Painsley Catholic College

Principal: Mrs R Waugh - BA (Hons), PGCE

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Friday, 14th November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been such a busy start to Advent 2, where our Gospel values are dignity and compassion and we are focusing on the Catholic social teaching of solidarity and the common good. Our initial celebrations of the word reflected on the Feast of All Saints and the Month of the Holy Souls. Inspired by the Beatitudes, we reflected on those situations in our world which reflect the Gospel values and those which seem far from it. This has inspired a focus on the inappropriateness of hate crime and through our personal development programme students will explore a number of these issues and concerns throughout the term in light of solidarity and the common good.

In the first week of the half-term, Year 9 were involved in a super skills morning as part of their IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) programme. The history team accompanied the Year 10 historians to the National Holocaust Museum. The maths department accompanied students to a maths inspiration event and the PE department ran the school swimming gala.

Our Year 11 students had visits to the sixth form and I encourage Year 11 to begin completing their application forms as the deadline is now looming.

This week we have had a number of poignant moments to mark Remembrance Day. On Sunday, a number of the senior student leaders participated in the Cheadle memorial service. On 11/11 a group of students, including a number of cadets, joined in the remembrance services at St Giles' the Abbott and St Giles' Catholic church, concluding at the Cheadle memorial. The entire college paused for a 2-minute silence, with The Last Post resounding around the college. We have been blown away by the students who have shared the stories and memoirs from within their own families over the last few weeks. Their work is displayed in the college hall.

We have also marked Anti-Bullying week this week, joining in the national campaign - A Power for Good. Many students wore odd socks on Monday, reflecting our unique identity. We have had presentations from outside performers and Year 7 have engaged in 'Just for Girls', considering how friendships are so important to our wellbeing.

In other news this week, Year 10 took part in their wellbeing at work session and were inspired by the example of Joe Tattersall, a Painsley alumnus. Drama students visited the Lowry Theatre as part of their studies, music students took part in a music experience in Liverpool and Year 12 textiles students took part in a workshop.

In the week ahead, Year 11 geographers will be visiting Salford Quays as part of their studies and Year 7 will have their parents' evening. We look forward to welcoming our Year 7 parents/carers and we expect all students to be represented on the evening. There are significant sporting fixtures taking place currently and I encourage you all to keep an eye on our social media platforms in order to keep abreast of all the sporting news.

Students have started to bring home raffle tickets for the PTA Christmas draw. Other than the monthly PTA draw this is the main event of the PTA and I encourage all students to sell the tickets that they are able to and return the money to school with the sold raffle ticket stubs. There will be a treat for the students who are able to sell the most!

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On Friday, the college will participate in the Jubilee Finale event. We will reflect, as part of the Diocesan family, on how this Jubilee year has been shaped by prayer, fundraising and social action. Students and staff have risen to the challenges of the Jubilee year. The Jubilee prayer has been said at all celebrations of the word, students and staff have raised in excess of £11,000 for Fr Hudson's Caritas and staff and students have been actively engaged in social action, inspired by the Jubilee year, including the Stewardship group, Painsley allotment and pantry, to name just a few.

It is with great sadness that a group of staff and students will attend the funeral of Fr Simon Hall next week. Following his ordination on 14th July 2001, he spent three years at St Giles', Cheadle. He was appointed parish priest of St Teresa's, Perry Barr, Our Lady of the Angels, Nuneaton and then of St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Trent Vale, in 2023. Fr Simon was our college chaplain and has been a friend of Painsley throughout his ministry. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Simon and for his family and friends at this difficult time.

In the Gospel on Sunday (Luke 21:5-19), Jesus gives the message of perseverance for God gives us wisdom beyond our own.

Yours sincerely

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh