Painsley Catholic College

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Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year to you all! Welcome back to the Lent term. Our Catholic Social Teaching this half-term is family, community and participation and we look forward to exploring the importance of family and community with our students. We welcome back Mrs Horleston-Paine following maternity leave and Mr Watson and Mrs Morris to the science department.

It has been a very challenging week for the start of 2026 and I thank the students for their maturity and resilience. I also thank Mr Williamson and the site team who, were at the college on Sunday preparing the site and have been gritting and ensuring all our buildings are safe and warm throughout this time. We have faced rain, wind, sleet, snow and icy conditions and temperatures and yet our students continued to engage with their learning in a positive and meaningful way.

In addition to following the curriculum, we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, with some students attending the Parish Mass at St Giles', Year 10 participated in their retreat day at Soli at Alton and engaged with a number of team building and resilience activities. Year 9 took part in their 'All Change' morning as part of the careers programme. All students engaged in personal development, with Year 7 benefitting from an input from YMCA.

We were especially delighted to hold the Year 11 and 13 celebration reception, where last year's students were able to collect their GCSE, A Level and T Level certificates.

Year 11 received their mock results on the mock results day and all students have had or will have a discussion with a member of the Leadership Group or pastoral team. The outcomes of these discussions will be brought home by your sons and daughters and I would ask for the discussions and outcomes to be shared with you.

Congratulations to the students who have completed external examinations this week and indeed those who have been successful in their resit maths and English qualifications.

As the weather is so unpredictable, please be reminded that students are welcome to wear a plain V-neck jumper as part of the uniform expectations. It is crucial that students have a coat (hoodies are neither allowed nor appropriate) and hat, gloves and scarves as necessary as they move across the site. If students are wearing appropriate footwear when walking to college, they should bring their school shoes to change into on arrival.

In the week ahead, we will continue with the Year 11 interviews. Year 11 will also participate in the Year 11 mock assessment day and have their sixth form interviews. We look forward to welcoming our Year 10 parents to parents' evening on Thursday evening and request that all students are represented at the evening. As a reminder, Year 10 students are encouraged also to be in attendance and are requested to be in full school uniform with all the usual expectations.

In the Gospel on Sunday (Matthew 3:13-17), Jesus is baptised with a voice from heaven 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.' What difference does baptism make to our lives?

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh