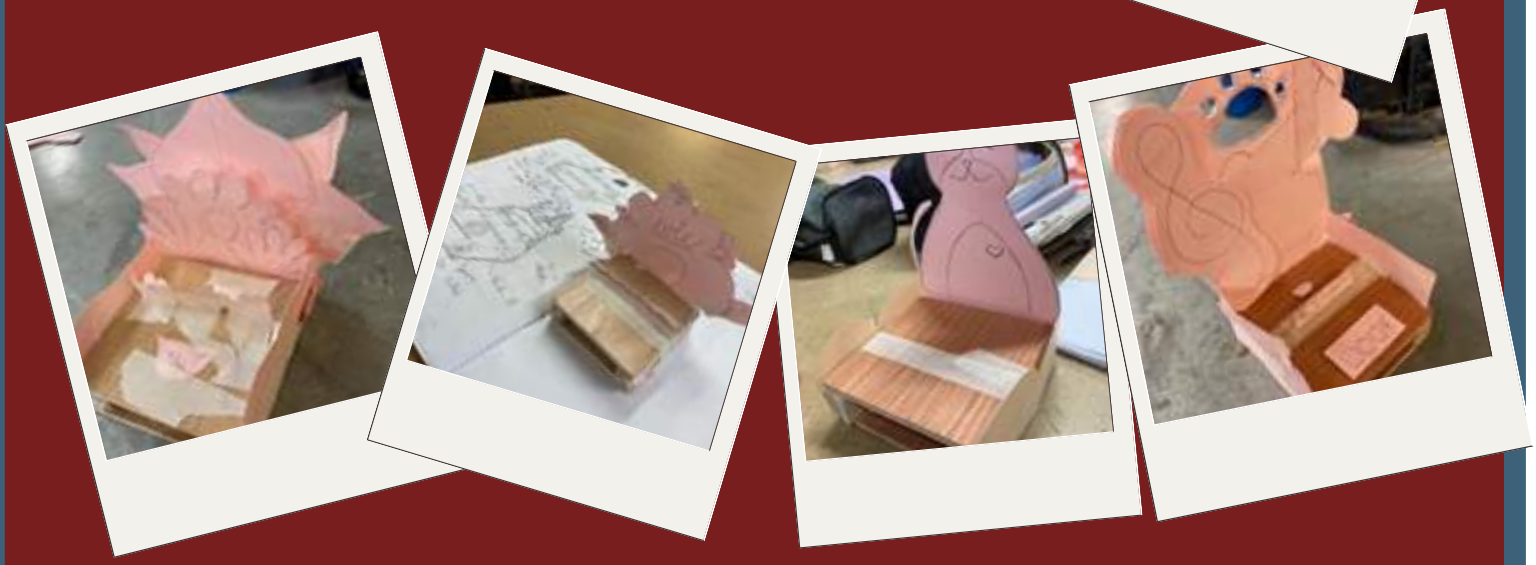
Year 9 students took part in a heart dissection this half-term to enable them to have a better understanding of the structure and function of the circulatory system.
Students were very engaged and were keen to further learn about the pathology of the heart and possible treatments and were excited about the future possible careers in this field.



Design & Technology

This term, GCSE and A level students have been getting into practical work, bringing their design ideas into life. This is possibly the most challenging and also rewarding part of the design and making process. Food GCSE students have cooked their 3-hour practical exams and produced some amazing work!

In Years 7 and 8, students have made excellent progress on their new project areas, modelling ideas and developing solutions that address aesthetic and functional requirements. These are models of passive amplifiers from Year 7. The next step is to make them for real!



Max Owen and Natalia Marczuk have applied for the Arkwright Scholarship and had their aptitude exam this week. This is a challenging and prestigious award – good luck to them in their application.
Rocket Club continues to meet and teams are making progress in building their rockets for the UKROC rocketry competition. Hopefully there will be photos of their prototypes and testing in the next newsletter.

Physical Education and Sports

Cricket
Great work from the Year 8 cricket team this week!
They finished joint 1st but came runners-up overall after total runs were calculated. This means we progress to the county finals! Some brilliant performances with bat and ball!

Swimming
This half-term, our U13, U14 & U16s have competed in the Staffordshire Moorlands competitions. Results as follows:
U13 Girls – 5th position
U13 Boys – 3rd position
U13 boys & girls combined – 3rd position
U16 Girls –2nd position
U16 Boys – 1st position
U16 Overall – 1st position
U14 Boys – 4th position
U14 Girls – 2nd position
U 14 Overall –2nd position
U14/U16 combined – 2nd position

We have also seen some fantastic individual performances, gaining 1st position in their races from the following:
Zachariah Dale
Ethan Walker
Zara Shenton
Brogan Milward
Daniel Tomlinson

Congratulations to Carter, who was crowned Dan Ricciardo Series DRA Champion & 3rd in the DRS62 overall Championship. On presenting Carter's trophy, the owner of the Daniel Ricciardo Series said that he has made history as they have never had an academy driver on the overall podium! Well done Carter!

Physical Education and Sports (continued)

Well done to Josh in Year 13, who won a bronze medal at the Dutch Open at the weekend. Absolutely fantastic!!

A huge 'congratulations' to Caitlin (Y11) and Cara (Y13), who have both qualified to represent Staffordshire at the English Cross Country Championships in March. A fantastic achievement - well done, girls!

It was also great to see some of our students at the Staffordshire cross country meeting last weekend. Murphy and Shauna ended up qualifying for the English schools, Murphy came 3rd in Y11 boys and Shauna came 6th in Y8/9 girls. Well done all!

Football

Congratulations to our Year 10s who took on Denstone College in a friendly football fixture. The game ended 1-1 after a competitive game!

The U16 boys narrowly lost 4-3 on penalties in the Sentinel Cup last week. However, they have progressed to the next round of the County Cup after an excellent 3-0 win against St. Thomas More. Well done lads! Huge thanks to Dave Moulton at Trutex for sponsoring the new football kit, we really appreciate it and think the lads look great!

Physical Education and Sports (continued)

Hubert, Istvan, Bailey and Alfie competed in the county stages of the 2023/2024 National Badminton Championships. They made a strong start winning all of their first 3 matches. They then played against very tough opposition and narrowly lost their final 2 matches. An excellent effort from all of the boys!

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Lent 1

Week A and B	LUNCH – 12.30 – 1.10	AFTER SCHOOL - 3:30-4.45
MONDAY	Year 8 Floorwork (PE STAFF) Year 9 Football goals Year 7 and 8 Basketball on yard	Year 8 Vaulting (3.30-4.30) AM/GM Cambridge national sport intervention (RM/LAW)
TUESDAY	Year 10/11 Floorwork Year 10 Football goals Year 7 and 8 Basketball on yard	Year 7 Vaulting (3.30-4.30) AA/RM Cheerleaders (3.30 - 5.30) LW
WEDNESDAY	All dancers/solo gym performers to attend (PE STAFF) Year 11 Football goals Year 7 and 8 Basketball on yard	Girls Elite group (invitation only) LW/LK Year 9 futsal in sports hall (full kit needed, with trainers and shin pads) AM
THURSDAY	Year 10/11 Vaulting (PE STAFF) Year 7 and 8 Basketball on yard	Year 9 Vaulting & Floorwork (V 3.30 - 4.30 F 4.30-5.30) LK/LW Cambridge national sport intervention (AA)
FRIDAY	Cheerleaders (PE STAFF) Year 7 and 8 Basketball on yard	Year 7 Floorwork (3.30 - 4.30) LK

Please follow our Instagram page for news, updates and exciting PE content!

Performing Arts

National Theatre: Jekyll and Hyde
On Thursday 1st February, the National Theatre visited Painsley for their adaptation of Jekyll and Hyde. We were very lucky to be chosen as 1 of 50 schools in the UK to host the tour! Y9-13 drama students experienced the performance in the morning and Year 9 should have seen the performance in the afternoon. Unfortunately, due to cast sickness, Year 9 were not able to watch the full performance, but did get the opportunity to watch a snippet of the opening, as well as a detailed Q&A with the cast, who showed them the costumes and props.
We hope in whatever capacity the students watched the performance, it was enjoyable and they gained an insight into the performing arts industry through having such nationally acclaimed work in the home of our own school!

Legally Blonde: 21st-23rd February
A huge focus for the performing arts department has been our whole school musical, which will quickly be upon us! Students have been working incredibly hard, with several after school rehearsals each week in preparation for the show!
Your support in buying tickets for the musical is hugely appreciated by both staff and students. Friday night is nearly sold out, but there is good availability on Wednesday and Thursday. Please contact Mrs Hill to purchase your tickets, either by sending students in to collect, or ringing reception to reserve. You are sure to expect a FABULOUS show!

Shrek : 21st March
Year 7 have all been invited on a trip to Nottingham to see Shrek the musical. Tickets are selling quickly, so please pay on ParentPay to secure your son/daughter's place!

EXTRACURRICULAR

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
BREAK	FLUTE GROUP (GRADE 1+)			
LUNCHTIME (12:30PM)	CHOIR	CONCERT BAND (GRADE 2+)	JUNIOR BAND (BEGINNERS)	STRING GROUP (GRADE 1+)
AFTER SCHOOL	MUSICAL SINGING REHEARSAL		MR HURDLEY THEORY GROUP	MISS WRIGHT THEORY GROUP

Instrumental lessons
We offer instrumental lessons for students in woodwind, guitar, brass, voice, drums and strings. If you would like lessons, these can still be picked up at this point in the year. Please contact Miss Hickey to arrange this.

Dates for your diary

February
12th - 16th February - Half-term
20th February - Year 8 Curriculum Evening (Virtual)
21st February - Year 8 'What's Uni Like?'
21st - 23rd - College Production
24th February - 2nd March - Ski Trip
28th February - Year 8 Harry Potter Trip

March
4th March - 15th March - Year 7 to Year 11 Assessments
7th March - Sociology trip to Glastonbury
9th March - 15th March - Geography Italy Trip
14th March - Year 8 Parents' Evening (5pm - 7pm)
21st March - Year 12 and Year 13 Parents' Evening
22nd March - End of term

April
8th April - College opens for Summer Term
9th April - Year 11 Parents' Evening (5pm - 7pm)

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

UNITED AGAINST BULLYING

What is bullying?

You can usually identify bullying through the following three characteristics: intent, repetition, and power. A person who bullies intends to cause pain, either through physical harm or hurtful words or behaviour, and does so repeatedly.

Bullying can have harmful and long lasting consequences for children. Besides the physical effects of bullying, children may experience emotional and mental health problems, including depression and anxiety, that can lead to substance abuse and decreased performance in school.

If you need any support or guidance around the issue, please use our Anti-Bullying email address which is below or alternatively, please see a list of staff who you can talk to.

antibullying@painsley.staffs.sch.uk

- Emmaus Tutor / subject Teacher
- Mrs Sowter (Lay Chaplain)
- Mrs Barlow (Education Welfare Worker)
- Pastoral Lead
- Mr Bullock (Safeguarding / Wellbeing Lead), Mrs Barker / Mr Johnson (Deputy Safeguard Leads) / Mrs Lambert (Anti-Bullying Lead)