



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

““You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1: 11)

Friday, 12 January 2024

Welcome back to another calendar year and a new school term. I do hope you all had a lovely Christmas and were able to enjoy bringing in the new year.

Students have settled back in to school life reasonably well. It is always difficult after a break to get back into our routines and respond to the norms and expectations of school that can be so very different from home, particularly at Christmas time.

The first week back also sees the Liturgical Year return to **Ordinary Time** with Monday marking the Feast of the Lord’s own baptism. There is a positive symmetry between the new school term being a time for fresh starts and baptism being a sacrament that reflects the start of a new life in Christ.

This term our school values and virtues of focus will be **compassionate and loving**. Our whole community is encouraged to live these out in our daily life at home, school and work and we will continue to recognise, praise and reward students that live them out.

School Attendance

This term is a very short term and one week of the ten has already gone flying by. School attendance in the Spring term is as vital as ever, but particularly as the school reports on its attendance to the DfE at the end of this term. Please continue to do all you can to ensure your children are in school and please try to avoid giving time off for minor ailments or issues. Current average attendance at Hagley is 93.6% and, while this is 4% higher than the national figure, I am determined to try and recover an additional 1% this term sure in the knowledge that this will reap its rewards in the classroom, where every lost day of learning disadvantages children.



Standards and Expectations

Hagley prides itself on high standards of behaviour and uniform, and of a culture of always being ones best self in all things and living up to the highest expectations.

With that in mind it is, as it will always be, important to ensure that these standards are met. Getting these little things right makes it easier to focus on the big things.

To that end please do ensure that your child has the correct uniform and is always well prepared for school with the necessary equipment to successfully access their education.

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Pyramid Concert

This year's Emmaus Pyramid Concert is fast approaching when 3 weeks on Monday, (Monday 5th February 2024) children from across all ten Emmaus schools plus Our Lady and St Kenelm's will be performing hits from the 80's on the stage at the Birmingham Symphony Hall.

Tickets are a bargain £5 per head and can be purchased directly from Symphony Hall at the link: <https://bmusic.co.uk/events/emmaus-pyramid-concert-presents-electric-dreams-through-the-80s>



Welcome to new staff

At the start of the new term we welcome three new members of staff who have joined us. Mr Jackson (Teacher of English) joins the English Department to cover for Miss Mason while she is on maternity leave, Miss Smith (Teacher of History) joins the History Department 3 days a week to teach Key Stage 3 and Mr Aziz joins the Site Management Team.



Little Princess Trust

Over the Christmas holiday Lily Rose in Year 9 had all her beautiful long black hair cut off to support children suffering with cancer. Her hair donation will be used to make wigs and the £1500+ she has raised will go a long way to supporting this charities efforts. We are so proud of Lily Rose for living out our values and putting others before herself.

Ski Trip - January 2024

Our first Ski trip in nearly 5 years returned back to the UK on Wednesday afternoon having spent the previous 7 days in the Austrian Alps. A huge public **thank you** goes to Mr Behan for all his efforts in getting this trip back on the school calendar and to the staff (Mrs Trinham, Mr Barratt, Mrs Palmer and Ms Hitchcox) who gave up their own holiday time to facilitate this fabulous trip.

The students had the most wonderful time, will have stories to recount for a lifetime and improved their skiing no end. Our next ski trip goes in March, and I am sure they are even more excited now having heard about the experience of the 44 that went last week.



Finally, there is the potential for some extreme weather in the coming week or so. Hopefully it will pass us by and will not lead to any disruption or enforced closure. However, in the event that we are forced to close, and a decision is made before the start of the school day we will send texts to you directly by 7am or as soon as possible after the decision is made. The text will be followed up by a more detailed email about the closure arrangements. Here's hoping this doesn't happen.

With every good wish and blessing for the weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Hodgson
Principal

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items

Spring 1:

23rd January 24 - St Nicholas Owen Feast Day

23rd January 24 - Y12 Elevate Day

24th January 24 - Y7 Parents Evening

30th January 24 - Y11 reports deadline

02nd February 24 - Y11 reports sent

02nd February 24 - Y13 reports deadline

05th February 24 - Pyramid Concert

06th February 24 - LGB meeting

08th February 24 - Y12 Parents Evening

08th February 24 – Students break up for half term

09th February 24 - MAC Training Day, closed to students