Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College
Specialist Mathematics and Computing College
Principal: Mrs R Waugh - BA (Hons), PGCE

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH
Telephone: 01538 493777
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Friday, 9th May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

A short, but nonetheless busy week in school this week!

Year 7 have had their retreat day, which included the opportunity to celebrate Mass at St Giles and share in an exploration of Pugin's Gem with Fr Eric.

Selected classes in Year 8 have visited St Giles the Abbott for the VE celebrations and exhibitions.
Year 9 have engaged in their 'Bright Futures' morning, considering what they might be aspiring to post 16.
Year 10 have had a taste of the year ahead with drama, food and sports studies NEA submissions. Year 10 parents have also received notification that the Year 10 full report dates have had to be re-arranged. As we navigate our way around the new MIS system, your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated as we explore a new way of working.
Year 11 have commenced their written GCSE examinations and the revision timetable is in full swing.
We wish Year 10 silver Duke of Edinburgh students well in their practice silver expedition this weekend and the Lourdes group as they visit St Filumena's parish this weekend.

In the week ahead, we wish the Year 9 football team every success in the County Cup final at Stafford Town FC on Monday evening. Equally, we wish the cricket teams and athletics participants all the best in their various matches and meets next week. Year 9 and 10 students will also be participating in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expedition.

Eligibility for extra funding - Pupil Premium

I am writing to provide you with information about the possibility of extra funding for your child. If you receive benefits, you may be able to claim free school meals for your child and access additional funding to support your child's education. School meals are a good way to make sure your child has a healthy meal every day. By eating well at lunchtime, children can remain focused on their learning. **The government has arranged this extra funding for Pupil Premium as £1,035 per pupil.**

How does it work?

Check if you qualify – full details of eligibility are on the school website but include the following as a summary:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Eligible for Child Tax Credit **but not** Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more that £16,190

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- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

In receipt of the 4-week run on of working tax credit Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
Further information about free school meals can be obtained from Mrs Rushton at school or from the local authority. The contact details for the local authority are as follows: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx

From 1 April 2025, the Government's transitional protection arrangements for means tested Free School Meals (FSM) will end. Any eligible claims confirmed from this date will no longer be protected. This means any child confirmed as eligible for free school meals from 1 April 2025 will be subject to ongoing checks to confirm continued eligibility. This will not impact any children who are already confirmed as eligible. Those already confirmed as eligible will maintain their eligibility until the end of their current phase of education. At that point, they will be re-assessed for their eligibility status. This will apply to all year 6 moving into year 7 in September 2025. These children will then be subject to ongoing checks to confirm continued eligibility.

In the gospel this weekend (John 10:27-30), we are reminded that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, *"The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one."* We are reminded that in following Christ, we will never be alone.

Archbishop Bernard has issued the following beautiful statement:

"I welcome the wonderful news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square he also gave us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in the world. As the first Pope from the United States of America he also remembered the people of Chiclayo in Peru where he had served as bishop until 2023.

I have just spent the last few days at Buckfast Abbey with all the Bishops of England and Wales as we prayed for the Cardinals in Conclave and as we waited to hear whom the Holy Spirit would identify as the Successor of Peter. It will be a great joy to serve the Church's mission inspired by the guidance of Pope Leo. All the lay faithful, the Religious and clergy of our Archdiocese are praying for our new Holy Father that he may serve the Church for many years and be richly blessed in his apostolate.

Let us pray for our new Holy Father. Habemus Papam: We have a Pope!"

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Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Faithful God,
You guide us on the path of life
and your goodness is our constant companion.

Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,
in his service of the Church.
Fill him with the power of your Spirit,
the peace of your presence
and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you,
in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's people,
to embody your love for the world.

Amen.

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh