



# 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

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Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the Pentecost term! I hope you have had a lovely Easter break and time to relax and spend time with family and friends. In the term ahead, we are focusing on our Gospel values of peace and tolerance and our Catholic social teaching is promoting peace. I have spoken to students this week about the dire need for peace in our world, echoing the plea of the Holy Father, Pope Francis in his Easter homily. Reflecting on Jesus as the prince of peace, we have spoken about the importance of peace in ourselves, in our relationships with others and in our families, including our college family. Peace starts with the small things, the smile, the encouraging comments and the accepting of expectations which allow us all to flourish.

In light of this, and at the start of the new term, we remind all students and ask for your support in ensuring the uniform expectations are fully upheld. Coats should be worn to college but need to be removed in the college buildings. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not appropriate for college, as they do not keep students warm or dry. If a student chooses to wear a hoodie, it is to be worn as a coat, over the college blazer and removed on entry to the buildings. Shirts must always be worn tucked in and skirts down to the knee and not rolled or folded. Make-up and jewellery are not allowed in college and hair must be fully tied back. Equally, haircuts should be no shorter than a grade 3 and be acceptable for a place of work. I would ask for your support in instilling these expectations in order that our focus can be on learning and supporting the holistic development of your sons and daughters.

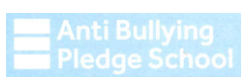
Following the letter you received from our sixth form students prior to the Easter break, we are very grateful for the support that you have already shown for our mission to support Father Hudson's Care. We are hopeful that by Friday 10th May, all pupils will have pledged £1 to help Father Hudson's Care to continue to strive to promote peace in our communities by strengthening families and reducing poverty. Our sixth form students are rewarding those who make this pledge with a sweet cone. The pledge can be made via Parent Pay or in cash and sweet cones are distributed by Year 12 students at the Year 7 and 8 yard at breaktimes every Tuesday and Wednesday.

During this first week of the Pentecost term, we have hosted the first ever MAC public speaking competition. Each of our 16 schools have held heats for students to prepare their speeches on the topics below. On Thursday, we hosted the very first final with pupils and students from Key Stage 1 to 5 showcasing their talents. The judging panel included Alex Foulkes, author and Painsley alumnus, Mr S Bell, CEO of the Painsley Academy and Mrs S Hancox, Director of the Painsley Academy.

After a brief introduction from Mr Hendley, the speakers representing different key stages took to the podium with confidence and conviction, leaving the audience in awe with their thought-provoking speeches. The younger voices in Key Stage 1 captivated hearts with their precocious and sincere speeches. Students from across a multitude of primaries explained why they are special and unique. Their heartfelt speeches served as a reminder of the beauty in diversity and individuality but also of their inherent value as children of God. In Key Stage 2, students explored how technology improves our lives, each speaker showcased a keen understanding of the digital age, highlighting the ways in which innovation enhances our daily experiences. Again, the audience and the judges were blown away by the sheer quality of each speech and found it a challenge to pick anyone that might be considered a winning speaker.



Artsmark Silver Award  
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The Painsley Catholic Academy.

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In Key Stage 3, Dylan Clews from Cardinal Griffin Catholic College, Caitlin Donnelly from Blessed William Howard and Cordelia Smart from Painsley Catholic College mesmerised the audience with their visions of how Artificial Intelligence can improve our lives. Their optimism and creativity painted a compelling picture of a future enriched by technology. Key Stage 4 delved into the debate of whether Artificial Intelligence is here to help or harm. Scarlett Nicholls from Painsley Catholic College, Jack Hunnyball-Prince from Cardinal Griffin Catholic College and Chloe Harris from Blessed William Harris tackled this complex topic with poise, intellect and passion, leaving the audience with much to ponder. At the end of the competition, in the Key Stage 5 category, Keira Smith from Blessed William Howard, Kara Perry from Painsley and Poeme Boyer from Cardinal Griffin delved into the ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence. Their articulate arguments and depth of analysis showcased a level of maturity beyond their years, leaving the audience pondering the complexities of technology and its impact on society. As the event drew to a close, final words of appreciation echoed through the halls, celebrating the resilience, intelligence and eloquence of the speakers. The Painsley Public Speaking Competition had not only showcased the talent of its participants but also ignited a flame of inspiration in all who were fortunate enough to witness it.

In other news, Year 11 parents were invited to the final Year 11 parents' evening. Thank you to all of you who attended at such a crucial point in time and 15 Painsley students were invited to Staffordshire University as finalists in the Future Journalist Awards 2024.

In the week ahead, Year 9 and 10 computer science students will have the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park, Year 10 and 12 physics and chemistry classes will benefit from a Cambridge University talk by Dr Fitzgerald, Director of Cambridge University Research Centre for Climate Repair, PE students will have a visit to Manchester City football club and business students will visit Chester Zoo as part of their studies.

In the Gospel on Sunday (Luke 24: 35-48), we glimpse an image of the risen life. What do we imagine the risen life is like?

God Bless

Mrs R Waugh



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