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, 7th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to Pentecost 2 and our final half-term of the academic year. We can't believe we are at this point! Where has the time gone?

Half-term was a busy time for several groups of students. The Year 10 and 12 artists visited Amsterdam. Year 9 and 10 Duke of Edinburgh students participated in their training and navigation day in advance of their expedition and Year 11 and 13 students attended a variety of revision sessions throughout the week. It was marvellous to follow the Year 10 and 12 students, who participated in the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes and to hear of their wonderful contributions. I have shared a number of letters I have received following the pilgrimage:

Dear Mrs Waugh,
I am writing to say what a delight it was to encounter some Painsley students at the Archdiocese of Birmingham Pilgrimage at Lourdes last week; they are most certainly a great credit to the school.
At the opening Mass, Painsley students greeted their fellow pilgrims, and handed to them home-made pilgrimage prayer cards as they made their way into the St Bernadette Chapel. I received a beautiful home-made card signed by Poppy Smith. This lovely card, so painstakingly designed and made, wished me a wonderful pilgrimage and asked me to pray for all members of the Painsley community on the pilgrimage. On the reverse side of the card is a beautiful prayer to Our Lady and a picture of a Rosary with blue beads. To receive this lovely card was a real blessing, a precious pilgrimage moment. I have kept it, and it now lives on a shelf in my study, between a picture of Our Lady and one of St. Bernadette.
After the Mass, I managed to catch up with two of your students, who had been carrying the Painsley banner, to thank them. They were most courteous and kind. These and all the Painsley students whom I encountered last week are a shining credit to the school. They seemed to me to be fine young people, the likes of whom make me optimistic in these troubled times about the future of the Church and the world.
I am sure that you and your staff will keep up the excellent work which you are obviously doing. I am a retired schoolteacher and it is a pleasure for me to be able to write this.
With best wishes,
Robin

Dear Mrs Waugh,
We write to you to congratulate the team from Painsley Catholic College who travelled on the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes during May half-term.
Led by Mrs Sowter, Mr Hendley and Miss Hickey, each individual impressed us both with the love and care they showed to each of the Sick pilgrims they served whilst on their duties in the Accueil Notre Dame. Their behaviour also throughout the pilgrimage week was impeccable and we have been a number of times throughout the past week complemented by

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the officials of the Lourdes Sanctuary of the service and demonstration of prayer and faith our young people let shine to the many pilgrimages present in Lourdes during our stay.
If you could pass on our thanks and congratulations to each individual involved and in conclusion thank you also to yourself for the encouragement and support you give to those from your school community wishing to travel to Lourdes.
Painsley Catholic College, we look forward to welcoming you back to Lourdes in 2025.
With every best wish for the forthcoming summer term.
Sarah Hickman - Chief Handmaid and Kevin Boyle - Chief Brancardier.

In this first week back, Year 9 photographers visited Les Oakes, Year 10 have participated in 'dream job' as part of their IAG curriculum and Year 7 have had the opportunity to visit Warwick Castle.

We wish the Year 8 football team the very best as they prepare for the County Cup final on Monday being played at Stafford Town. They have already had great success in winning the district league and cup. Year 9 will participate in the Bright Futures morning. Year 12 will visit Staffordshire University UCAS exhibition and we will hold the Year 11 celebration morning on Thursday, sharing memories, brunch and most importantly our Mass of Thanksgiving.

During Pentecost 2, we are focusing on the Gospel values of Justice and Truth and the Catholic social teaching of stewardship. As we reflected on the feast of Corpus Christi celebrated last weekend, we have reflected on God's gifts of life, the world in which we live and Jesus, showing us how to live. Through the Catholic social teaching of stewardship, we consider how we can best serve the world in which we live and our neighbours. Students have been introduced to Laudate Si (Praise be), which sets out Pope Francis' message to the world.

In the gospel this weekend (Mark 3:20-35), Jesus is rejected by his family and recognises those who respond to his message as his true family. As we journey through the final Pentecost term, we are reminded that we are the Painsley family, united by our shared values and beliefs.

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs Waugh