Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College

Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE

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Friday, 15th November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

What a lovely week we have had in college this week! It started with remembrance and reflecting on the sacrifices of those who have died and lost their lives in conflict around the globe. It went on to mark anti-bullying week with odd socks, reflections and strategies discussed throughout the college to ensure we 'choose respect'. We had the marvellous opportunity to host the BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow. Our Year 10, 9, 8 and 7 students were blown away by the insights and advice given to them from our visiting panel. There have been so many opportunities for students to demonstrate solidarity and the common good, which we are focusing on as our Catholic social teaching this half-term.

As we approach the end of the liturgical year and the beginning of the season of Advent, students will be choosing and planning activities to raise money for their CAFOD world gifts, in addition to supporting a number of social actions to run alongside their fundraising efforts. It is such a crucial time to put into action solidarity and the common good.

I would like to remind all parents of our overarching educational principle: '*We believe that exceptional communication skills enhance the spiritual development, the life chances and opportunities of all in the community'.* Parents are reminded of our communication charter. The charter sets out what we strive to achieve for all our parents, but also indicates what we expect from our parents. We welcome feedback on anything you feel we are doing well, but also any areas where we still have work to do.

Your child's learning	Your survey responses tell us that you do not always feel that you are being updated about what your child is learning in class. Therefore, as a MAC family, we will be trialling strategies to keep you regularly informed about what your child is learning in class so you can have discussions about the subject content. Please do let us know your thoughts about the strategies/any possible suggestions.

In addition to the subject pages on the Painsley website, half-termly newsletters and active social media, we send curriculum text messages home to Year 7 and 8 parents to support a greater understanding of the curriculum and prompt conversations at home.

Parents' evenings	Parents' evenings are a positive experience that build on the belief that your child can succeed. We offer practical advice for what your child needs to do to develop work/approach to school life.

Parents' evenings are busy but productive evenings and we welcome the opportunity to meet with you face to face. Whilst there are some parents who would prefer an online parents' evening, we feel the quality of communication by meeting parents is far more engaging and productive. It is crucial that all students are represented at parents' evenings, the dates of which are on the college calendar, sent out at the start of term and reminder letters/appointment grids are circulated in advance of the evenings.

Additional support	Parents know their child best. Therefore, we ask that parents contact school if there are any issues of concern and we will give additional support as necessary. We all want the best for your child.

The Painsley Catholic Academy.
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Please do let us know if you have any concerns regarding your son/daughter. All students have an Emmaus tutor, Pastoral Lead and Leadership Group Pastoral Lead attached to them. They will happily be the first point of call for any discussion regarding your son/daughter's wellbeing and progress.

Reports	We time reports so they are meaningful and inform you of the way forward. We will be honest about any barriers in terms of your child's progress and will offer solutions to these, working in partnership with you.

There are two types of reports sent out to you annually. Data reports summarise your son/daughter's ongoing performance and a longer annual report includes areas of strength, development and comments from your child's Pastoral Lead and myself. The reports, coupled with the face-to-face parents' evening, should provide the information required related to your son/daughter. However, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Department or your child's Pastoral Lead should you require any further information, support and guidance.

In the coming week, students will all be bringing home some raffle tickets for the annual PTA draw. The PTA is a very small but active body, who support the work of the college and students immensely. Over the last few years, the PTA have supported the purchase of lockers, support rewards and incentive programmes and enhanced the learning environment. In advance of the Christmas supper and concert, we ask all students to aim to sell the raffle tickets issued to them and return the money and stubs to college. If there are any unsold raffle tickets, we ask that these too are returned to college in their entirety, in order that others may be able to sell them. Your support in the endeavours of the PTA is truly appreciated.

Next week is equally busy, with Year 11 geography students taking part in their Salford Quays visit collecting data for their examination. Year 12 and 13 begin their assessments and we look forward to welcoming all Year 7 parents to their first parents' evening here at the college.

In the Gospel on Sunday (Mark 13:24-32), we hear of the coming of the Son of Man, how do we best prepare for the coming of the Son of Man?

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh

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