Painsley Catholic 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, 17th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I can't believe how fast we are hurtling towards a well-earned half-term. It has been a busy half-term, with many highlights. I am so proud of our students, who have settled into their new year groups, embraced all the opportunities on offer and applied themselves wholeheartedly to their academic work and assessments. I have no doubt that they are all ready for a well-earned break. As a reminder, Friday, 24th October is an INSET day and students are not required to attend. We look forward to welcoming them all back to school on Monday, 3rd November.

Next week we will share with you our half-termly newsletter, which will give you a glimpse into all that has taken place since September. It will also share with you crucial learning from department areas.

A reminder regarding the policy at Painsley regarding mobile phones: we were very aware of the concerns around phones and other technologies throughout the college day and beyond. Students are permitted to carry a phone with them to college, especially as many of them travel on buses and a significant distance. However, phones cannot be used throughout the college day and should be kept off and in the inside pocket of the college blazer. Students should all be aware that the reason for this is for their own safety and wellbeing during the college day and in order to allow them to learn effectively. In accordance with the values and expectations policy, any phone seen out during the college day will be confiscated.

- **First Occasion:** The smart phone/device is taken to reception and returned to the pupil at the end of the day.
- **Second Occasion:** The smart phone/device is taken and stored in reception until the parent can collect.
- **Third Occasion:** The smart phone/device is taken and stored in reception until the parent can collect. The smart phone/device is handed into reception each day for the remainder of the term.

As always, we appreciate your full co-operation.

I would also like 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

In the Gospel on Sunday (Luke 18:1-8), Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart.

Yours sincerely

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh