WELCOME TO THE PAINSLEY

# NEWSLETTER

Lent Term 2

*The Painsley Way*

*Gospel Value - Faithfulness and integrity/dignity and compassion*

*Catholic Social Teaching - preferential option for the poor*

## Introduction from our Principal, Mrs Waugh

During this half-term and the season of Lent, we have been focusing on the preferential option for the poor, which is so closely aligned with the Lent practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There have been many opportunities in college to prepare spiritually during this season of Lent, acts of worship based on the Sunday gospel, opportunities for reconciliation and our Lent liturgies. Year 7 have started to take part in the Parable of the Talents fundraising activity and all student will have the opportunity to pledge £1 for Fr Hudson's society, our Diocesan charity, with events either side of the Easter break. I hope, when it arrives, Eastertide is full of joy and hope and I encourage you all to engage with the Easter Triduum and visit your local parish during this most holy season.

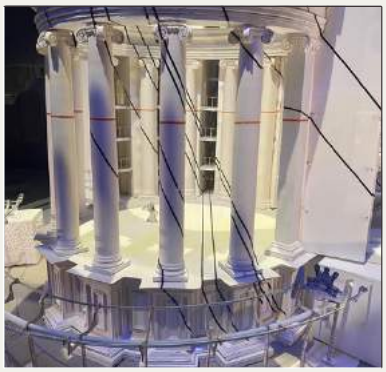
At the end of this half-term, we say farewell to Mr Rowley, who has been our design and technology technician for 20 years, supporting the staff and students alike to develop their skills and thrive in this highly successful area of college life. We all wish Mr Rowley a long and happy retirement as he begins his next chapter.

After Easter, we return for the Pentecost term, a term which is shaped by public examinations and cultural capital opportunities. I encourage all Year 11 and 13 to make the most of all the opportunities, support and guidance on offer to help them prepare for the season ahead. As we enter the Pentecost term, we will be reflecting on the Catholic social teaching of promoting peace. It is so needed in our troubled world today and if we can begin in the small ways, in our relationships with one another and in our words and actions, then we will go a long way to fulfilling the gospel values of peace and tolerance.

I wish you all a happy and holy Easter.

## Art Department

Careers in the Creative Art Industry
Last week, over half of the Year 8 year group visited the Harry Potter Studio tour in Leavesden. The students got the chance to learn all about the hundreds of different careers involved in the production of the Harry Potter films. Students discovered the magic behind spellbinding special effects and explored the behind-the-scenes secrets of the Harry Potter films. Many selfies were taken in the iconic Hogwarts Great Hall, Forbidden Forest, Hogwarts Express, Platform 9¾ and Gringotts Wizarding Bank, all before wandering down Diagon Alley. The studio tour showcases the British talent and artistry that went into the making of the Wizarding World. Butter beer was also sampled, despite Mrs Kavanagh warning students that it was like soapy water! It was a long day and students were exhausted but brilliantly well-behaved.
Thank you to all the staff who supported the safe and smooth running of this trip.
Mrs M Kavanagh



## Art Department (continued)

We recently received the news that we have been accredited with the Artsmark Gold Award. The award recognises our arts and culture provision. We have been working hard for the last 2 years within art, photography, music, drama and dance to achieve this award. A big 'well done' is deserved for all staff and students who have contributed, including students who took part in our student voice, participated in extra-curricular activities and also our art ambassadors. The award encompasses our strong enrichment offer (trips/activities/visiting speakers/cross-curricular) and also the opportunities on offer for students to engage with creative careers and cultural capital. We look forward to building on this success as we strive to offer the best possible arts experience for our students. If you feel you could help us with this, please contact Mrs Gillespie.

Artsmark Gold Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

*"You clearly have a long-term commitment to arts and culture, which is beginning to have measurable effects on staff and pupils. All pupils can access a consistent range of arts and cultural provision through work with local arts and cultural organisations, both in school and on visits outside the classroom, which leads to showcasing in school alongside a programme of extra-curricular activity. There is SLT support and a credible (and recently increased) offer at KS3-5. It's great to hear about your student ambassadors for pupil voice and artist in residence days."*

## Sociology

This term has been busy for our sociology students. Year 13 have sat their last full mock paper before their exams start in the summer term. Our revision timetable is in full swing at the moment and we are doing plenty of past paper practice and retrieval knowledge.

We ended the term nicely with a trip to Glastonbury. The students had a fantastic time and this enhanced our knowledge for Topic 2, the beliefs paper. We walked up the Tor and visited the sacred springs. Students were then able to visit the shops and examine the New Age movement goods.

A great time was had by all!

# Business and Economics

The business and economics residential to Prague was a huge success this February, with our sixth form students embracing the centre of the Czech Republic. On day one, students undertook a walking tour of Prague's old town and popular travel and tourism areas, taking in observations of how the capital has economically adapted over the years and capitalised on tourism. On day two of our action-packed residential, students discovered the insights of flow production in the Skoda car factory and museum, whilst reviewing the brand's long historical status in the region. Students also embarked on product creations in the Choco Story factory, where students put their design mix knowledge into practice, along with some consumption of extremely tasty chocolate. On day three, students undertook a tour and Q&A session at the Ruckl Glass factory, reviewing the influence of job production, labour productivity and the brand impacts that royal families and celebrities have on such heritage brands. On day four, students experienced a university-style seminar on macroeconomics and institutional voids delivered by an economics lecturer from the Czech Institute of Education. Students had many opportunities to put their business and economics theory into practice from an international business perspective. Lastly, the students had ample opportunity to explore with free time, partake in a river boat cruise and experience what life could be like living and working in such an historical place such as Prague.

Let's hear from some of our students about their time on the residential:

'The visit to Skoda was my favourite experience - eye-opening to see the speed and intensity of production and the whole Skoda based city in Mlada Boleslav.'

'Hearing the Czech language has also inspired me to start learning more Slavic languages like Ukrainian and Russian , which will be especially beneficial in the following years due to the growing geopolitical instability and also my aspirations to be in the Royal Navy as a warfare specialist.'

'The economics lecture was very informative, helping us to bring all of our knowledge over the past 3 days and put it into perspective and numbers learning about Prague's GDP and how their economy is structured and how something as simple as the location of their country can massively affect their ability to trade across all other countries in Europe.'

# Science Department

The science department was delighted by the opportunity to be part of a fabulous event taking place in Cheadle this week, the Cheadle Moon.
Over 350 excited students have been to visit this inspiring installation. The Museum of the Moon is currently touring the world and it is incredible that it is now taking pride of place at St. Giles the Abbot Church in Cheadle, thanks to the fantastic work of the Outside Art team and many members of the local community.

The event is celebrating the life and achievements of a Cheadle resident, Mary Blagg. Mary was one of the first women to be admitted into the Royal Astronomical Society. She was born in 1858 and spent her life conducting ground-breaking work mapping the surface of the moon. To mark the 80th anniversary of her death and to celebrate the achievements of women in science, the Museum of the Moon by Luke Jerram has been installed in Cheadle for a two-week period. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the moon features detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally-lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface.

During science lessons over the last week, students have been visiting the touring artwork and learning more about this trailblazing scientist. To celebrate Mary's achievements. a crater on the moon, Blagg crater, was named after her and in March 2023, a planet was named Mary Blagg in her honour. Students had the opportunity to listen to an audio recording about her life as part of their trip and had the chance to spot her crater on the stunning model.

A group of students were interviewed by Liz Copper from BBC Midlands Today at the event, who said:
"It makes me feel very proud because it is very exciting to see a woman in science, especially when a lot of the time they are not as credited for their work as men are, so it is very exciting to see that."

"Women are typically overlooked for their work in that sort of field and to have someone who wasn't overlooked and is actually really, really inspiring to people is great."

If anyone would like to visit the Museum of the Moon over the Easter break, tickets can be booked using this link: Cheadle Moon - 15 Mar to 5 Apr 2024 - OUTSIDE (outsidearts.org)

# English Department

**Painsley Heading for Victory in Staffordshire University's Future Journalist Competition 2024!**

After huge success in Staffordshire University's Future Journalism Competition last year, the English department is keen to replicate further victory this year! All students in Year 7 to Year 10 have been given the opportunity to enter this competition. Students are working hard on their entries, which can take the form of speeches or podcast-style interviews. All finalists from each of the age categories will be invited to a special award ceremony, to take place on March 28th at Staffordshire University's Catalyst Building. There will be three winners per category: best written content, best video and best audio. Each will win a £50 Amazon voucher and be invited to attend a newsday experience at the university.

**Painsley Prepares for NEW Oracy Competition!**

Mr Reed has been coaching the English department on how to incorporate a wider range of collaborative activities in lessons. The aim has been to increase the opportunities that students have to develop their oracy in lessons. Following on from this, the English department has been helping students prepare for the Painsley MAC's inaugural oracy competition, which will take place at Painsley on 11th April. All students in Year 8 and 10 have produced speeches on the topic of Artificial Intelligence.

The students who win the heats will go on to represent the school to compete against students from our partner schools – Blessed William Howard and Cardinal Griffin. This is a special Painsley MAC competition open to ALL our schools, including our primary feeder schools. There are also special judges who will be announced very soon...!

## MFL Department

In a busy term, where Year 8 and 9 have both been learning how to tell the time, we have also been 'counting down' to our Year 8 Paris residential in March. 94 of our students will be travelling to France on the 23rd March for an action-packed 3-night stay in Paris. We'll be visiting Normandy to explore the landing beaches, spending a day enjoying all that Disneyland Paris has to offer, taking a relaxing river cruise on the Seine, seeing Paris by night on a bus tour and calling in at a chocolaterie to sample some treats! The visit will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to put their language learning into action, whilst they experience the culture of France's beautiful capital city.

## SEND

Liam Haydock has celebrated his latest achievement with the Staffordshire Police Cadets. Liam took part in the attestation, where he made his promise to serve the King as a Police Cadet and was presented with his award by the High Sheriff.

The Police Cadets meet once a week for two hours and Liam has been attending for 2 years, since he was 13 years old. Being a member of the Police Cadets allows Liam to gain experience of the different policing sectors and take part in community events. He also has the opportunity to complete training from PCSOs and members of the police force in areas such as communication and 'stop and searches'. The cadets have also received training from the Collision Investigation Unit about what serious collisions the unit deals with, as well as invaluable safety advice with regard to being safe on the roads as a new driver or a pedestrian. There are also a wide range of team-building activities and opportunities to socialise with other police cadets, who share an enthusiasm for serving their local community.
Liam especially enjoys supporting at community events and highlights for him have been serving at Leek and Manifold Show and taking part in the Remembrance Day Parade. Another highlight with the Police Cadets has been assisting with crime prevention initiatives and Liam is proud to have been involved in a knife sweep around Cheadle, helping to make the area safe. Liam has also received a certificate and commemorative coin to celebrate 10 years of the Police Cadet Scheme. We wish Liam the best of luck with his future endeavours with the Police Cadets and we are very proud of all of his achievements.

# Performing Arts Department

The drama department is preparing for our upcoming performance exams for Year 11/Year 13. These are scripted performances from published play texts, which are performed to a visiting examiner. The drama students have worked incredibly hard on these performances in their final practical exam before their written exam in the summer. Let's show the examiner what we can do!

The performing arts department were proud to present 'Legally Blonde JR' from 21st-23rd February. Students worked incredibly hard with numerous after school rehearsals every week from September-February to prepare the show for our audiences.

On the surface, Legally Blonde can be seen as just a fun, 'blonde' musical. However, the themes and issues that the play deals with are highly topical for our young cast. It is a play about following your dreams and realising your own worth. The characters in the play are there for one another in friendship and helping each other find their way; a reflection of the messages we try to promote as a Catholic school through our gospel values, showing respect, kindness and learning to 'Know Yourself' through their time at Painsley.

# Performing Arts Department (continued)

The performing arts department is preparing to support the liturgical of the Stations of the Cross with the RE Department with songs, music and theatre performed by our very talented students. All year groups will have the opportunity to witness this in their year group Acts of Worship before the Easter half-term.

## Performing Arts Department (continued)

Our NEW music extra-curricular timetable for next term is below:

Monday - Choir with Miss Wright and Miss Bennett
Tuesday - Year 7 Young Voices choir with Mr Hurdley
Chamber ensemble – Miss Wright and Miss Bennett
Wednesday - Junior Band with Mr Hurdley Homework/Theory drop in KS3/4 with Miss Bennett
Thursday - String group with Miss Wright
Friday - Samba ensemble with Miss Bennett and Mr Hurdley and Keyboard Club with Miss Wright

Junior band will be starting with:
·Paddling Pool Polka
·Spooky City
·Strudel Waltz

Year 7 Young Voices choir will be preparing:
·Matilda Medley
·Moana Medley

Choir will be preparing:
·Rise Up by Andra Day
·Million Dreams from the Greatest Showman

Drama club starts on Monday 15th April and is open to any year group.

## Ski Trip

On the 24th February, 48 students and 6 staff set off on a holiday of a lifetime to the French Alps. We headed to Manchester airport and flew the short flight to Grenoble before a transfer to the fantastic snow-covered resort of Les Deux Alpes. We made it to 'Doumes Lodge' late on Saturday night, where we had some tea and got an early night ready for a week of non-stop activities! Students had 6 days of intense lessons with some fantastic ski instructors; the advanced group took a particular shining to Stefan who took them on some great runs and covered some distance during the 6 days. Each day we had a lovely hot lunch and 2 course dinner, followed by some free time where students single-handedly bought the Alps out of crepes and chips! Each evening, the students were treated to some great entertainment from Painsley staff, which included quizzes, amusement arcades, firework and ski displays, scavenger hunts, 'Sowter's bingo', pizza night and the highly competitive bowling night! The students were an absolute delight and we were so proud of each and every one of them for their behaviour, maturity and dedication to skiing! Keep your eyes peeled for next year's trip.

## Ski Trip (continued)

## PE Department

Cricket

The under 13s and under 15s both qualified for the county indoor cricket finals day in Aldersley, having finished runners up at Fenton Manor. The competition was extremely high and we saw some unbelievable talent on display. Both Painsley teams performed brilliantly and showed why they qualified in the first place.

# PE Department (continued)

Football

The weather has held up the football fixtures but we managed to get a few games in on some damp pitches! The Year 8s and 7s played against Woodhouse, the Year 8 team won 9-0 and the Year 7 team lost 5-0; two good games considering the current state of the pitches. Hopefully we will see some dry weather and we can catch up on all the fixtures we have missed.

Junior Sportsperson of the Year

Congratulations to Hubert, who is junior sportsperson of the year! The time and effort Hubert puts into his badminton is phenomenal and we are so proud of all of his achievements! Not only is he a great badminton player, he is also a fantastic student. Well done, Hubert.

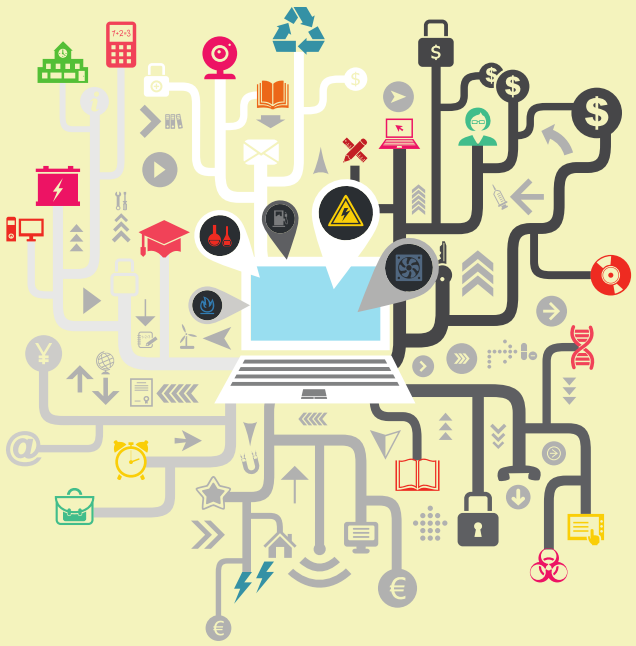
Recently, Hubert played in the U15 gold level tournament in York, including players from across the UK and some visitors from India and Hong Kong. Hubert played some of his best badminton ever. He managed to secure first place in doubles and a bronze medal in singles. Due to his fantastic performances, he has been selected to represent England for the upcoming U15 Home Countries Quadrangular event. He is only one of 5 boys to represent the country! Everyone at Painsley is extremely proud of Hubert and wish him every success for this fantastic opportunity!

# History Department

Year 10 have been on a trip to the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in Nottingham. It was a fascinating day. We took part in two workshops regarding 'what it meant to be a Jew' and 'what the responses to the Holocaust were' and the threat of it. We also got to visit the exhibition of the journey to Holocaust. This took us through from the Middle Ages and the existing anti-Semitism all through the build-up to the war and the Final Solution. It was an eye-opening experience and was very impactful. Everyone was full of reverence and was moved by the exhibitions. We then had the wonderful opportunity to speak to a Holocaust survivor, Joan Salter, and hear her story of how she and her family survived through this awful time. It was also incredibly illuminating on how this relatively short period in history continues to shape lives to this very day. She was brilliant and the experience was something that we will be able to use to further aid our studies. We even had the chance to ask her some questions about her family and life after they survived, which for me was perhaps the most moving. Thank you to the teachers for taking us!

Poppy Steele, Year 10

# Computer Science



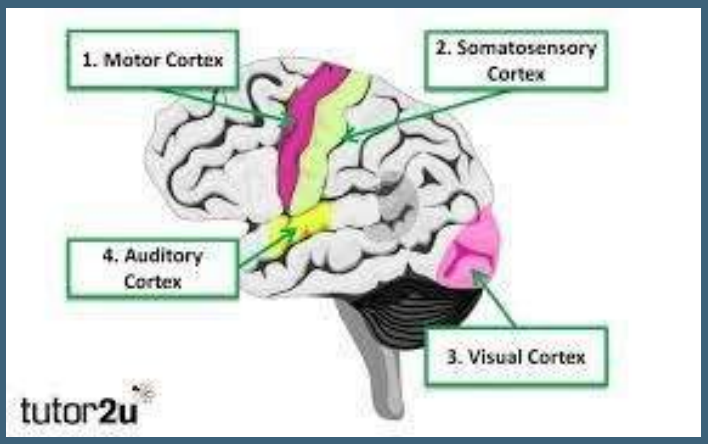
Digital T Level – Occupational Specialism
We are now in our fourth year of delivering the Digital T Level, after being one of the few pioneering centres across the nation to develop this new qualification. T Levels are very different to more traditional Level 3 qualifications such as A-Levels, in that they aim to give learners a snapshot of what a real career will be like in their chosen field. There are the more traditional exams in Year 12, which are most related to A Levels, but that is where the similarities end. Our Year 13s have already completed those exams in their first year of study, alongside their employer-set project, which aims to give them a task that would mirror the kind of assignment that an employer may hand them.

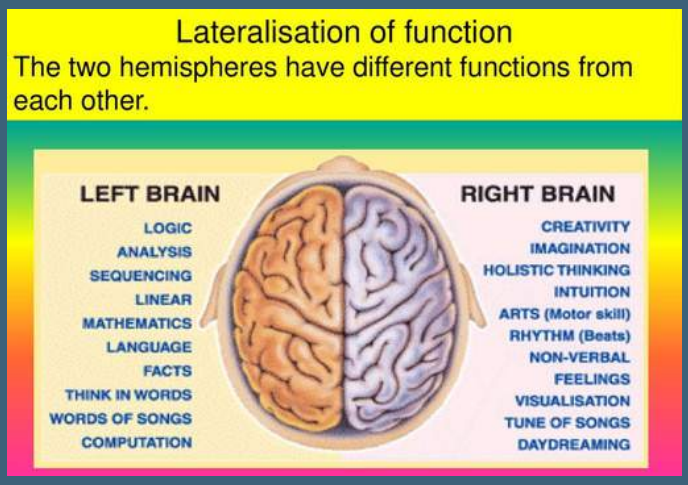
On Monday 11th March, students began their Occupational Specialism, which makes up the bulk of the study time in Year 13. This is very different to other qualifications; they will complete a near 70-hour exam across a 14-week period. It is designed to test the students' ability to take a problem from its analysis, through design, implementation, testing and evaluation. This is similar to coursework tasks in other qualifications, but here they have to complete every step under exam conditions. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them the best in completing this activity!

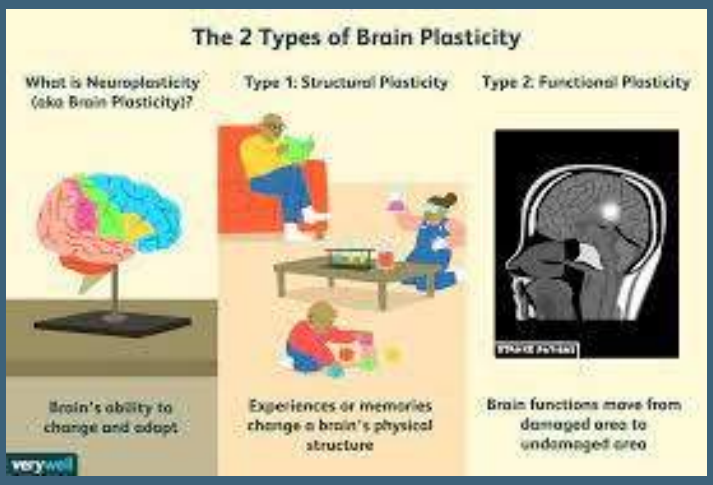
Our Year 13s also recently returned to college after completing their 45-day work placements at Alton Towers. Both the computer science department and Painsley Catholic College wishes to thank the staff at Alton Towers for guiding our students through this extended placement. Every year, feedback from our alumni tells us that the work placement is THE element that makes them stand out from the crowd when it comes to applying for jobs.

# Psychology

In psychology this half-term, we have been studying the following:
For Year 13 it's all about biopsychology, localisation of function of the brain hemispheric lateralisation of the brain and brain plasticity. The drawing indicates the cortex and its functions.



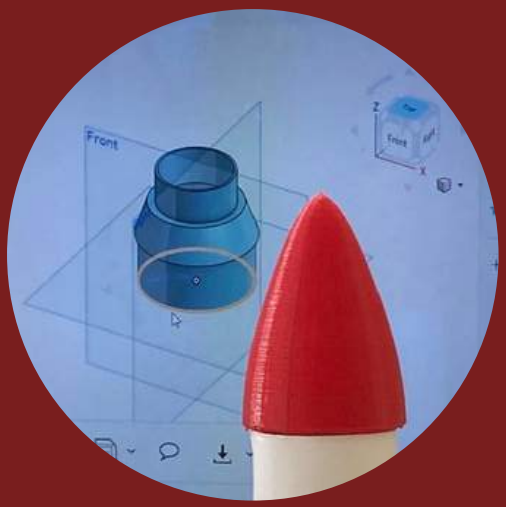



Year 12 students have been looking at social influence.

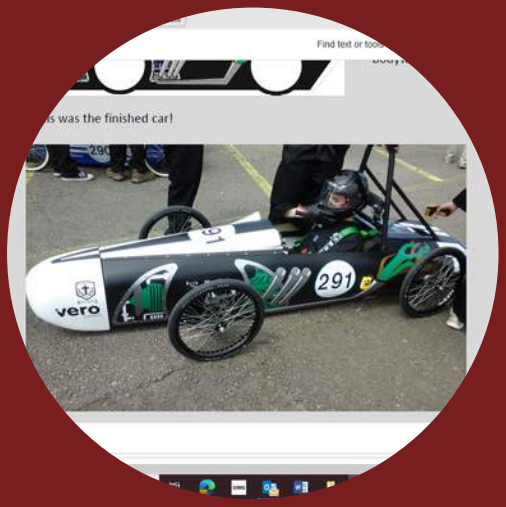
What makes us conform and what makes us obey? How do minorities go about turning around majority opinion?
In this section are some of the most famous psychological experiments.
An example of Stanley Milgram's participants, where they were administering electric shocks to a learner who is getting questions wrong. An example of obeying orders without question to a higher authority figure.

# Design and Technology

This is one of the most exciting times of year in the design and technology department, as students begin to see the fruits of their labour as they complete their coursework projects for GCSE and A Level.
Like every year, our students are producing some stunning work, showing a huge variety of skills and creativity. We love seeing the final pieces come together, even more so when we see students grow in confidence as they come to believe how good their final pieces can be.
In food technology, we are excited to be welcoming the Royal Navy chef display team, who are coming in next term to wow and inspire our KS4 food students. We will also be taking a group of food students to Rease Heath College to experience a day of food workshops.

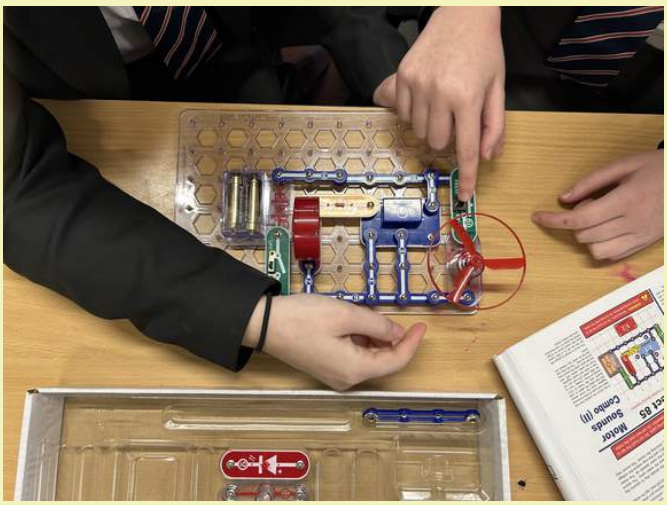


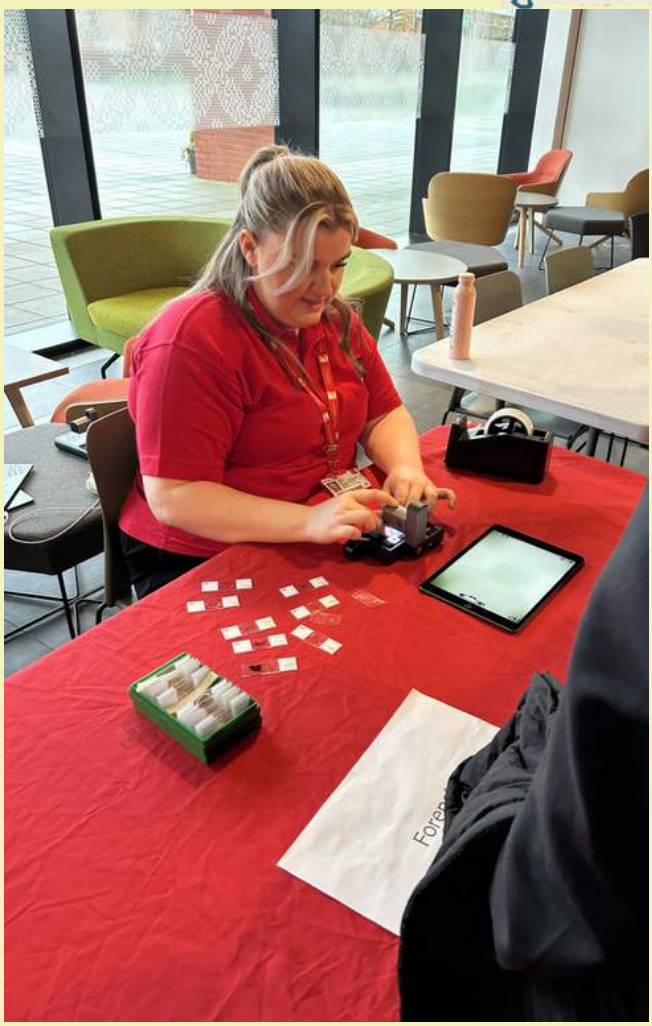

Rocket club continues and our team is in the middle of the construction phase of the challenge. They have created the body tubes and 3D printed the nose cone – other important body parts are designed on CAD and are in the 3D print process ready for its first test flight next week. The UKROC competition is on April 30th so they need to get moving on the testing and development phase to hit the height and flight time targets. Good luck to the team!




KMF are once again sponsoring a Greenpower race event and we are therefore requiring a build and drive team who can ready the cars and be available to race them. The race is to take place in the second week of the summer holiday. If your child is available that week and they would like to be part of the team, they should contact Mr Watson.

# Careers





It's been another busy term in the world of careers. Every year group has had a careers experience. Year 7 had a day of activities related to STEM, including a workshop delivered by Capula. Most Year 8 students had the chance to visit Staffordshire University, have a tour of the campus, complete workshops and meet university staff and students. Year 9 completed a challenge day set by JCB and two teams are through to the finals in April.

Year 10 participated in a work-based scenario devised and hosted in conjunction with F. Ball, a local company. Year 11 saw the culmination of their careers learning with a mock assessment centre and interview day where they completed recruitment-style activities and had a mock interview from a local employer. On top of this, it has been National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, where both events have been marked in school with a range of activities, including a site visit to Capula and a talk for some students about becoming an optician.

# RE and Chaplaincy

**Year 11 Mock Preparation**

Year 11 have been working hard to prepare for their final mock paper. In their RE walking talking mock, students have explored the 'Themes' and 'Judaism' paper. They have learnt how to answer each type of question, how to use evidence effectively and how to answer any 'tricky topics'.

Year 11 have been fantastic in the sessions – they have been focused, engaged and enthusiastic.

Well done, Year 11!

**Chaplaincy Crew Retreat Day**

On 19th February, the Chaplaincy Crew from Years 7, 8 and 9 went to Alton Castle for their Chaplaincy retreat day.

Here are the comments made by our students about the day:

'We had lots of fun today, the activities were great. We had time to reflect and think about our own spiritual journey and also how we can help spread God's word in our college.'

'We had chance to go to the chapel to pray, reflect and be still, I felt very close to God today.'

'The best part of today was the crate stacking, we worked together so well with our teamworking, it was brilliant.'

'Learning to plan a liturgy was my favourite part of today because it has helped me to have the confidence to prepare and plan a liturgy back in college.'

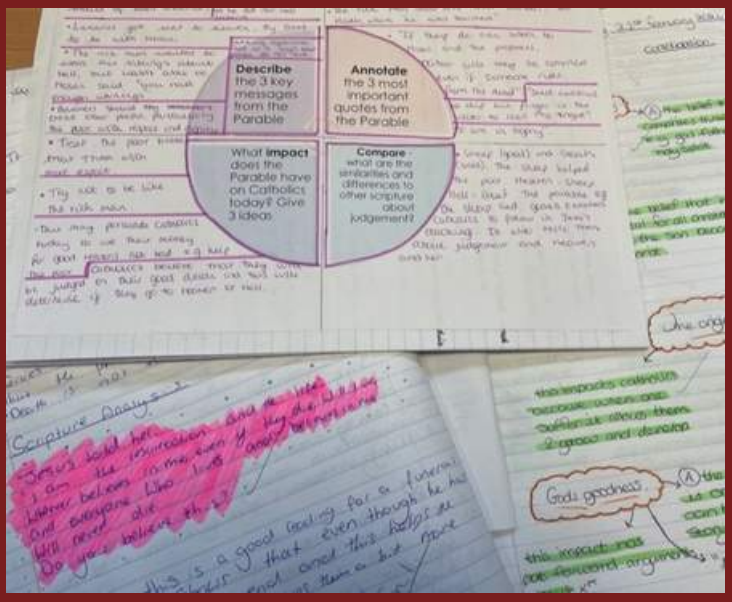
'Today we went to Alton Castle, we got to experience new things that I've never tried before. I had a fab time.'

'Today has been so much fun. It was so well organised by the Soli team, we had time to be ourselves and time to do lots of team work.'

By the Chaplaincy Crew

The Soli House team, led by Hannah, commented on our students and said it was a pleasure to share the day with such fantastic students!

# RE and Chaplaincy (continued)




**Year 10**
Year 10 are currently studying the 'life and death' topic as part of their GCSE course. The students have been consolidating and extending their knowledge by linking their ideas to wider scripture.

10A7 have been reading, annotating and interpreting scripture such as Jesus' parables and the Gospel accounts of the resurrection to extend their knowledge and support their ideas. Well done, 10A7.

**Lourdes Fundraising at Legally Blonde**

An amazing £670 was raised during the school production for the Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024. The students worked so hard making up popcorn cones, selling raffle tickets and serving refreshments during each evening. They were fantastic fundraisers under the wonderful guidance of Mrs Barlow.
Well done to all!

# RE and Chaplaincy (continued)

**Year 9**

Our Year 9 students have been studying Judaism practices. Now that they have secured a good understanding of Judaism beliefs and teachings, they have been learning about how the beliefs and teachings are lived out and celebrated.
Miss Tucker's class had a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the Passover (Pesach) celebrations in the Passover vehicle. Students learnt about the Seder plate, meal and explored how Passover festival is celebrated.
What a fantastic opportunity to learn more about this Jewish festival!

**North Staffs Vocations Day Mass**

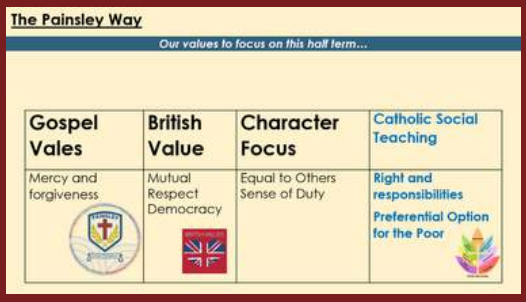
On Tuesday 12th March, several students attended the North Staffs Deanery Vocations Mass.
Fr. Simon Hall was the chief celebrant and shared with us a beautiful homily on his vocation and what had inspired him to become a Priest.
Afterwards we met with Sister Patricia Murphy, the Vocations Director. Sister Patricia commented:
'It was lovely to meet you all earlier this evening. What a lovely group of students you all are. I hope you gained something from the experience'.

Katie and Brayli, Year 8 and Year 11

**Parish Links**

On Thursday 7th March, the Catholic Church of St. Mary's Leek held their Parish Council meeting. During the meeting, the members of the committee were presented with the Painsley Advent and spring newsletters. It was a wonderful opportunity for the college to share the fantastic work and achievements they have had over the recent months with our St. Mary's Parish Family. Fr. Martin asked if the newsletters could be available at the back of the church for all the parishioners to read.

# RE and Chaplaincy (continued)




**A Special Visitor meets 8L6**

8L6 had a special visitor joining them in their RE lesson, Mr Vince, a Diocesan Trustee. During the lesson, they completed some fantastic work to begin their new topic of Lent and Holy Week. Whilst exploring and discussing the three Lenten practices (fasting, almsgiving and prayer), they challenged themselves to link their new knowledge to our school Catholic Social Teaching for this term – Preferential Option for the Poor.

One student said, "we can link prayer and almsgiving to our Catholic Social teaching because in mass our bidding prayers reflect the needs of the poor and we also donate to Catholic charities during the collection in Mass".
Well done, Year 8!

**Night Prayer in the Alps**

"On our skiing trip in the Les 2 Alpes and after a fun-packed day of amazing skiing and evening activities, we all joined together for night prayer. Each evening, we would thank God for keeping us safe, guiding us to use our gifts and talents with each other and growing together as our Painsley family through meal time and recreation. Each evening, different students from the year groups wrote and led the prayers. It was a lovely way to end the perfect day!"
Katie and Eva - Year 8

# RE and Chaplaincy (continued)

**Whole School Mass Preparation**

On Friday 9th February, students from Year 7-Year 13 created some fantastic pieces of artwork based on their interpretation of our Painsley Whole School Prayer. They spent time in their Emmaus groups learning about the history of our school prayer, its meanings and how it relates to their lives. Each year group have been given a theme based on a line of the prayer:

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.'

Year 12 and 13: "As we grow in faith, knowledge and understanding."

The pieces of work that the students have created will then be collated and put on wooden letters 'YEAR OF PRAYER' ready for our Whole School Mass in June.

It has been wonderful to see all of our students engage in the activity and create some beautiful reflections based on what the school prayer means to them.

## RE and Chaplaincy (continued)

**Stations of the Cross**
During the season of Lent, students from all year groups have been invited to our school chapel to pray and experience the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, or Via Dolorosa (Sorrowful Way), is a popular Lenten devotion. The Stations of the Cross call to mind the Passion of Christ, that is, the journey Jesus took from his condemnation to his death. The students have time, during the liturgy, to ponder, reflect and pray as they walk with Jesus on His final journey to Calvary.

**Year 7**
As part of the new RED (Religious Education Directive), our Year 7 students have begun the "Galilee to Jerusalem" chapter. In this chapter, students consider the key question of who Jesus was. Students have been analysing scripture both from the Old and New Testament as well as learning about the different titles for Jesus, including "Son of God", "Son of Man", "Christ" and "Lord".

## Health and Social Care

The health and social care students have had a busy academic term. The exam results for the January series will be released on Thursday 21st March. This will include Unit 4 research for Year 13. Units 1 and 2 for Year 12 and component 3 results for Year 11. Any resits necessary will be offered on the 21st and registered on the 22nd March.

I am pleased to announce that a number of the Year 13 students have received offers from our local universities for a diverse range of courses, including forensic investigation, social work and paramedic science. Moving forward, the focus for all year groups is to complete their coursework units by the agreed deadlines. Year 12 are currently working hard writing a treatment plan for an individual with a selected physiological disorder and applying person-centred care to meet individual care and support needs. Year 13 have been exploring health and safety in health and social care settings, where they have demonstrated empathy and excellent application to safeguarding and emergency situations. They are now looking at public health campaigns and their importance in shaping the health of our nation. Another interesting yet challenging term.

## Lego Competition

Huge well done to the team of LEGO robot engineers, who took part in the regional competition at Newcastle-Under -Lyme College. The team spent the day delivering presentations to a panel of judges, perfecting their robot and taking part in the robot games. Judges were very impressed with how well the team presented their work throughout the day. Well done to the whole team.

## Maths Department

**Year 12 and 13 Maths Fest**

Students from Year 12 and 13 recently attended an online conference called "Maths Fest". This involved well-known speakers such as the author of "Humble Pi: A Comedy of Maths Errors", Matt Parker. The presentations involved wide-ranging subjects from law, marine biology, medical science, botany, physics and risk assessment. One session looked at revision techniques, including trying questions from other exams boards to deepen students' understanding. More details can be found at Maths Fest.

**Intermediate Maths Challenge Results**

Well done to everyone who participated in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. This national competition saw Painsley obtain 3 gold (top 8%), 9 silver (top 17%) and 49 bronze (top 50%) certificates. A special mention goes to Brogan Milward, George Barker and Megan Collins (best in college) who obtained the gold award and William McNicol who was invited to take part in the follow-up round; an invite only a few of the top percentage of each year receive.

**Revision at Painsley**

Super-revision

Congratulations to Painsley students for their incredible work revising for the Lent assessment window. Students answered a remarkable 29,000 questions and spent a combined total 1,150 hours revising. Congratulations to the top revisers in each year group:

Year 11: Epona Quaife and Elisia Mboya
Year 10: Willow Carr and Anna Tom
Year 9: Nicholas Kavaz and Ruby Balkas
Year 8: Annasia Mboya and Roisin Slavin Keelan
Year 7: Sophia Plesa and Poppy Hadley

# Geography Department - Italy Trip

On Monday 11th March, we arrived and settled into our hotel in Sorrento.

On Tuesday, our first day of sightseeing involved a fantastic guided tour of the famous archaeological site at Pompeii. We then headed up into the clouds to visit the crater of Mt Vesuvius. Our alpine guide talked to us about some of the highlights of the world famous volcano, even if we had to use our imaginations!

On Wednesday, we visited the beautiful island of Capri. We took a boat tour around the island then had time to explore Capri town. After lunch, we travelled up to Anacapri with its stunning views. Some of the braver students (and staff) took the opportunity to travel up to the highest point on the island by chairlift. We all had a fantastic day in the sunshine.

On Thursday, the group travelled along the spectacular Amalfi coastline. We stopped at a number of viewpoints, including stunning views of Positano, before continuing to Amalfi town. We spent several hours here soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the sunshine. A short trip on a hydrofoil brought us to Maiori, where we travelled through the mountains to the UNESCO world heritage site at Ravello, popular with many famous composers, such as Richard Wagner. Another fantastic day of sights, scenery and culture - largely thanks to our fabulous guide, Gino.

The final day of the Italy visit was also spent in the sunshine. We had the opportunity to spend time near our base in Sorrento to see the sights and do some shopping. After lunch, we travelled to the superb ruins of Herculaneum. These ruins are less well-known but better preserved than those at Pompeii, including many buildings of several storeys, preserved wood and original frescos from the time of the eruption in AD79. We had a guided tour of the site before heading to the airport at Naples to catch our late flight home. 'Veni, vidi, vici' as a famous Roman once said.

# Personal Development

Throughout this vibrant half-term at Painsley, the multitude of activities and opportunities presented have played a pivotal role in fostering students' personal development and enhancing their overall wellbeing. The school's commitment to a comprehensive PSHE/RSE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education/Relationships and Sex Education) programme further reinforced these positive outcomes.

The art trip to the Harry Potter Studios, Painsley being awarded the Artsmark Gold Award and participation in the Future Journalist Awards contributed to students' personal development by nurturing creativity, self-expression and a passion for the arts. Engaging in these activities allowed students to explore their artistic potential, fostering a sense of identity and accomplishment.

The business and economics trip to Prague exposed students to diverse global perspectives, instilling a deeper understanding of economic principles and cultivating their ability to navigate the complexities of international business. These experiences are invaluable in shaping well-rounded individuals with a global mindset and adaptability.

The preparation for the Painsley Inter-Mac oracy competition and the visit to the Holocaust Centre and Museum provided platforms for students to develop essential communication skills, empathy and an awareness of historical and societal issues. These activities encouraged critical thinking and reflection, contributing to students' growth as informed and compassionate individuals.

National Careers Week and the opening of the Painsley Emmaus Hub further emphasized the school's commitment to students' personal development. By providing insights into potential career paths and creating a supportive environment through the Emmaus Hub, students were empowered to make informed decisions about their futures and seek the necessary resources for their personal growth.

The PE ski trip not only promoted physical health and teamwork but also instilled a sense of resilience and determination, vital qualities for personal development. Meanwhile, participation in the LEGO Robot Engineer event exposed students to real-world applications of STEM skills, fostering problem-solving abilities and a passion for innovation.

In tandem with these experiences, the school's PSHE/RSE programme continued to play a crucial role in addressing broader aspects of students' personal development. By providing education on relationships, wellbeing and crucial life skills, Painsley ensured that students were equipped with the knowledge and understanding needed to navigate the challenges of adolescence and beyond.

# Personal Development (continued)

Our National School Attendance Award serves as a testament to the school's commitment to creating a positive and inclusive learning environment. Regular attendance is not only a key factor in academic success but also contributes to the development of responsibility and time management skills, essential components of personal growth.
In essence, the myriad of activities and the ongoing commitment to the PSHE/RSE programme at Painsley have collectively contributed to the holistic development of students, preparing them for future challenges and instilling values that go beyond academic achievement.

**RSE 10/10 resources**
For Year 7, discussions centred on "Family and Friends" and "My Life on Screen." These topics, whilst challenging, provided students with valuable insights into the dynamics of familial relationships and the influence of media on perceptions of self and others. By navigating these discussions, students gained a deeper understanding of the importance of healthy relationships and media literacy.
In Year 8, attention was focused on "Tough Relationships" and "Think Before You Share." These topics delved into the complexities of interpersonal dynamics and the potential consequences of online behaviour. By addressing these themes, students were challenged to consider the impact of their actions on themselves and others, fostering empathy and responsible digital citizenship.
Year 9 explored "Marriage" and "100 Percent," tackling discussions on commitment and personal integrity. These topics encouraged students to reflect on their values and beliefs surrounding relationships, challenging them to consider the significance of trust, respect and consent in intimate partnerships.
For Year 10, the focus shifted to "Pregnancy & Abortion" and "Abuse," addressing sensitive yet vital issues related to reproductive health and safety. These discussions provided students with essential knowledge and resources to make informed decisions regarding their bodies and relationships, empowering them to recognise and address abusive behaviours.
Finally, Year 11 engaged in discussions on "Coercive Control" and "Pornography," grappling with complex issues surrounding power dynamics and media influence. By navigating these topics, students were challenged to critically evaluate societal norms and expectations, equipping them with the tools to recognise and resist harmful behaviours and attitudes.

While these topics may have been challenging, they were essential in fostering a deeper understanding of relationships, consent and personal boundaries. By addressing these themes within the PSHE/RSE programme, Painsley continued to uphold its commitment to providing students with a comprehensive education that prepares them for the complexities of the modern world.

# Dates for your diary

April
8th April - College opens for the Summer Term
9th April - Year 11 Parents' Evening (5pm - 7pm)
10th April - Year 9 'All Change' Day and Year 7 St Mark's Mass at 10.30am
May
2nd May - Year 9 Parents' Evening (5pm - 7pm)
9th May - Year 9 'Bright Futures' Morning and Ascension Mass at St Giles' 11am
24th May - Year 10 and Year 12 Amsterdam Residential
27th May - Half-term