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, 13th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we draw to the end of the first fortnight back of the Advent term, I would like to congratulate all the students for the positive start to the academic year.

No sooner than we have returned, we have welcomed the Year 6 students from our feeder primary schools to our Retreat Day, where they began to look back and forward to the next steps in their journey, with Christ at their side. On Wednesday evening, we hosted our Open Evening. It was wonderful to see the college alive with so many students helping the staff to share all that we have on offer at Painsley. It was truly remarkable to see all the student leaders and students helping within different departments truly flourishing in their college family. Please be aware that school admissions are now open for transfer to secondary school and should you or anyone you know require the information, it can be found at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

As the weather has turned somewhat colder this week, a reminder that the college uniform advises a coat to be worn to college. Students are asked to remove coats in the college buildings but they will require one for walking between the site. The uniform expectations do not allow for sweatshirts and hoodies as they are not waterproof and do not protect the students from the natural elements. Please ensure students come to school with coats and not hoodies and sweatshirts.

In the week ahead, our personal development programme comes to life with the Year 9 art trip to Peak Wildlife Park, The Young Engineers Race Day, Year 7 Crazy Careers Morning and the Year 7 Mass of Welcome. Indeed, our personal development work is vast and all encompassing. Below I share an overview of the different strands that we offer in order to ensure all the students flourish.

Personal Development at 'Painsley Catholic College'				
Catholic Social Teaching and the **'Painsley Way'**	Spiritual, Moral and Social	**Safeguarding, Well-being, Safety awareness and Resilience**	**Prayer, Chaplaincy and Retreats**	**Antibullying and Respect for others**
		At Painsley, safeguarding, well-being, and resilience are integral to our ethos, guided by our Catholic principles. Our dedicated team, including safeguarding leads, counsellors, mentors, Emmaus tutors and an individualised pastoral structure ensures support for students throughout the day and beyond, offering personalised provision that encourages our students to prosper. We also offer nurture rooms and guidance from student leaders, the Faith in Action group and the Chaplaincy team. Through our Painsley Personal Development programme and visiting speakers, students develop resilience, fostering a safe and nurturing environment that helps students flourish and thrive.	Painsley offers outstanding Chaplaincy provision, led by a dedicated lay chaplain alongside the College chaplain. The Chaplaincy team organises numerous liturgical and spiritual opportunities for all students, with the College chapel serving as a beacon of prayer. Students from Year 7-10 participate as Chaplaincy Crew, while Year 11-13 students serve as Chaplaincy Leaders. They play a lead in organising liturgies, leading prayers, and representing the college at various Masses and liturgies. Retreats, outreach to primary schools, and weekly chaplaincy meetings enrich their spiritual journey, fostering a vibrant faith community rooted in service, individual growth and adoration.	At Painsley, our mission to uphold human dignity as children of God shapes our approach to antibullying. Guided by gospel values and Catholic social teaching, our ethos promotes a safe and respectful environment. Comprehensive policies, pastoral support, and curriculum integration ensure antibullying education is ingrained in our family. We actively engage students through Emmaus time discussions, theatre presentations, and dedicated curriculum topics, fostering empathy, resilience, and a commitment to standing against bullying. Our efforts, monitored and evaluated regularly, reflect our dedication to nurturing a culture of compassion and solidarity rooted in our Catholic faith, allowing students to promote peace.

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	Self-Improvement	**PSHE/RSE/RSHE – Personal Development Programme**	**Careers**	**Character Curriculum**
		At Painsley, our Painsley Personal Development programme, overseen by a MAC-wide working group, is integral to nurturing students' holistic development embedded in Catholic values. Informed by 10/10 resources and the PSHE association, our comprehensive curriculum mapping (which stretches from KS1 all the way to KS5) and regular reviewing ensures compliance and relevance. Feedback from stakeholders enhances effectiveness, while guest speakers enrich learning experiences. Ongoing staff training underscores our commitment to providing informed guidance and support. Our PSHE curriculum not only meets statutory requirements but also fosters the spiritual, moral, and personal growth of our students, reflecting our Catholic ethos.	At Painsley, our commitment to careers guidance reflects our dedication to nurturing students' vocations and fulfilling their potential in alignment with Catholic values. A dedicated IAG team ensures we meet the Gatsby benchmarks as they coordinate comprehensive career planning, ensuring the integration of vital information and events throughout the academic year. These initiatives underscore our belief in guiding students towards fulfilling their professional aspirations as they engage in preparation, work experience and a bespoke careers programme tailor to each year group, all with the aim of fostering a sense of purpose and service in their chosen paths.	At Painsley, our character curriculum explores virtues essential for whole-person development, complementing academic education with moral and ethical growth rooted in Catholic teachings. Each half term focuses on specific behaviours, fostering traits like respect, responsibility, and kindness – all focuses are informed by our 'Catholic Social Teachings'. Through regular engagement in Emmaus time, Acts of Worship, and our Personal Development sessions (PSHE/RSHE/RSE), students reflect on and embody these values. This holistic approach nurtures students to become self-regulated role models not only academically but also spiritually and morally, preparing them to lead purposeful lives guided by Catholic principles.
	Cultural Capital	**Extra-Curricular**	**Trips, Competitions and Enrichment**	**Key Dates and Events**
		At Painsley, extra-curricular activities embody a holistic approach to education, echoing Catholic principles of developing the whole-person. Through clubs, sports, and events, students cultivate teamwork, creativity, and leadership skills, enriching their educational journey. This inclusive engagement develops community and competition, empowering students to explore and develop their diverse God-given talents and passions. We also offer a cultural capital week that provides opportunities beyond the classroom.	At Painsley, our commitment to holistic development extends beyond academics through a rich tapestry of trips, competitions, and workshops. We provide opportunities through the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the National Citizenship Service and Lions volunteering but we also offer our own diverse opportunities for students to thrive. These initiatives reflect our Catholic ethos of nurturing the whole person. Our 'Flagship Vehicles' also prioritise culturally and historically significant trips, visits and opportunities so that student truly embody the concept 'Know Yourself'.	At Painsley, key dates and events are honoured with reverence and reflection, often integrated into Emmaus time sessions to instil their significance. Many occasions and Catholic events, such as *'Remembrance Day', Harvest, Easter, 'antibullying week'* and *'Black History Month' (and many others)*, receive special attention, with students actively participating in commemorations. Through Emmaus discussions and Painsley Personal Development sessions students engage with a variety of significant dates such as *'Safer Internet Day'* and *'Mental Health Awareness Week'*, fostering awareness and empathy in accordance with our Catholic values.

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In the Gospel on Sunday, Mark 8:27-35, we read of Peter recognising Jesus as Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one. Jesus makes it clear that if we are to be true followers, we have to take up our cross and follow him, meaning the path of discipleship is not easy for any of us.

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh

The Painsley Catholic Academy.

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Registered Office Address: Station Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire ST10 1LH.