Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College

Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE

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Friday, 2nd May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the Pentecost term and what a wonderful welcome back we have had with warmth and sunshine! Thank you to the students who have remembered to come equipped with hats, sun cream and water. We have relaxed the blazer policy on numerous occasions throughout the week to ensure students are comfortable and safe in their learning.

We have had some great news and successes this week form the Year 9 footballers, who have stormed into the County Cup final with a 7-0 victory over Walton High. Good luck for the final, lads!

On 30th April, Painsley Catholic College had the honour of welcoming primary and secondary schools from across the Painsley Catholic Academy to participate in the Painsley MAC Inter-School Public Speaking competition. Students delivered their speeches on the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope," with many addressing pressing issues such as discrimination, climate change and the power of hope. They explored how being active in our hope can spark positive change in the world and how we can become "beacons of light" that inspire others, making the world a better place. A number of students shared personal stories about how they are spreading hope and light to those around them.

The winners for each key stage were as follows:

- **Key Stage 1**: St Patrick's Catholic Primary
- **Key Stage 2**: Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Primary
- **Key Stage 3**: Painsley Catholic College
- **Key Stage 4**: Blessed William Howard
- **Key Stage 5**: Cardinal Griffin

Congratulations must be given to all the finalists who had already been winners in their own schools and who represented their schools fantastically. The day was truly exceptional and uplifting, with the speeches being nothing short of breathtaking. The standard of public speaking was remarkable and it left everyone inspired. A heartfelt thank you goes to our wonderful judges:

- Mrs Wretham (Deputy CEO)
- Mrs Williams (Painsley Director)
- Alex Foulkes (Author and Painsley Alumni)

Pupils and staff at Painsley Catholic College are celebrating after receiving the LiveSimply Award – a national recognition from CAFOD that honours schools living out their faith through action by caring for people and the planet.

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The award marks the culmination of a year-long effort by the Painsley community to put Catholic Social Teaching into practice in simple, powerful ways. Through creativity, compassion and collaboration, pupils have made a real difference locally and globally.

Students have launched the Painsley Pantry – a donation-based initiative providing support to families in the school community – and introduced a new allotment area, helping pupils understand the importance of sustainability and stewardship. From reducing waste to leading whole-school reflections, pupils of all ages have contributed to the campaign.

A Year 13 student said:

“Being part of the LiveSimply journey made me realise that even small actions can have a big impact. Helping with the pantry and allotment showed me how we can live our faith in everyday life.”

Mrs Rooney, who led the initiative at Painsley, said:

“This award reflects the heart of our school community. The students have been incredible – passionate, thoughtful and committed to making the world around them better. It’s been a joy to see their faith come alive in such practical and meaningful ways.”

Siobhan Farnell, CAFOD’s LiveSimply Coordinator for Schools, said:

“Congratulations to Painsley Catholic College on this well-deserved achievement. Their students and staff have shown what it means to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity – and have created a lasting legacy of hope and action within their school and wider community.”

Don’t forget to enjoy the bank holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing the students back in school on Tuesday 6th May.

In the gospel on Sunday (John 21:1-19), the Risen Jesus meets his disciples at the lake. It poses the question of how we can be more aware of the risen Christ in our lives.

God Bless

Mrs R Waugh