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

Friday, 6th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we draw to the end of the first week back of the Advent term, I would like to congratulate all the students for the positive start to the academic year. It has been wonderful to welcome Year 7 to the Painsley family and they have fitted in so well. Equally, it has been lovely to welcome back so many of our Year 11 students and indeed, students who have joined other year groups throughout the college. You are all welcome in the Painsley family!

In this term, we are reflecting on the Gospel values of purity and holiness and the Catholic social teaching of human dignity. It has been an ideal way to talk to students about the devastating atrocities we witnessed in the media and on our doorstep over the summer break in relation to the public unrest and rioting. We have reflected on the fact that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and as such everyone is deserving of dignity and respect. Throughout the term, this will be reinforced in our interactions with the students at all levels.

Thank you for ensuring students have returned ready to learn with appropriate uniform and reflecting our expectations. As a reminder, students are not permitted to wear jewellery, make-up or nail varnish/gel for college and hair should be fully tied back. Skirts must be worn at full length and not rolled or gathered. Shirts must be tucked in at all times. These expectations apply to the journey to and from school, in addition to the college day. We appreciate your support in upholding our uniform expectations as it promotes:

- Equality and unity: Our uniform promotes a sense of equality among students. By wearing the same attire, students from different backgrounds are on an equal footing. It fosters a sense of belonging among students.
- Discipline and focus: Uniform helps to support our sense of discipline and order within the school environment. It can lead to improved concentration and allow our students to flourish.
- Reduced bullying and peer pressure: Uniform helps to mitigate bullying and peer pressure and encourages students to be judged on their character and abilities rather than their appearance.
- Safety and security: Our uniform enhances safety and security within the college site and helps to distinguish Painsley students from other schools during field trips and events, ensuring better supervision.
- School identity and pride: Our Painsley Catholic College uniform contributes to a sense of identity and pride. It creates a visual; a representation of our college and its values.

Please see below a reminder of the parent charter.

We believe that exceptional communication skills enhance the spiritual development, the life chances and opportunities of all in the community

Parents	Key points
General ethos	**Relevant Painsley MAC Values:** **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*
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.

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

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 that 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.
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 call 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

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

	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.
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.

You should have received a copy of the parent calendar. Please keep this and refer to it as required. You will also receive a copy of the home school agreement this week; a reminder that the college, student and parent partnership is so important to enable us all to flourish as we work together throughout the year.

In the week ahead, we welcome Year 6 from out feeder primary schools for their retreat day and we host our annual Open Evening. If you do know of anyone who would like to attend, please do encourage them to sign up on the Painsley website. I thank in advance the student leaders and the many students who volunteer to help on the evening to showcase all that we do.

In the Gospel on Sunday, Mark 7:31-37 Jesus cures the deaf man. Those who witnessed the miracle said ‘he has done all things well’. It is a reminder to us that we should aim to do all things well when it comes to living our faith.

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh