Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College

Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH
Telephone: 01538 493777
Email: office@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
Web: www.painsley.co.uk

Tuesday, 3rd September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a new academic year. I hope you have had a wonderful summer break, full of family, friends and good times.

At the start of the new term, I must congratulate our Year 13 and 11 students on their examination results. Year 13 results were superb and, coupled with the Ofsted rating for the Sixth Form, demonstrate what an amazing place our Painsley Sixth Form is. Please read the press release on our website www.painsley.co.uk. Equally, Year 11 achieved excellent examination results. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Please read the press release on our website www.painsley.co.uk.

We welcome the following staff to our Painsley family:

- Miss E Krumina – Teacher of Maths
- Miss L Bills – Teacher of MFL
- Mr C Parry – Head of MFL
- Mrs G Partington – Teacher of Psychology
- Mr K Long – Teacher of Business & Economics
- Miss E Littlewood – Teacher of Business & Economics
- Ms A Hurst – Textiles Technician
- Mr P Lacey – D & T Technician

Welcome back from maternity leave:

- Mrs R Histead (Head of Chemistry)

Change in roles:

- Ms L Dudley – Assistant Principal (Director of Sixth Form)
- Miss G Everiss – Deputy SENCO
- Miss B Blackburn – Pastoral Lead
- Mrs S Walklate – Language Hub Lead Teacher/Secondment to Cardinal Griffin

We wish them all a long and happy vocation serving our wonderful students.

Additionally, I would like to welcome our 230 Year 7 students and 120 students who have re-joined our Painsley Sixth Form.

The Painsley Way

As you know, our Painsley Catholic College Mission Statement sets out what we aim to do each and every day:

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"In our College we value and respect every person as a child of God, as we grow together in faith, knowledge, understanding and love to serve the community."

In living the Mission Statement, we ensure every student follows our motto to 'Know yourself'. Everything we do is focused on the life and teachings of Jesus and rooted in Gospel Values. The Painsley Way sets out a Gospel Value focus for each half-term. The first half-term of this academic year will be focusing on **Purity & Holiness** (humility and gentleness), as we show the life and teachings of Jesus in our actions and treatment of others. This is linked to our Catholic Social Teaching of **Human Dignity** and character value of being spiritual and prepared for the next stage of our lives and supports the British Value of tolerance.

Start of Term

In the first week of term, you will be receiving the parents' calendar of events and the Home School Agreement. It is crucial we work in partnership together and I would ask that you kindly sign the home school agreement and return it to your son/daughter's Emmaus tutor. Equally, I would ask you to keep the calendar somewhere prominent so that you are always aware of the key dates relating to your child's education.

At the start of the academic year, I kindly ask you to pay your school fund contribution of £30. This has been frozen over the last few years to recognise the rise in the cost of living but it is crucial to support the work of the College as we continue to strive to provide an 'Outstanding' quality of education. School fund is used to purchase new books, resources and ICT equipment for the benefit of all students. Payment should be made via ParentPay by Friday 17th September. There is also the option to pay £10 per term as requested by a number of parents. Thank you for your invaluable support on this matter.

Attendance 'First Day Contact'

Please remember that we need to be informed early on the first day of absence if your son/daughter cannot attend College. Please also ensure that we have updated emergency contact numbers and that, in particular, any telephone numbers for places of work are correct. **We must have a minimum of 2 contacts for all students**. We also operate a free text service so please ensure that we have a correct mobile phone number. Please note that, if a student is absent and parents have not contacted us, we will contact you at home or work to determine that the absence is genuine. The College Attendance Policy can be viewed on our website at www.painsley.co.uk. All students have an attendance target of 97%. If there have been any changes to the health care needs of your son/daughter, please ensure these are shared with Mrs Sedgwick so that we can ensure the appropriate healthcare plans are in place.

Leave in Term Time

In February 2024, the Department for Education published Working Together to Improve School Attendance. The changes to the law are introduced through the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 and came into effect on 19th August 2024. This means that any unauthorised leave taken after this date will be dealt with under the new Regulations. The changes to the regulations are significant so it is important that all parents understand them, so they can consider the consequences for themselves before taking leave in term time.

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New Two Penalty Notice Limit in a Three-Year Period

The three-year rolling period starts for parents when the first penalty notice is issued to them after the 19th August 2024.

- The first penalty notices for leave in term time will increase to £160 per parent per child but can be reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days.
- If a second penalty notice is issued within three years of the first penalty notice, then this will be at a fixed rate of £160 per parent per child, with no reduction for early payment.
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued within the three-year period; therefore, the County Council will deal with any further unauthorised leave through prosecution in the Magistrates Court. If the parent is found guilty, the potential fine is up to £1,000.

Please note this is taken from when the unauthorised leave from school occurs and not when the booking was made.

National Threshold for Issuing Penalty Notices

Parents may have heard about the new national threshold for issuing penalty notices which has been set at 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. However, all cases will be referred to the local authority and they retain the discretion to issue a penalty notice before the threshold is met, for example where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below threshold, or for repeated absence for birthdays or other family events. It is important for you to know that in the new regulations, we have no option but to inform the local authority of all unauthorised absence.

At Painsley Catholic College, every student has an attendance target of **97%** and we are all here to support you, as parents, in ensuring students remain above this attendance target. Indeed, we will be in regular contact with you regarding attendance, whether that is to congratulate students on maintaining above 97% or indeed to support students if they dip below 96%, 92% or 90% respectively.

Buses

If your son/daughter is using the college buses, please ensure all payments are maintained and up to date. Failure to do so may result in the seat being withdrawn.

Values and Expectations Policy

We aim to ensure that all students value and respect each other and are rewarded for doing so. As a reminder, all parents can see their child's achievement and behaviour points by downloading and logging into the Satchel app. You will also be able to view your son/daughter's timetable and current attendance.

College Day

I would like to remind you of the changes we have made to the college day as a result of staff and student feedback:

8:40am – 8:50am – Emmaus time

8:55am – 9:55am – Period 1 (60 minutes)

10:00am – 11:00am – Period 2 (60 minutes)

11:00am – 11:20am – Break (20-minute break)

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11:20am – 12:20pm – Period 3 Year 7 & 8 (60 minutes)

11:20am – 12:30pm – Period 3 Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 (70 minutes)

12:20pm – 1:05pm – Year 7 & 8 lunchtime

12:30pm – 1:15pm – Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 lunchtime

1:10pm – 2:20pm – Year 7 & 8 registration and period 4 (70 minutes)

1:20pm – 2:20pm – Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 registration and period 4 (60 minutes)

2:25pm – 3:25pm – Period 5 (60 minutes)

3:30pm – 4:15pm – Period 6 – for relevant Year 11 & 13 students

Communication Policy

As you know, education is most successful when parents, students and staff all work in partnership. Communication is vital to our successful partnership. As a reminder, 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 will be seeking 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 to support the ongoing development of the College.

Main points of contact:

- Emmaus Tutor - general enquiries and sharing pastoral issues/concerns. The pastoral teams are attached with this letter for your reference.
- 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 D Bullock (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs S Barker/Ms L Dudley (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads).
- Attendance – Reception staff to report attendance. Further concerns should be directed to the Pastoral Lead or Mrs M Barlow (Education Welfare Officer).
- Health – Mrs L Sedgwick.
- Special Needs – Mrs A Comfort (SENDCo), Miss G Everiss (Deputy SENDCo).
- Finance - Finance Department.

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

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Mr D Bullock - Assistant Principal: Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Ms L Dudley – Assistant Principal: Director of Sixth Form

Mr J Hendley – Assistant Principal: Personal Development, PSHE, RSHE and Citizenship. Values and Expectations.

Mrs T Lambert - Assistant Principal: Transition, Continuous Professional Development of Staff, Learning Environment and Anti-Bullying Strategy.

Ms C Oberman - Senior Assistant Principal: Teaching School Hub, Maths Hub, Behaviour Hub and Language Hub

Mr M Palmer - Assistant Principal: Curriculum, Timetable and Options, Daily Detail

Mrs C Rooney – Vice Principal: Teaching and Learning and Catholic Life

Mrs C Talbot - Business Manager and oversight of support teams

Mr F Waugh - Vice Principal: Impact of Teaching and Learning, including Data & Examinations and Pupil Premium

Mrs R Waugh – Principal, Attendance.

As part of our ongoing pursuit of exceptional communication, we the Painsley multi-academy company share in the 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*

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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 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 back 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.

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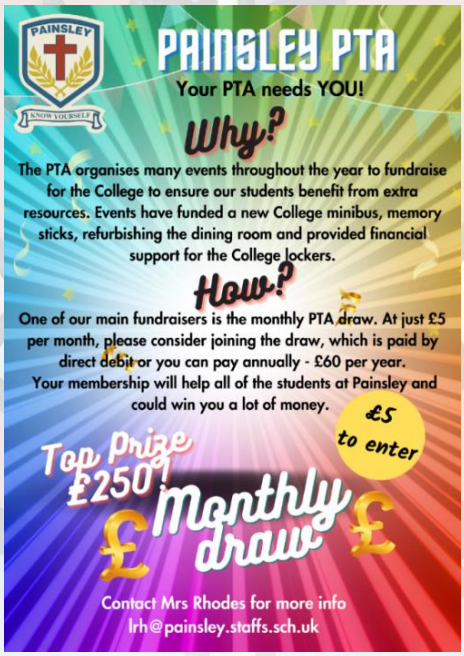
Invites to school	We warmly welcome you to visit school throughout the year, including the opportunity to visit lessons and understand the strategies we use to maximise learning.
Changes to circumstances at home	We understand the pressures of life, including relationship breakdowns, financial difficulties 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.

Please consider supporting our PTA through the monthly draw. Please contact Mrs Rhodes for details.



In the Gospel this coming Sunday (Matthew 16:21-27), we heard Jesus predict his death. Jesus reminds his followers that "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me". As we begin our new term together, we recognise that the path of following Christ is not always easy, but with purity and holiness we can inspire in others the recognition of human dignity and encourage all we meet to become the people God intended them to be.

The Painsley Catholic Academy.
A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with company number 08146661.
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Thank you, in anticipation, for your support on upholding 'The Painsley Way'. I wish you all a very successful and happy year.

Yours sincerely

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh