Painsley Catholic College

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

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH
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Friday, 23rd January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last fortnight, we have had some amazing opportunities to engage with our Year 10 and 11 students and you as parents. Following the Year 11 mock results day, all students had a professional discussion with a member of the leadership group or pastoral team covering progress, destinations and the culture of learning. It was fantastic to meet with many driven and ambitious young people, whilst guiding a few that needed more support. Year 11 also participated in the assessment training day, where they were interviewed by representatives from businesses. Their feedback and praise of our young people were wonderful to hear. A significant amount of Year 11 students have also had their discussions for sixth form entry and their chosen pathways. We look forward to their success both in the summer exams and as they move on to their next steps.

I thank our Year 10 student and parents for an incredibly positive parents' evening. It is fantastic to see our young people flourishing in their school life as they look to the future. This week, Year 9 have celebrated Mass at St Giles' for the feast of St Paul.

We wish the staff and students departing on the ski trip well this weekend and look forward to their daily updates through social media. We have a speaker from the Bank of England presenting to our economists, a Year 10 visit to see 'A Christmas Carol', an Intermediate maths challenge and a drama visit to see 'A Woman in Black'.

We are currently reviewing our uniform and mobile phone policies in college, in line with national guidance, and will be consulting with students and parents in the coming weeks. I thank you in advance for your thoughts and views in supporting our students and the college.

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
- 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

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- 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 (Matthew 4: 12-23), we hear the Call of the First Disciples. It poses the question: Do we ever follow Jesus' call immediately and unconditionally?

God Bless

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh