WELCOME TO THE PAINSLEY NEWSLETTER

Advent 1 Term 2025

The Painsley Way

Gospel Values - Purity and Holiness
Catholic Social Teaching - Human Dignity

Dear Parents/Carers

During this half-term, The Painsley Way has focused on Purity and Holiness and the Catholic Social Teaching of Human Dignity. Throughout this newsletter, you will see many examples of our Painsley family living the mission of our college, from working hard in lessons to engaging in extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, supporting significant social action and charity events and reflecting their God-given dignity.

It has been an extra special start to the academic year.

As Painsley was opened in 1965, this year marks our 60th anniversary. We started the year with a whole college mission, providing points of reflection and celebration during this important year. There will be many opportunities throughout the year for families and Painsley alumni to share in this significant milestone.

We have also embarked on a new journey, with our even bigger family of St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. All students participated in the launch celebration Mass at the end of September. I certainly look forward to the opportunities this will bring to work closely with the other 63 schools and most notably, the other 9 secondary schools. Indeed, we continue to work closely with our Diocesan family, as we work together "forming Christ-centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice".

If we look back on the first eight weeks of the year, we have also come together to host our feeder school retreat day, harvest, McMillan coffee morning, fundraising for Fr Hudson's Caritas, Open Evening, Sixth Form Open Evening, Year 11 curriculum and parents' evening and Year 12 and 13 parents' evenings, among many other events and opportunities. We are thrilled that we are once again the top performing non-selective school in Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent. Do take a look for yourselves at https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/ and we look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

God Bless
Mrs Waugh

Celebrating the Launch of the St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

On Monday 29 September, Painsley Catholic College was honoured to join 63 schools from across our Diocese to celebrate the official launch of the St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

The event brought together more than 22,000 pupils and 3,130 staff, alongside governors, clergy, partners and friends for a special Celebration Launch Mass, marking this historic milestone for Catholic education. It was a deeply moving occasion, filled with prayer, music and a sense of shared purpose, as representatives from every school gathered to give thanks for the gift of Catholic education and to pray for the future of our Trust family.

As a proud founding member of the Trust, Painsley Catholic College looks forward to working closely with our sister schools to strengthen the bonds of collaboration and faith. Together, we will continue to nurture pupils who are academically ambitious, spiritually aware and ready to contribute positively to the world around them.

With gratitude for the foundations built by those who have served before us, we now look ahead with hope and determination — journeying in faith with our Trust family and ensuring that Christ remains at the heart of all that we do.

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Mission Week

A Celebration of Faith, Community and Service

Mission Week 2025 was a truly special time in the life of Painsley Catholic College – a week filled with prayer, reflection, creativity and acts of generosity that brought our faith to life. Across every year group, students and staff embraced the opportunity to serve others, deepen their relationship with God and celebrate our Catholic community.

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Mission Week Continued

Launching Mission Week – Faith in Action from the Start

Our Mission Week began with the vibrant energy of our Year 7 students, who led the launch with enthusiasm and generosity. They organised a non-uniform day, donated an array of homemade cakes and ran a fantastic bake sale – all to raise funds for Father Hudson's Charity, our diocesan partner supporting vulnerable people and families.
It was a joyful and faith-filled start to the week, reminding us that simple acts of kindness and service can have a profound impact. The atmosphere across the school was one of togetherness, purpose and gratitude – setting a wonderful tone for all that followed.

A Journey of Faith – The Year 9 Pilgrimage to St Giles

One of the most moving moments of the week was the Year 9 mini-pilgrimage to St Giles' Catholic Church. Students attended Holy Mass, met parishioners, and heard stories from Mr James, a former Painsley teacher who served the college community for 33 years.
After Mass, students lit candles for those in need and for the work of Father Hudson's Charity, before returning to the college chapel for quiet prayer and reflection.
As one student shared, "It was a wonderful opportunity to have some still and peaceful time."
The pilgrimage offered a chance to step away from busy routines and experience stillness, gratitude and community – a beautiful expression of faith in action.

Mission Week Continued

Faith Through Creativity – The RISE Theatre Experience

Throughout the week, RISE Theatre delivered a series of inspiring performances that brought Gospel messages to life through music, storytelling and drama. Younger students were treated to The Happiness Show – a lively and thought-provoking production exploring how God calls each of us to live life to the full. Through laughter and reflection, students were encouraged to consider how true happiness is found not in material things, but in love, service and faith. Older students engaged with The Room and The Masterpiece – dramatic stories exploring identity, purpose and God's design for each of us. These sessions prompted deep discussion in Emmaus reflections, as students considered what it means to be "God's masterpiece" (Ephesians 2:10) and how faith shapes the people we become.

The RISE Theatre performances were a highlight of the week, helping our young people to connect faith with real life in creative and memorable ways.

Mission Week Fundraising

Fundraising for Father Hudson's Caritas

Generosity and community spirit shone throughout the week as each year group took responsibility for a fundraising initiative in aid of Father Hudson's Caritas.

Students organised tombolas, cake sales, non-uniform days, pick and mix stalls and even the much-loved "Beat the Teachers" challenge, which raised over £100 in one lunchtime! Our Sixth Form also hosted a lively Mission Week bingo, adding another £300 to the total.

The enthusiasm across the college was infectious – proof that giving can be joyful, creative and rooted in love for others.

By the end of the week, our school community had raised an incredible **£3,460.39,** with contributions from every year group:

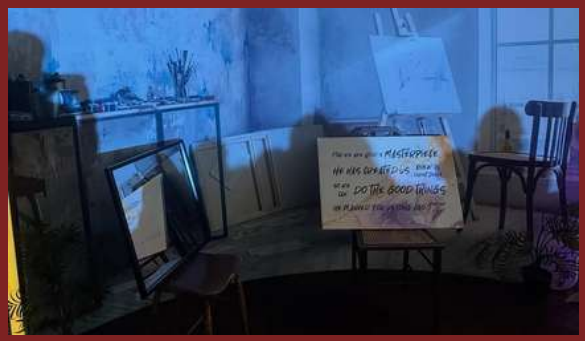
Year 7: £700.17
Year 8: £568.94
Year 9: £407.00
Year 10: £601.69
Year 11: £743.35
Sixth Form: £280.59

Each act of generosity reflected our shared mission: to serve others and live our faith with open hearts.

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Mission Week Continued

Celebrating Community – Parents, Carers and Governors Join the Mission
Midway through the week, we were delighted to welcome parents, carers, governors and friends of the college to join us in celebration. The evening brought together prayer, music and reflection, alongside performances from students inspired by The Happiness Show and The Masterpiece.
It was wonderful to hear how our Sixth Form Pilgrimage of Hope had already inspired over £1,750 in fundraising for Father Hudson's Caritas – a testament to the passion and generosity of our older students.
The evening offered a chance to share our journey so far and to give thanks for the faith and unity that define our Painsley community.



Mission Week Final Reflection

Faith, Gratitude and Hope – The Mission Week Finale

Mission Week concluded with a whole-school reflection in the hall, led by the RISE Theatre team. A powerful sketch encouraged students to place their trust in God rather than seeking quick fixes, and the moving short film Jesus the Photographer reminded us that God is always with us, even when we don't feel His presence.

We were honoured to welcome Jo from Father Hudson's Caritas, who personally thanked our community for the incredible support shown throughout the week. Certificates were presented to students and year groups in recognition of their outstanding contributions and every student received a special commemorative badge marking both Mission Week 2025 and Painsley's 60th anniversary.

It was a fitting conclusion to a week that perfectly captured the heart of our school mission – to grow in faith, live with hope and serve with love.

Living the Mission Every Day

Mission Week 2025 reminded us that our faith is not confined to one week or one event. It is something lived daily – through kindness, generosity, reflection and joy.

We are so proud of our students for the way they embraced this special week and grateful to our staff, parents and parish partners for their support and encouragement.

As we move forward together as Pilgrims of Hope, may the lessons of Mission Week continue to inspire us to listen with love, act with faith and live our mission in all that we do.

Celebrating Success

National Success for Painsley Student in Digital T Level

Painsley Catholic College is celebrating an outstanding national achievement by Samantha D, who has been awarded the highest grade in the country for the Digital T Level in Software Development.

Out of more than 1,600 students nationally, Samantha achieved a Distinction* – the equivalent of three A* grades at A Level – earning an impressive 168 UCAS points. Her exceptional performance places her at the very top of this highly competitive and fast-growing field.

Following her remarkable success, Samantha has now begun a degree-level apprenticeship with Capula in Stone, allowing her to continue developing her skills in software engineering while gaining valuable industry experience.

Mr Reynolds, Head of Department for Computer Science, said:

"We are immensely proud of Samantha's achievement. To achieve the top grade in the country is an incredible accomplishment and a reflection of her dedication and commitment. She is an inspiration to other students pursuing digital and technical careers."

Congratulations, Samantha — a truly exceptional achievement and a shining example of excellence in action.

Painsley Sixth Form Open Evening Welcomes Future Students

Painsley Catholic College was delighted to welcome students and families to our Sixth Form Open Evening. The event provided an opportunity to explore the wide range of subjects, enrichment opportunities and pathways available at Painsley Sixth Form.

It was wonderful to see so many prospective students engaging with staff and current sixth formers and learning more about the next steps in their academic journey. If you were unable to attend, there's still time to find out more. Please contact Miss Dudley on 01538 493777 for further information or to arrange a visit.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Painsley Community Raises Funds for Macmillan Cancer Support

Staff and students at Painsley Catholic College came together to support the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising an impressive £136 for the charity.

The event was filled with warmth, generosity, and plenty of cake as the Painsley community joined in to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, which provides vital help to individuals and families affected by cancer.

A special thank you goes to the MFL department, who organised the popular European Bake Off, and to the PE team, whose endless supply of chocolate treats helped add to the fun and fundraising spirit of the morning. The success of the event reflected the true sense of community at Painsley — one rooted in kindness, compassion and service to others.

60 Years of Painsley

Painsley Invites Former Students to Share Their Stories

As part of Painsley Catholic College's 60th anniversary celebrations, the school is reaching out to former students to help mark this special milestone by sharing their memories and experiences of life at Painsley.

Whether it's a fond memory of a favourite teacher, a lasting friendship or a defining moment from your school days, the college would love to hear your Painsley story. These reflections will form part of a wider celebration of six decades of education, faith and community.

In March 2025, alumni will also be invited back to the college for a special open event, offering the opportunity to tour the site, reconnect with familiar faces and share memories from their time at Painsley (date to be confirmed).

Former students who would like to take part are invited to contact Mrs Lambert at tal@painsley.staffs.sch.uk or Mrs Sowter at ps@painsley.staffs.sch.uk. A personal invitation and further details will then be shared.

This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Painsley's proud history — and the many people who have helped make it the vibrant, faith-filled community it is today.

Junior Chess Championship

Painsley to Host the Staffordshire Junior Chess Championship

Painsley Catholic College is delighted to announce that we will be hosting the Staffordshire Junior Chess Championship — the largest junior chess event of the year.

The competition will take place on Saturday 22nd November, bringing together talented young players from across the county to showcase their strategic thinking, problem-solving and concentration skills.

This prestigious event offers a fantastic opportunity for students to test their abilities in a friendly yet competitive environment, while celebrating the growing popularity of chess among young people.

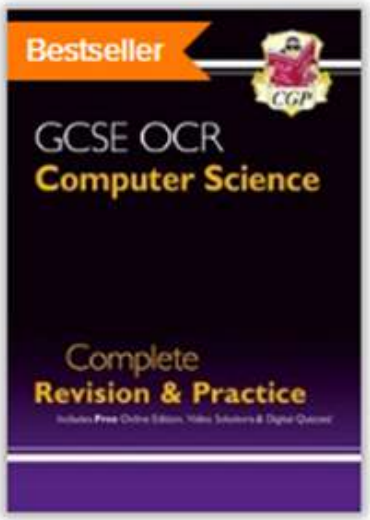
Any students interested in taking part are encouraged to speak to Mr Plant in C10 for more information or to register their interest.

We look forward to welcoming competitors from across Staffordshire for what promises to be an exciting and inspiring day of chess at Painsley.

Computer Science Department

Computer Science/Creative iMedia Support

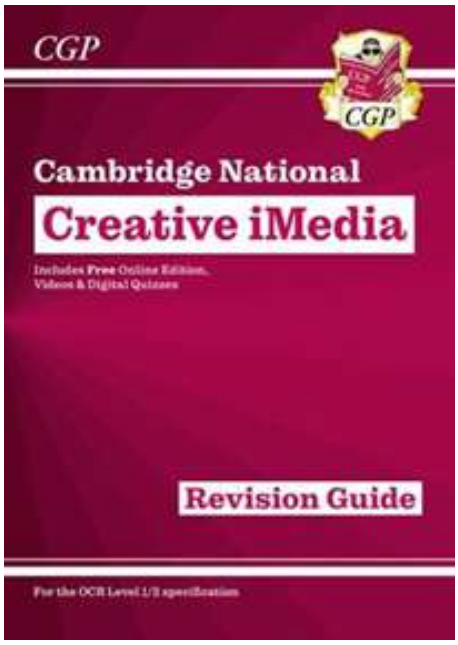
This half-term, we have kicked off our support for Year 11 with a distinct road map for rapid progress. We have three of our department staff working closely with Year 11. Mr A Reynolds and Mr D Birch are working with Year 11 Computer Science students, with Mr C Challinor providing support and guidance for our Year 11 Creative iMedia students. Depending on attainment in the most recent assessment, our students have been targeted for support in intervention.



Computer Science Department Continued

Computer Science/Creative iMedia Support

We hope that this targeted support will mean our students are getting to focus on the content they need to increase their exam attainment and we welcome any feedback to support this. We offer intervention for a range of students, from those who may need some help in catching up and re-learning content, to those who may have almost got a grade 8 or 9 and wish to consolidate their advanced knowledge.



Please be aware that we have a revision guide available to buy at a discounted price through the department. We discussed this at the recent parents' evening and we highly recommend purchasing a copy to support with revision for assessments. You can purchase the guide through ParentPay for only £6 and these will be given out in lesson. Many of our students have already taken advantage of this and we strongly encourage use of these resources in revision.

In Creative iMedia, we have had a fantastic start to our coursework lessons. As we are keen to ensure that progress in these lessons is rapid and effective, we have increased the expectation for behaviour. Our coursework (or controlled assessment) lessons are to be done in exam conditions, with bags placed at the front of the room and no discussion allowed. This has been very successful up to this point and is a testament to the tenacity and attitude to learning of our students.

We also have a revision guide available to support the theory preparation for our Creative iMedia exam. This can be paid for through ParentPay at only £3.50 and will then be handed out in lesson.

Year 12 – Building the Foundations of Software Development

In preparation for the two main exams at the end of Year 12, students explore a range of essential topics that bring computing to life:

- How to tackle real-world problems using logical thinking, breaking challenges into smaller parts, and designing algorithms that turn ideas into code.
- How professional developers take an idea from concept to product, following life cycles, testing thoroughly and ensuring quality.
- How data powers modern software — from secure storage and structure to analysis and visualisation for smarter decisions.

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Computer Science Department Continued

- How emerging technologies such as AI, automation and cloud computing are transforming business and society
- How digital professionals balance innovation with responsibility through ethical practice, data protection and professional standards.
- The digital environments that make software possible, from hardware and operating systems to scalable cloud platforms.
- The importance of cybersecurity throughout development, protecting data, systems and users from digital threats.
- How developers align technical solutions with business goals, managing risk and adding measurable value.
- The art of collaboration in agile teams — communicating, sharing knowledge and managing projects effectively.
- How digital systems, data and innovation combine to shape the future and how your skills as a developer can make that future smarter and more connected.

Students also complete an Employer Set Project, where they are placed in the middle of a live business scenario — assessing requirements, solving problems and delivering outcomes. This project counts for 40% of the first year grade.

Year 13 – Where it really gets exciting!

In Year 13, students complete a 50-hour controlled coursework task, alongside 45 days of industry experience that bring their learning to life.

Liam and Lorenzo are in Leipzig, Germany with PDSVISION, exploring simulation software, product lifecycle management and the Internet of Things.

Josh, Fletcher and Toby are gaining valuable experience with JCB, working within their software and ICT teams.

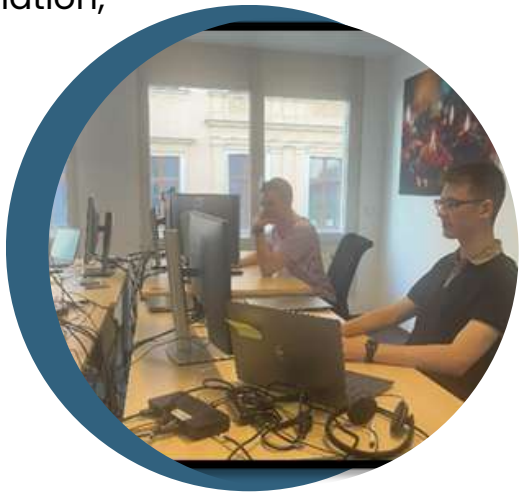
Pawel is with MidMC, supporting business IT systems, cloud telephony and networking, while programming a new feature for the company from scratch.

Marcus is with Staffs Tech, providing ICT support to local primary schools and learning how remote systems are managed.

Each student is gaining real-world, transferable skills that go far beyond traditional A Levels.

If you're passionate about Computer Science or programming, or already have a clear career direction, the T Level in Software Development offers the perfect mix of academic challenge, practical experience and exceptional progression routes.

For more information, contact Mr A. Reynolds (Head of Computer Science) – are@painsley.staffs.sch.uk



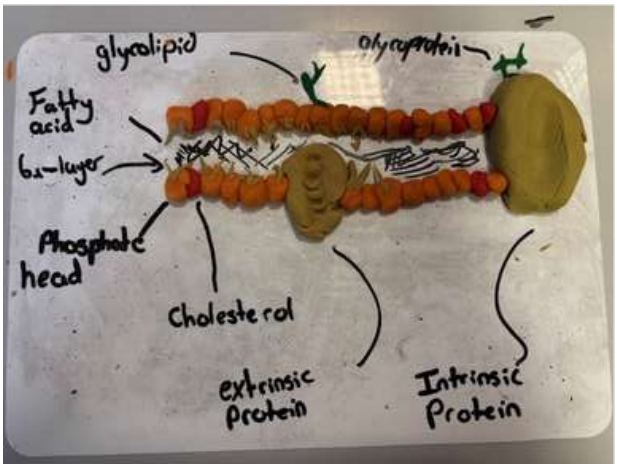
Gifted and Talented

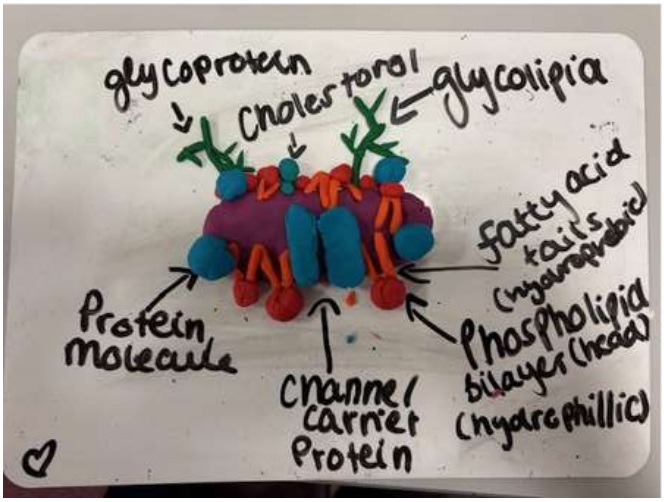
On Monday 13th October, a group of students from Year 12 and 13 were fortunate enough to enjoy a talk from a visitor from the University of Cambridge. Painsley Catholic College has been selected by Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge as their regional hub school to host a 'Preparing for Interviews' event. This event offered an invaluable insight into the Oxbridge application process, as well as providing essential skills development for those students aiming to study at higher level universities or apply for competitive courses and apprenticeships that require an interview. The event was led by Sandy Mill, Sidney Sussex's Widening Access Manager, who is also an experienced Cambridge Admissions Tutor, who has interviewed in over 20 subject areas across the university. We were joined by visitors from local schools to enjoy this fantastic opportunity. Sandy aimed to demystify the process of Oxbridge applications and offer an insight into the tutorial style of teaching that is used. This was a fantastic and rewarding opportunity for all students involved, as they explore the next stages of their educational journey.

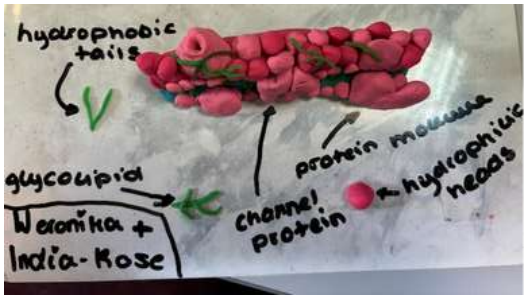
Science Department

Year 12 Biology Alert!

Year 12 Biology A Level students dived into the world of cell membranes using Play-Doh to discover how this tiny structure controls what enters and exits your cells, keeps them communicating and protects them.







Art Department

Our Year 9 Art GCSE students worked hard on their recent visit to Peak Wildlife Park. They learned all about the lemurs, meerkats, penguins and wallabies, just to mention a few! Students studied the animals by creating sketches and taking photographs throughout the day. This work forms part of their introductory project exploring natural form.

Well done to some of our Year 7 and 8 students, who enjoyed a lantern workshop on the 15th October. Students worked hard to create lanterns in groups, where teamwork and creativity were essential. The lanterns will be used as part of the Cheadle Arts Festival Lantern Parade on Saturday 25th October at 6pm, where students are invited to carry their lantern as part of the event. The parade is a free community event - further details are available online. Well done, everyone!

In September, our Year 10 Art and Year 11 photography students enjoyed a wonderful trip to Oxford. Students explored both the fascinating Pitt Rivers Museum and the Ashmolean Museum, where they created drawings and conducted photo shoots. The trip provided an amazing enrichment opportunity for students and enabled them to further research and explore ideas for their coursework projects.

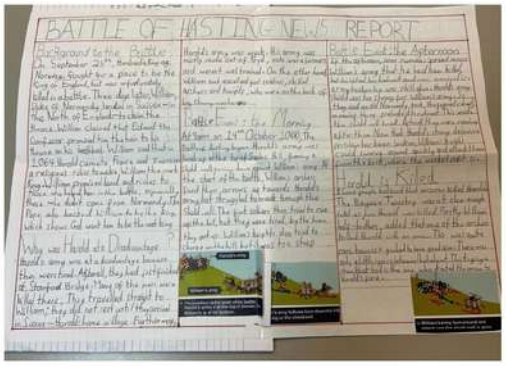
Geography Department

Congratulations to Yusuf R (Year 7), who has been named Geographer of the Week!
Yusuf has gone above and beyond expectations with his latest piece of homework, completing outstanding research on the Victoria Falls. His work showcased excellent curiosity, attention to detail and a real passion for Geography.
Well done, Yusuf – an impressive effort that truly reflects the Painsley Way and your enthusiasm for learning about our world!

Year 7 Explore the Beauty of Dovedale
Last week, our Year 7 students enjoyed a fantastic couple of days exploring Dovedale — with half of the year group visiting on Monday and the other half on Wednesday.
As part of their Geography topic, students investigated the impact of tourism on honey pot locations and examined the area's impressive river landforms. The trip provided a brilliant opportunity for pupils to apply their classroom learning to the real world.

Beyond the academic focus, the visit was also a wonderful chance for our new Year 7 classes to bond and build friendships while taking in the stunning Derbyshire countryside.
A huge thank you to the Geography team for organising such an engaging and memorable experience!

History Department



Congratulations to Oluwaseyi A (7S6), who has been chosen by the History Department as this week's Star of the Week!
Oluwaseyi impressed her teachers with an incredible piece of work on the Battle of Hastings. Her writing was detailed, well explained and expertly evaluated, demonstrating real historical understanding and enthusiasm for the subject.
A huge well done, Oluwaseyi — your hard work and passion for History have truly shone through!

PE Department

Football Success Across All Year Groups

It has been an incredible half-term for our football teams, with over 20 fixtures played and some outstanding performances across all year groups. Students have demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout every match. Highlights include:

- Year 9 Boys: 7–3 win
- U16 Boys: 3–2 loss
- Year 10 Boys: 3–2 win
- Year 7 Boys: 14–0 win
- Year 8 Boys: 10–0 win, 8–0 win, 11–0 win and 5–2 win
- U15 Boys: 9–0 win
- U18 Boys: 3–2 win
- Year 9 Boys: 8–1 loss
- Year 7 Boys: 4–1 win

A superb set of results — well done to all players for representing Painsley so positively.

Outstanding Netball Results

Our netball teams have also enjoyed a highly successful half-term. Across all age groups, players have shown excellent teamwork, focus and consistency, with the following impressive results:

Year 8A: Won all three games
Year 8B: Won two, drew one
Year 10/11A: Unbeaten in all games
Year 10/11B: Unbeaten in all games
Year 7A and 7B: Both teams unbeaten

Congratulations to every student involved — an excellent reflection of their hard work and commitment in training and competition.

PE Department Continued

Cross Country Achievements
Our cross country runners represented the school brilliantly this half-term, producing some outstanding individual performances.
Girls: Shauna H – 2nd place, Lily D – 4th, Cordelia S – 8th
Boys: Itai J – 8th, George D – 12th
These are fantastic achievements and a testament to the students' dedication and perseverance.

Sports Leaders in Action
It has also been a productive half-term for our Sports Leaders, who have played an active role in supporting events both in and beyond the college.
They helped to organise and run a primary school cross country event, demonstrating excellent leadership and communication skills. In addition, they attended a Sports Leaders course, developing their understanding of how to plan, manage and deliver sporting activities.
Our leaders have also contributed by refereeing football fixtures and umpiring and coaching netball games, gaining valuable hands-on experience.
We would like to thank all our Sports Leaders for their enthusiasm, reliability and continued support of the PE Department.

Looking Ahead
As we move into the next half-term, there is plenty to look forward to — including our upcoming Inter-House Competitions, beginning with football.
Well done once again to all students who have represented the college so positively in sport this half-term. We look forward to even more success to come.

MFL Department

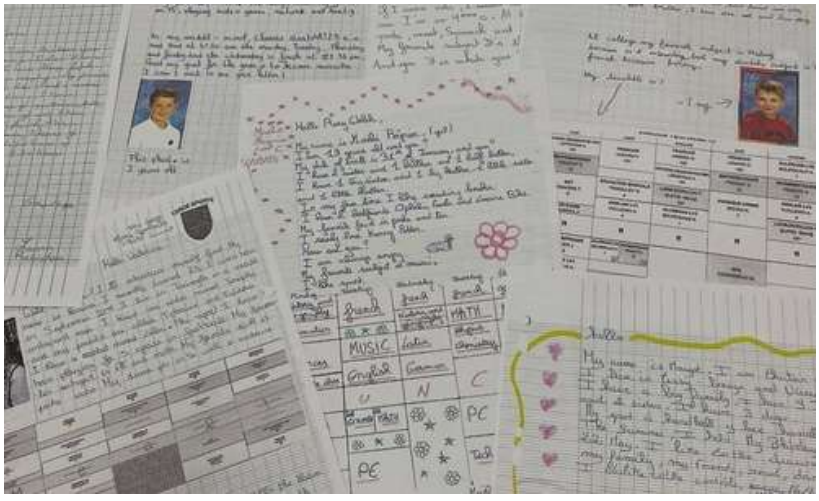
MFL Bake Off – European Day of Languages

What a fantastic way to celebrate the European Day of Languages! Our MFL Bake Off brought together an amazing selection of speciality cakes from across Europe – including delicious creations inspired by Ukraine and Poland 🇺🇦🇵🇱.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part and shared their baking talents with us. The judges had a very tough job, but in the end, the overall winners were… the incredible gingerbread men!

Even better, the event raised over £135 for Douglas MacMillan Cancer Support – a brilliant achievement to go alongside all the tasty treats.

It was wonderful to see (and taste!) so many cultures come together through food – roll on next year's Bake Off!



Year 8 Students Receive Letters from French Penfriends

It was an exciting day for our Year 8 students in classes 8P9 and 8A8, who received their very first letters from their new French penfriends this week.

There were smiles all round as students read about life, school and hobbies across the Channel. The activity provides a wonderful opportunity for pupils to practise their French in a real and meaningful context, while developing genuine cultural connections.

The MFL Department is delighted with the students' enthusiasm and can't wait to see these international friendships continue to grow over the coming months.

MFL Department (continued)

Year 9 Spanish students have been mastering how to talk about their free time across three different tenses — a real challenge that they've taken in their stride. There's a real buzz of excitement building as they look ahead to their Barcelona trip in the summer term!

Year 10 French have been learning how to talk about healthy lifestyles, discussing their favourite foods and exploring what it means to live well. Their discussions have been both lively and thoughtful!

Finally, Year 11 have been focusing on the topic of holidays whilst honing their communication skills in both writing and speaking. They're currently busy preparing for their mock speaking exams and we're really looking forward to seeing all their hard work pay off.

Well done to all our linguists for a brilliant half-term of learning — c'est fantastique and ¡muy bien!

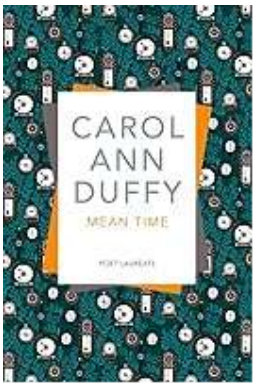
We're now looking forward to another exciting half-term ahead, including a visit from Onatti Theatre Productions, who will be performing a Spanish play for our Year 9 students — an amazing opportunity to experience language learning brought to life!

English Department

Dr Johnson Visit!

On Monday 22nd September, four Painsley librarians attended a special commemoration event in Uttoxeter to celebrate the life of Samuel Johnson. In the beautiful autumnal sunshine, they had the honour of meeting the Mayor of Uttoxeter, who delivered a speech and laid a wreath in Johnson's memory.

English Department Continued



Painsley Sixth Form Welcomes a Brand New A Level Course!
Year 12 students are the first cohort of our new A Level English Language and Literature (AQA 7707) course!
Students will study a range of texts and have started looking at the 'Paris' Anthology: a series of literary fiction and non-fiction texts based around life in France's cosmopolitan capital. They are getting used to looking at texts through the vision of 'language levels' and are rapidly developing their knowledge of these. They are also looking at Duffy's collection 'Mean Time', considering how language levels are used to present relationships to 'time', 'place' and other people. We look forward to our new cohort developing their knowledge and movement into A Level study.

Year 11 Step Into the World of Literature: Lord of the Flies or An Inspector Calls!
This term, Year 11 students are diving into their next GCSE English Literature texts — Lord of the Flies by William Golding and An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley.
Each story is filled with tension, big ideas and unforgettable characters — from the chilling descent into savagery on a deserted island to the dramatic unravelling of secrets in a post-war dining room.
Excitingly, the BBC's new Lord of the Flies adaptation is coming soon! A perfect way to see the story brought to life — but make sure you've read the original first!
These texts form a vital part of GCSE English Literature, helping students to develop analytical skills and prepare for final exams. Whether you're unmasking truths with Inspector Goole or surviving the island with Ralph and Piggy, your literary adventure starts now, Year 11!

Painsley English Department Brings Learning to Life with Mini Whiteboards!
The English Department has introduced mini whiteboards to make lessons more interactive and inclusive. These handy tools help students to share ideas and answers in real time, boosting engagement and confidence — especially for those who prefer visual learning. Another great step in giving every student a voice in the classroom!

Drama Department

The Wizard of Oz!

Rehearsals have begun for our 2026 school musical, The Wizard of Oz, which will see students rehearse the singing, acting and choreography for the show in February.

The auditions at the start of term were outstanding; Miss Hickey, Miss Wright, Miss Bennett and Miss Littlewood could have cast the show 10 times over! It is set to be an absolutely FANTASTIC show. Tickets will be available just before Christmas, with performances from 11th-13th February 2026.

The students in rehearsal so far have been fantastic. We have been so impressed with the confidence, skill and professionalism from them all. We will be asking for volunteers to be part of our stage crew and costume department after half-term, so if you think this is something you would be interested in, please get in touch when the notice comes out to Emmaus groups. Stage crew will be responsible for backstage before, during and after the show, ensuring the show runs smoothly. Responsibilities will include: calling cast members from backstage according to the running order, sourcing props, changing the set during the show, pre-setting the show and working with the cast backstage.

London Residential

The Drama department are looking forward to taking sixth form students to London on our annual residential trip. This year, they will experience two West End shows, Hamilton and Othello, as well as a backstage tour of the National Theatre and a performance workshop with members of the West End cast of Hamilton.

Drama

Business and Economics Department

We recently facilitated a Chamber of Commerce day with our Gifted and Talented Year 10 Business students to give them a true insight into business consultancy and the local and national support networks that are available for small and growing businesses in the region of Staffordshire. The session was extremely engaging and had the students utilising their entrepreneurial skill sets and practising oracy when presenting their business solutions.

In the land of Business T Levels, our Year 13 T Level Business students are currently thriving on their work placements. The amazing employers we have involved this year consist of varying sectors and industries, including household names such as The Hilton, The Hut Group, Keele University and many more. Our Year 12 T Level students have been exploring the internal and external environments that impact businesses and force organisational change. They have recently produced these great academic posters reviewing those environments on a variety of multi-national companies.

T Level Education and Early Years

A Fantastic Start for T Level Education and Early Years!

Our Year 13 students achieved excellent end-of-Year 12 results and have settled well into their new routine — three days at Painsley and two in placement. Their block week at the start of term gave them valuable experience supporting transition and reception assessments. It's been wonderful to see them leading sessions with confidence and maturity.

Year 12 have also made a brilliant start, showing enthusiasm in planning and leading activities, and a applying theory to practice in their first recently attended NCFE student conference, which focused on careers and university pathways.

It has been lovely to see both year groups working together, with Year 13 mentoring Year 12 — a brilliant start to the year for the T Level Education and Early Years team!

Psychology Department

This half-term, we have welcomed the new Year 12 to the course. We have been looking at research methods and how psychologists collect and analyse their data and approaches in psychology.

In Year 13, we have been looking at child cognitive development and the work of Vygotsky, Piaget and Baillargeon, both in terms of learning and their applications to education and the classroom setting.

Students have also been considering schizophrenia. We have looked at the causes of schizophrenia, including biological, family, environmental and cognitive, as well as the treatments for this terrible mental disorder about which we still know very little.

Social Sciences Students Explore Crime and Behaviour at Shrewsbury Prison

Our Year 13 Social Sciences students enjoyed a fascinating visit to Shrewsbury Prison, combining their studies in Psychology and Sociology for a day of real-world learning. The trip offered valuable insight into forensic psychology and sociological perspectives on offending behaviour, helping students deepen their understanding of how theory connects to practice.

The experience provided a powerful context for classroom learning and gave students the opportunity to explore how different disciplines approach the causes and consequences of crime.

Music Department

Year 7 'Passenger' Performances

Year 7 have completed their 'Passenger' performances, first started in their Year 6 transition days. Well done to all — we look forward to hearing more at the Christmas Supper and Concert!

Weekly Music Lessons Underway

Music lessons are running each week, with times displayed in the Music department and on Satchel.

Mon: Woodwind | Tues: Strings, Woodwind, Brass | Wed: Voice, Piano, Drums | Thurs: Guitar, Bass, Drums

For lesson enquiries, contact Miss Bennett.

Music Department Continued

MUSIC EXTRACURRICULAR ADVENT 2

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime (12:30pm)	Flute/ Woodwind Group (Breaktime) Intervention String Group	Clarinet group (breaktime) Chamber Ensemble	Junior Band Choir	Rock and Pop Band Liturgical Group (Week B)	Keyboard Club Musical Rehearsals
After School	Musical Singing Rehearsal				
Events	Talent Show and Christmas Concert Musical Summer Arts Festival				

Design and Technology Department

Rocket Club!

We are excited to once again run Rocket Club for Year 9 engineers starting after half-term. Rocket Club will involve teams of Year 9 students working with mentors from last year's team to create entries for the UKROC rocketry competition. Teams have to create their own rockets with no adult assistance (competition rules) to achieve a set altitude and flight time, whilst safely launching and landing an egg. Experimentation, problem solving, applied physics and maths will all feature alongside pyrotechnics, fun and insurance!

Design and Technology Department Continued

Creativity Flourishes in Design and Technology

The Design and Technology department has had a fantastic start to the new academic year, with students across all year groups demonstrating impressive creativity and commitment.

Our Year 7 and 8 students have been busy developing their first projects, finalising designs and preparing to begin making after half-term. It's wonderful to see such imagination and experimentation, with students of all abilities exploring new ideas and refining their work.

Year 11 Design and Technology students are now modelling their designs, experimenting with both function and aesthetics, as they prepare to move into CAD modelling next half-term.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 Food Technology students are midway through their first piece of coursework — a scientific investigation into the function of ingredients — applying scientific understanding to practical food studies.

It's been an inspiring start to the year and we can't wait to see the finished projects come to life!

Harry Potter Studios Visit

We are excited to be taking our Year 8 students down to the Harry Potter studios in Cultural Capital week at the end of this year. Whilst we are there, we will be taking part in a set design workshop, as well as seeing amazing designing and making skills in action.

Creativity and practical skills mixed with textiles design, electronics and 3D computer aided design will be on display to inspire us all and see how the things we are learning in design and technology lessons can be used in the 'real' world!

RE Department and Spiritual Life

Year 7 Welcome Mass: For the Care of Creation

On Tuesday 23rd September, Fr. Eric and Deacon Peter came into college and celebrated with us the Year 7 Mass of Welcome.

We chose the theme of the Mass to be 'Care of Creation.' Here are a few comments from our Year 7 students:

'I really liked the message from Mass, 'to care for creation.' We are learning about this in RE and it is something that we can really get involved in because we don't need to do big things, just little acts that add up and make a big difference.'

'We are learning about stewardship in RE so it was great that we had a wonderful celebration of Mass, where we heard through the readings and bidding prayers to care and look after our world.'

'Our current topic in RE is stewardship, which links to care for creation. Through the theme of Mass, I learned more about this topic, it helped me to think about how God made this beautiful world and we need to look after it.'

'In Mass yesterday, we learnt about caring for God's creation. Being stewards of this world, we must show love to creation through our actions and help keep the world a beautiful place to live in.'

'The message of Mass was that we all need to care for creation, otherwise future generations will not see the natural beauty of our world.'

'We experienced from Mass that we all must care for our world. We have a duty as Catholics to look after and treasure the wonderful world God has made for us.'

Written by Year 7 students

Harvest Festival

On 3rd October, Painsley celebrated our annual Harvest Festival. We were amazed by the amount of harvest produce that had been donated by our students and members of our college community. We were delighted to welcome David Worrell from CAFOD and Tony White from Cheadle Food Bank to the college to tell us all about the wonderful work of CAFOD and Cheadle Food Bank as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. We are truly blessed that we have this opportunity to reach out and help our brothers and sisters globally and locally.

RE Department and Spiritual Life Continued

After a wonderful Harvest Festival Celebration, 7S6 students, along with Mr Morris, were very busy sorting, dating and packing the donated produce.

'We first started by organising the food in bags. We made sure it wasn't out of date and then selected as many of the same items to go in one bag (this will help the volunteers at the foodbank to store them).'

'We also parcelled some bags for our local parish community and put them in a separate pile so they didn't get mixed up. The bags will be collected by our parish links, who will distribute them in the churches.'

'We also sorted some items for the Painsley Pantry. These parcels will be distributed through our school community. '

'We collected 80 bags in total, which was an amazing effort and will be greatly received from our local foodbanks and the parishes and Painsley community'.

Written by 7S6 students

What fantastic students we have! They worked with enthusiasm, pride and teamwork. Well done 7S6 and Mr Morris!

Thank you to all members of our Painsley community for supporting our annual Harvest Festival!

RE Department and Spiritual Life Continued

Chaplaincy Crew Welcomes its Newest Members

It was lovely to see so many Year 7 students joining the Chaplaincy Crew this term.
They had a fabulous time and it was great to see them sharing their talents. They were very artistic as they designed and made prayer cards to celebrate Saint Carlo Acutis feast day for our sixth formers on Thursday.
Well done Year 7 and welcome to the Chaplaincy Crew!

Macmillan Coffee Morning and European Day of Language Bake Off

On 26th September, Painsley hosted its annual MFL European bake off, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.
"A big thank you to staff and students for their contributions and support to the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised an amazing £136, which will go towards the work of this wonderful charity."
Thanks to the MFL team for organising the European bake off and to the PE team for their endless supply of chocolate.

RE Department and Spiritual Life Continued

Combined Schools Mass

On Thursday 9th October, students from across our Catholic schools came together in faith and fellowship for the Combined Schools Mass at St Gregory's Church in Longton.

It was a truly lovely occasion to unite as one community in prayer and celebration. A huge thank you to our students for representing Painsley Catholic College so beautifully. We are so proud of you all!

The Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass

On Monday 16th September, we travelled to Birmingham for the commissioning Mass in St Chad's Cathedral, with representatives from St Joseph's Primary School in Uttoxeter. As we entered, we were greeted by the smiling faces of the Birmingham Archdiocese. The Mass began with all of the different schools in a procession with their school banners walking down the aisles to a beautifully-sung hymn. One of the biggest things we noticed was the sense of community and love between everyone and their faith, along with the experience of joint singing, which helped bring together a magical and collective worship.

During the commissioning, members of the Chaplaincy teams stood for a blessing as the Bishop walked through the congregation sprinkling everyone with Holy Water. The opportunity to have a picture with Bishop Timothy arose and so we took it! To end our journey, all the schools gathered together for refreshments and a chance to interact and make new friends with like-minded people.

Today was a lovely chance to develop our faith and a great part of our journey as pilgrims of hope!

Written by a Year 12 student

Maths Department

Problem Solving, Achievement and Dedication
Part 1: A Record-Breaking UKMT Entry

This year, a record 69 A Level students took on the prestigious UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, demonstrating just how committed our students are to pushing their mathematical limits. After smashing records last year with over 250 certificates awarded across the school, hopes are high for another outstanding performance. Our hardworking, high-achieving students continue to make us proud — we can't wait to see the results!

Part 2: Revision Champions – Numbers That Add Up!
Revision for the Advent 1 assessments has been nothing short of phenomenal. Across the school, students answered an incredible 24,000 Mathswatch questions, watched 330 revision videos and clocked up an impressive 900 hours of independent study! This is revision with impact — efficient, focused and driven.
A special shout-out to our top revisers in each year group:

- ⭐ Ava Bryan (Year 11)
- ⭐ Darcy Hazel (Year 10)
- ⭐ Ashvita Swami (Year 9)
- ⭐ Luka Stanway (Year 8)
- ⭐ Imogen Handy (Year 7)

Your dedication is inspiring—well done!

Part 3: A New Era of Problem Solving
As part of our mission to build the thinkers of tomorrow, we've launched a new pedagogical approach to problem solving across all year groups. Informed by international best practice and leading educational research, students now engage in collaborative, in-lesson problem solving in every maths lesson.
Why? Because we know success isn't just about exams — it's about preparing students to face complex challenges in the real world. At Painsley, we're not just teaching maths — we're developing future innovators, engineers and leaders.

Attendance

At Painsley, we believe every child is entitled to the very best education and that begins with excellent attendance. With 38 weeks in school and 14 weeks of holiday, term-time learning is precious and not optional.

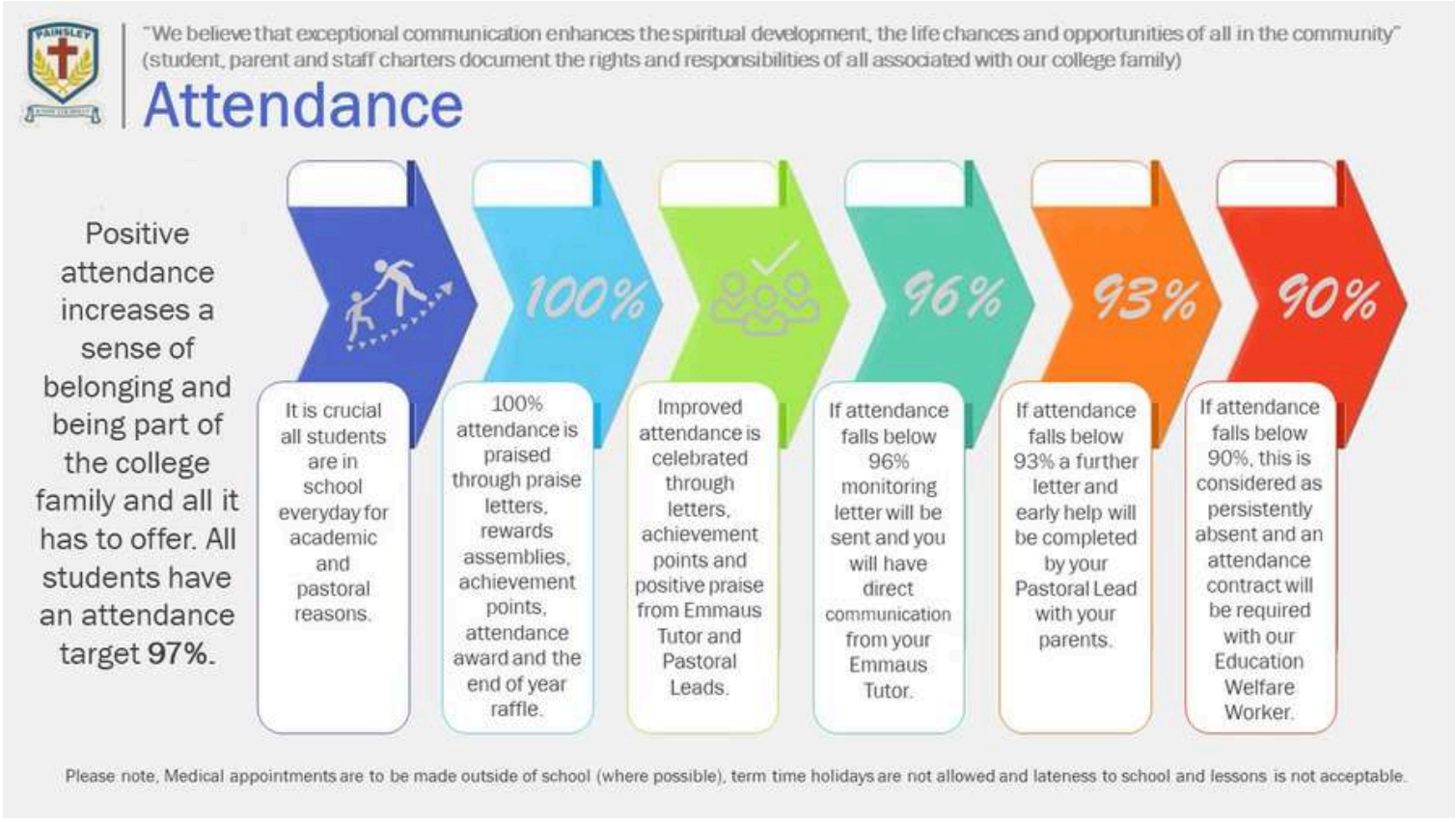
Missing even one day of school can take up to three days to catch up and repeated absences can affect not only academic progress but also friendships and wellbeing.

Research shows that improving attendance by just 1% can boost grades by up to 6%!

We understand the challenges families face, especially around the cost of holidays, but together we can reinforce the message that education matters.

Let's continue working in partnership to ensure all our students thrive — both in and beyond the classroom.

Attendance



Diary Dates

ADVENT TERM 2025
Half-Term Friday 24th October 2025 to
Friday 31st October 2025 incl.
College Closes Friday 19th December 2025
LENT TERM 2026
College Opens Monday 5th January 2026
Half-Term Monday 16th February 2026 to
Friday 20th February 2026 incl.
College Closes Thursday 26th March 2026
PENTECOST TERM 2026
College Opens Monday 13th April 2026
Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026
Half-Term Monday 25th May 2026 to
Friday 29th May 2026 incl.
College Closes Friday 17th July 2026

INSET DAY FOR STAFF ONLY
College closed to students
Monday 19th January 2026
Friday 27th March 2026

One additional special INSET day to be confirmed

Extracurricular Clubs

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Art – Prop Making	Maths Club – C13	Maths Club – C13	Maths Club – C13	Fiction Fanatics – SV1
	Maths Club – C13	(Chess, Perudo, Origami, board games)	(Chess, Perudo, Origami, board games)	(Chess, Perudo, Origami, board games)	String group – A9
	Textiles KS4 enrichment and support – A4	History Club – Y7/8 – C3	Art GCSE Coursework support C4, C6	Open Choir – A9	
	Open choir - Music	Concert Band – A9	Textiles KS4 enrichment and support – A4	Art GCSE Coursework support C4, C6	
	Photography club – 6th Form Art Room	Art GCSE Coursework support C4, C6	Laser Cutters – A1	Textiles KS4 enrichment and support – A4	
	Art GCSE Coursework support C4, C6	Textiles KS4 enrichment and support – A4	Stewardship club P3	Deutsch Klub – ML1	
	Young Voices Y7/8 – A9	Percussion – A8		LEGO robotics – Lab 5	
	Catalyst Crew – SA3			Business Club – SC1	
				Awe and Wonder (Geography) – B13	
	Homework support – B2	Homework support – B2	Homework support – B2	Nimble Thimbles – A4	
	Library is open for reading – SG14	Library is open for reading – SG14	Library is open for reading – SG14	Library is open for reading – SG14	Library is open for reading – SG14
Sport		Year 7 Basketball in the gym (Trainers)	Year 11 theory intervention (B3) (RM & AA)	Year 8 Basketball in the gym (Trainers)	
After school	Fixtures TBC Year 9,10 & 11 Practical Intervention- Volleyball/Badminton/Table tennis (GM/RM/AA/LW)	Fixtures TBC Cross country- 17th sept/24th sept/1st Oct/8th Oct TBC Year 10 & 11 Netball (RM)	Fixtures TBC Y9/10/11 boys Rugby (including intervention students) (AM) Year 8/9 Netball (LK) & 6th Form (including intervention students) Musical Rehearsal	Fixtures TBC Year 7/8/9 Boys & Girls Football training (AA/AM/GM)	Year 7 Netball (LK)

During the day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Art – Prop Making	Maths Club – C13	Maths Club – C13	Maths Club – C13	Fiction Fanatics – SV1
	Maths Club – C13	(Chess, Perudo, Origami, board games)	(Chess, Perudo, Origami, board games)	(Chess, Perudo, Origami, board games)	String group – A9
	Textiles KS4 enrichment and support – A4	History Club – Y7/8 – C3	Art GCSE Coursework support C4, C6	Open Choir – A9	
	Open choir - Music	Concert Band – A9	Textiles KS4 enrichment and support – A4	Art GCSE Coursework support C4, C6	
	Photography club – 6th Form Art Room	Art GCSE Coursework support C4, C6	Laser Cutters – A1	Textiles KS4 enrichment and support – A4	
	Art GCSE Coursework support C4, C6	Textiles KS4 enrichment and support – A4	Stewardship club P3	Deutsch Klub – ML1	
	Young Voices Y7/8 – A9	Percussion – A8		LEGO robotics – Lab 5	
	Catalyst Crew – SA3			Business Club – SC1	
				Awe and Wonder (Geography) – B13	
	Homework support – B2	Homework support – B2	Homework support – B2	Nimble Thimbles – A4	

Painsley Catholic College

Anti-Bullying a guide for PARENTS & CARERS

STOP BULLYING!

We're all familiar with the old saying "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." However, we know that harsh words can be just as hurtful as physical bullying. Bullying can happen anywhere where children can communicate, this could be in all schools, clubs and even online. At Painsley Catholic College we endeavour to create an environment where bullying, peer-on-peer abuse or discrimination are not tolerated. Anti-Bullying is enshrined in The Painsley Way, which includes our mission statement, motto, gospel values and Catholic social teaching, including Human Dignity (Advent 1), Solidarity and the common good (Lent 1) and promoting peace (Pentecost 1) . If your child has previously experienced or is currently experiencing bullying behaviour, in any surroundings (not just within school), it can be a very upsetting and emotional. You may also feel quite isolated and anxious about what to do to support your child and resolve the situation. In this guide, we will explore bullying behaviour and definitions, some of the most common signs to look out for, if you know or suspect that your child is experiencing bullying behaviour and practical next steps forward.

What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as behaviour that is: repeated, intended to hurt someone, either physically or emotionally often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation

TYPES OF Bullying

Verbal bullying behaviour is the repeated, negative use of speech, sign language or verbal gestures to intentionally hurt others e.g. using hurtful words, discriminatory or offensive language or swear words.

Physical bullying behaviour is the repeated, negative use of body contact to intentionally hurt others e.g. kicking, punching, slapping, inappropriate touching or spitting.

Indirect bullying behaviour is the repeated, negative use of actions which are neither physical nor verbal to intentionally hurt others e.g. spreading rumours, purposefully excluding another person, damaging or stealing someone's property. Other examples of indirect bullying include spreading rumors, threatening, breaking secrets, gossiping, criticising clothes and personalities.

Painsley Catholic College
Station Road, Cheadle
ST10 1LH

Telephone:
01538 493777

Email
office@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
antibullying@painsley.staffs.sch.uk

HOW MAY YOUR CHILD ACT

if they are being bullied?

Your child may:

- Begin to perform poorly at school
- Want to stay off school more often or to stay at home in the evenings/weekends
- Be reluctant to walk to/from school
- Want to change schools
- Become withdrawn, anxious or
- lacking in confidence
- Lose their temper easily
- Be afraid to use the internet or mobile phone or be nervous when messages are received
- Have unexplained cuts, bruises or other injuries
- Bully other children or siblings
- Have money/possessions that are damaged or 'go missing'
- Steal money from you

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

if you suspect they are being bullied?

- Speak to your child
- Listen carefully to what your child tells you and get facts e.g. how, when, where, names of bully/bullies etc.
- Never tell your child to ignore bullying
- Don't blame your child
- Try to understand your child; listen and don't criticise
- Do not encourage physical retaliation
- Make them feel supported with a safe home environment
- Don't presume the problem has gone away; talk regularly
- Monitor your child's social media

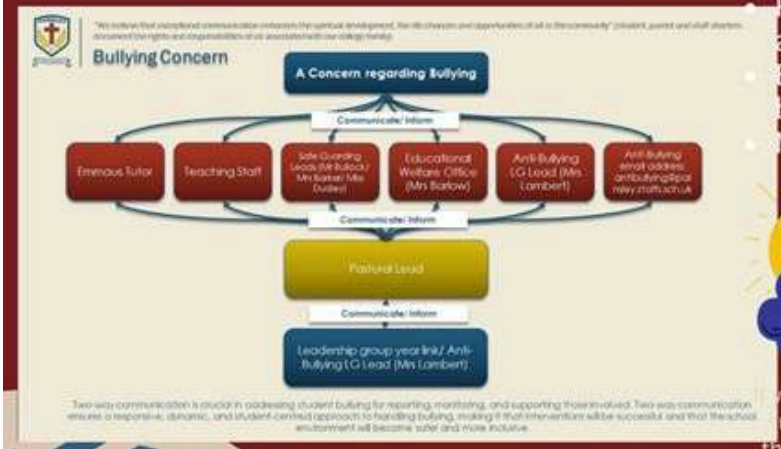
What do I do next?

Contact your child's Pastoral Leader, giving factual information
Encourage your child to speak to an adult if the bullying continues
use the who to contact guide below to help
Email: **antibullying@painsley.staffs.sch.uk**

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD

is bullying others?

- Talk with your child and find out why
- Encourage your child to show empathy, respect and compassion
- Have clear expectations. Let your child know that bullying is never acceptable
- Provide clear, consistent consequences for this behaviour
- Reward new appropriate behaviour and give praise.
- Be realistic. It takes time to change behaviour so be patient with your child
- Monitor your child's social media



Two-way communication is crucial in addressing student bullying for reporting, monitoring, and supporting those involved. Two-way communication ensures a responsive, dynamic, and student-centred approach to handling bullying, making it that interventions will be successful and that the school environment will become safer and more inclusive.

Advice for parents

ou would like to access further guidance on how to upport your child if they are victims of bullying, or hey are bullying others, the following organisations can help. Access their support via the internet.

kidscape
preventing bullying protecting children
www.kidscape.org.uk

NSPCC
www.nspcc.org.uk

parentINFO
FROM CEOP AND PARENT ZONE
www.parentinfo.org

YOUNGMiNDS
fighting for young people's mental health
www.youngminds.org.uk