Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College

Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE

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Friday, 13th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been such a busy week in college. On Monday we started by welcoming the friends of Painsley to the annual Christmas party. The students did a fabulous job in preparing and hosting the party and a great time was had by all. On the same day, 100 Year 7 students visited the National Space Centre and the remainder of Year 7 and 8 took part in an antibullying presentation by Loudmouth. Indeed, the entire college focused on their personal development curriculum.

On Tuesday, we held our annual Christmas supper and concert. Once again it was a fantastic evening full of joy and cheer, from the students' performances to their involvement in the stalls and festivities through the breaktime. Additionally, Year 12 and 13 took part in the drama residential in London, Year 11 in the careers ready morning and we were delighted to welcome three of our priests to help the students in their penitential services, such an important part of the Advent preparation.

As we approach the final week of term, Year 11 will take part in their retreat morning. This is a really important time for Year 11 to focus on their own wellbeing and spiritual preparation. Year 8 will celebrate their Advent Mass and the sixth form will take part in their annual carol service.

As we enter the final week, I would like to remind all parents and students that the uniform expectations remain unchanged right up until the end of term. Please refrain from organising hair/nail variations until the Christmas break. We do not want to conclude the term by having to isolate students who choose to ignore the expectations of our college. Additionally, it is inevitably a time when uniform may need to be updated or replaced. As a reminder, the uniform expectations are clearly documented on the college website.

I have to share some amazing activities and fundraising which is taking place by each Emmaus group for their chosen CAFOD world gift. From dodgeball to netball, cake sales to craft stalls, it is wonderful to see students taking the lead on these positive efforts for those who need it most at this time of year.

On the final day of term, Friday 20th December, we will be holding our annual talent shows. Students are invited to wear non-uniform and even a Christmas jumper (should they wish to). There will be a contribution of £1 to participate in the non-uniform day and to gain entry to the talent show. This will be added to the students' fundraising for CAFOD. Students are requested to bring **£1 in cash**, which will be collected as they enter the talent show. **Hair, jewellery and make-up rules still apply.**

Next week we will be sending the half-termly newsletter to you all and I hope you enjoy reflecting on and sharing in the positive experiences our students encounter on a daily basis.

In the Gospel on Sunday (Luke 3:10-18), John the Baptist reminds us that '… someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals.' He reminds us to prepare our lives and remove the unnecessary distractions to prepare for the coming of Christ.

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh