St Gabriel the Archangel
Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

Painsley Catholic College
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Dear Parent/Carer

As we journey through the season of Lent, I wanted to share with you all that is being done to prepare during this most holy season.

Our celebrations of the word have followed the Sunday Gospel, allowing us to reflect on the message of the scripture, whilst recognising our Gospel values of mercy and forgiveness and our Catholic social teaching of preferential option for the poor.

Year 7 and 8 classes will all have the opportunity to share in the Stations of the Cross. It is wonderful to hear of the impact of the Stations recognised by Ada in Year 7:

"Today we went to the Chapel to walk through the Stations of the Cross so that we can understand at a deeper meaning all the suffering and pain that Jesus went through to save humans from eternal sin. It shows the difficult journey that Jesus went on before he died. It makes me think about how he kept going even when he was in pain and it reminds me that we should try to help others when they are struggling. It makes me feel sad thinking about how much he went through but it also makes me feel thankful about how big of a sacrifice Jesus made for us. My favourite station was when Jesus fell for the first time because it shows how determined he was to follow the plan that God set for him. It also shows that he was resilient because he still had a really long way to go but he didn't give up because he knew this is what he had to do. It reminds me that we should never give up, even when times are hard because we will never be able to do anything if we don't have resilience like Jesus did."

A number of students and staff took part in the deanery Mass for Vocations and students will have the opportunity to take part in reconciliation services and Lenten services to mark Holy Week.

Additionally, the Lent journey has been evident through our almsgiving. Year 7 have been actively involved in the Parable of the Talents fundraising and all students participated in a non-uniform day, supporting our Lent charities. The Painsley pantry has been fully stocked with donations, which will be made into hampers, supporting those who need it most in our Painsley family. The stewardship group have harvested daffodils to give to staff. All Emmaus groups have been considering their social actions and contribution to the '60 acts of social action' to mark our 60th anniversary.

Our links with the parishes have continued with the Lourdes group visiting St Thomas', Tean and students will be attending the family Mass at St Mary's in Leek. The Lourdes group has also provided the refreshments for the Newcastle Strings Concert as part of their preparation for the pilgrimage.

Staff have had the weekly opportunity for adoration and will be invited to participate in the Stations of the Cross. Indeed, the term will end with Mass for all staff on our INSET day on Friday, 27th March.

You will notice a slight alteration to our letterhead, which now includes the new branding for our St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic multi-academy trust, reflecting the role of our family of schools to be God's messengers. You will begin to see the logo and branding on all academy-related materials.
In the Gospel on Sunday (John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38), we hear the story of the man born blind, which leads us to reflect: 'What does it means that Jesus is the light of the world?' How can you bring this light of Jesus to other people?

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh