HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

"… on this rock I will build my church." Matthew 16: 18

11th Friday, 09 May 2025

Dear Parent(s), carer(s) and students,

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV
Faithful God,
You guide us on the path of life
and your goodness is our constant companion.
Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,
in his service of the Church.
Fill him with the power of your Spirit,
the peace of your presence
and the compassion of Christ.
May he walk with you,
in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's people,
to embody your love for the world.
Amen.

Habemus Papam: We have a Pope!
It was wonderful to hear that white smoke was billowing from the Sistine Chapel chimney yesterday afternoon and I am sure, like me, many of you were captivated by the coverage as we prepared to welcome our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

As a school community we prayed this morning for Pope Leo, the successor to St Peter and the Vicar of Christ, that he might govern with fidelity and build the Church into a sacrament of unity, love and peace for all the world.

I hope you can join us too in praying for the Holy Father that he may guide the Church and inspire us all to be the light of Christ in our schools and across our Emmaus and Diocesan family.

Exam Season
Exam season is upon us with formal GCSE and A level exams beginning next Monday and running for the next 6 school weeks. This is such an important time for our Y11, and 13 students, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the very best of luck and offering prayers for them throughout this period.

Year 13 leavers
Today also marks the end of Year 13s formal time with us as they embark on their study leave this afternoon. This morning, they were engaged in their usual celebrations, revelry and fancy dress and as I wrote two dinosaurs and a couple of sharks wandered past my window, followed by Shrek and Scooby Doo with Fred, Shaggy and Velma, plus many more!!

They have been the most wonderful set of students, wonderfully led by Head Boy and Girl, Sebin and Sophie, and will leave Hagley well set for a wonderful future in the world of work, apprenticeships or further study at the Universities of their choice, in the certain knowledge that they will always be a part of our Hagley family.

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EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC
Our journey with Christ

Punctuality to lessons

You will have no doubt already seen Mrs Palmer's communication about a change in practice for managing tardiness to lessons from Monday. I want to thank you in advance of your support for this which thankfully will not affect most of our students. However, there are far too many Year 9 and 10 students, in particular, that are slovenly in moving from one lesson, or break, to another and their attitude to good habits of punctuality needs repairing.

Enrichment week

A reminder that week beginning Monday 30th June 2025 is enrichment and transition week for students in Years 7 to 10 and our new Year 6's. During the week Year 7 and invited to spend a day at Kinver Camp, Year 8 a day at The Challenge Academy, Baggeridge Country Park and Year 9 a day at Drayton Manor. We really want all students to be able to take part in these days out as they are such important enrichment opportunities and a chance for something very different from their typical school day where experiences and memories are made that last a lifetime. Please remember that payment for these trips is online through Arbor and open now. If you are struggling to cover the expense of these trips please do reach out to your child's Head of Year, we may be able to help, although I can't make any promises.

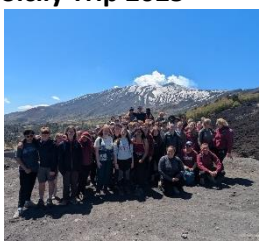
During enrichment week there will be other wider curriculum days and experiences too, including Year 7 Science Challenge, Loudmouth Theatre group for Years 8 and 9, and Medical Mavericks for Year 9 too.

We will also be holding three transition days for our new Year 7 intake on Wednesday 2nd June to Friday 4th June and we very much look forward to welcoming our new family members.

Work Experience

Year 10 work experience week from 30th June 2025 is fast approaching but three students have successfully procured a much sought after placement at the Birmingham Hippodrome for an additional week in May. Keon, Harrison and Chelsea had to go through a rigorous interview workshop for a day demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication skills and an ability to bond well with others. Huge public congratulations go to all three of them.

Sicily Trip 2025



On Wednesday 30th April, 49 year 10 students met at Hagley at just after midnight. They travelled through the night and landed in Catania in Sicily just after 11am. During their time in Sicily, they visited the Alcantara Gorge where they were able to see the impacts of river erosion on cooled lava. On Thursday they travelled to the island of Vulcano, and students trekked up the volcano to see the volcanic crater before spending time on the beach and eating gelato!

Friday saw them visit the 2002 eruption site on Mount Etna, and trek around the craters, before heading to Taormina to experience a pretty hilltop town. The last day of the trip saw them visit the island town of Ortigia before some free time in Catania and then a tired group of students flew back to the UK, finally getting back to Hagley at 2:30am!

It was once again the most fabulous trip and experience for our students and public thanks goes to Mr Bayliffe for once again running and leading it.

Hagley Vintage Shines at Worcestershire Young Enterprise Finals

On Thursday, 1st May, Hagley Vintage proudly competed in the Worcestershire Young Enterprise Finals, delivering a standout presentation that impressed a panel of judges from Volvo, Worcestershire Council, and the Young Enterprise organisation.

The team showcased their business idea, shared their financial achievements, and reflected honestly on their journey's highs and lows. Their professionalism and creativity earned them the Best Sales and Marketing Award, a testament to their hard work, innovation, and teamwork.

While this was a collective effort from the entire Hagley Vintage team, special recognition goes to the students who represented the company and presented directly to the panel of esteemed judges, Seb, Leo, Patrick, Rihanna, Alex and Joe.

Congratulations to the whole team on this fantastic achievement and for representing Hagley with such confidence and skill.

Poetry Competition

During the Easter holiday Kareena Thumber (Year 12) took part in the Worcestershire Poet Laureate competition. Although she did not win, her poems were highly praised, and she came away from the experience with a sense of pride and has been inspired to continue writing. To be short listed for the final is worthy of celebration and gave Kareena the chance to share her wonderful poetry with a wider audience.

Praise also goes to Josh Jasinski (Year 8) who was also selected to take part in the final but was unable to attend. His poem was particularly praised by the judges and will also feature as part of the 'Young Voices New Visions Exhibition' this year through the theme of 'Courage'. This will enable Josh's poem to justly have its 'moment of glory.'

<u>Part of the Game – Josh Jasinski</u>

I was never bred for battlefields or crowns made outta steel,
But courage ain't a weapon, it's the way that you feel.
Heart poundin' in my chest like a war drumbeat,
Facin' down a dragon with cold hands and weak knees.

Not real, right? It's just a game.
Pixels, stats, a digital name.
But tell that to the fear in my gut when I move,
Like one wrong step and I'll lose more than loot.

See -
Courage ain't about not bein' afraid,
It's steppin' through the fire even though you're half-flayed.
It's your voice in a world that don't want you to speak,
It's fightin' your demons when you're feelin' weak.

I picked up my sword—it was blunt, barely gleamed,
Like all of my hope, chipped edges on dreams.
But still I swung. I moved. I breathed.
'Cause even in a game, I believed.

That I could stand tall when the world said fall,
That courage could echo in a teenage call.
Yeah, the dragon roared—smoke, teeth, and flame,
But fear ain't a chain, it's part of the game.

You don't need to be brave to begin, just begin
And somewhere in the middle, that's where you win.
Even if you fall, even if you cry,
Courage ain't in the sword—it's the reason why.

So, here's to the underdogs, the ones who break,
And glue their pieces back for their own sake.
Dragon or doubt, we stand and we try—
With fire in our lungs and stars in our sky.

Summer Canteen Menu

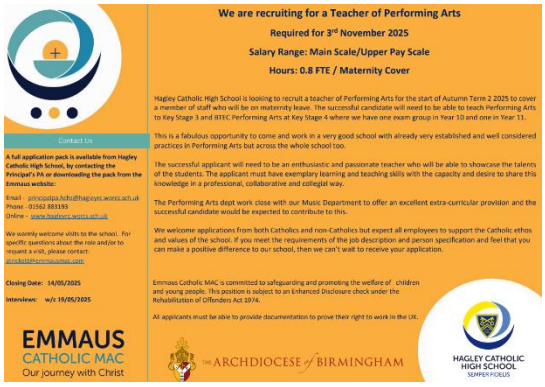
Please be aware of the canteen's summer menu which has been updated and sent out to you already but here's another copy in case you missed it.

Summer Uniform

I had some queries about summer uniform for girls over the last fortnight and when long socks might be permitted on extremely hot days. While I appreciate a couple of the first few days were surprisingly hot it has not been the case since. In the event of a decision being made to allow long socks because the forecast suggests very hot weather, I will send SMS messages to parents/carers to confirm the decision the night before.

Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy in the Performing Arts department. If you do know anyone that might be interested in a short-term contract, please do direct them to our advert at https://www.emmausmac.com/Page/Detail/vacancies



We are recruiting for a Teacher of Performing Arts

Required for 3rd November 2025

Salary Range: Main Scale/Upper Pay Scale

Hours: 0.8 FTE / Maternity Cover

Hagley Catholic High School is looking to recruit a teacher of Performing Arts for the start of Autumn Term 2 2025 to cover a member of staff who will be on maternity leave. The successful candidate will need to be able to teach Performing Arts to Key Stage 3 and BTEC Performing Arts at Key Stage 4 where we have one exam group in Year 10 and one in Year 11.

This is a fabulous opportunity to come and work in a very good school with already very established and well considered practices in Performing Arts but across the whole school too.

The successful applicant will need to be an enthusiastic and passionate teacher who will be able to showcase the talents of the students. The applicant must have exemplary learning and teaching skills with the capacity and desire to share this knowledge in a professional, collaborative and collegial way.

The Performing Arts dept work close with our Music Department to offer an excellent extra-curricular provision and the successful candidate would be expected to contribute to this.

We welcome applications from both Catholics and non-Catholics but expect all employees to support the Catholic ethos and values of the school. If you meet the requirements of the job description and person specification and feel that you can make a positive difference to our school, then we can't wait to receive your application.

Emmaus Catholic MAC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

All applicants must be able to provide documentation to prove their right to work in the UK.

Contact Us

A full application pack is available from Hagley Catholic High School, by contacting the Principal's PA or downloading the pack from the Emmaus website:

Email - principalpa.hchs@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk
Phone - 01562 883193
Online - www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk

We warmly welcome visits to the school. For specific questions about the role and/or to request a visit, please contact:
arnickett@emmausmac.com

Closing Date: 14/05/2025

Interviews: w/c 19/05/2025

EMMAUS
CATHOLIC MAC
Our journey with Christ

THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Please be reminded to share the information at the end of this letter about our links with Bishop Challenor to train teachers at Hagley.

As always, I wish you a wonderful weekend and send this letter with every good wish, prayer and blessing.

Yours sincerely

J Hodgson
Principal

<u>Forthcoming Events and Calendared items</u> – <u>Summer Term 2:</u>

12.05.2025 - GCSE/GCSE exams commence
14.05.2025 - Y9 Soli House Trip departs (3 days)
15.05.2025 - Y10 Parents Evening
16.05.2025 - Y10 Geography Fieldtrip (am only)
19.05.2025 - Y12 Silver DofE Practice Expedition (3 days)
22.05.2025 - Y11 Exam Leave commences at noon
23.05.2025 - KS3 exams grades issued
23.05.2025 - Break up for half term

Train to teach with Hagley as a Lead Partner for Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance

We are very excited to be working in partnership with Bishop Challoner Training School Alliance (BCTSA) to offer a School-Centred Initial Teacher Training programme.

Bishop Challoner offers an exceptional teacher training programme which is evidence-led and built through collaboration with experts, subject specialists, and practitioners. At the heart of our partnership is an innovative and ambitious curriculum that is created by teachers for teachers.

We believe that teaching is the best and most rewarding career in the world, and we are driven by our commitment to changing the lives of our students by growing the best teachers through this programme.

Our applications for 2025/2026 are now open and you can apply HERE.

The team at BCTSA, are always ready to answer questions and provide support with your application, you can contact them via email at trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.

Why Apply?
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Who is eligible to apply?
The minimum criteria for any teacher training programme is:
· An honours degree
· A GCSE in Maths and English at Grade 4(C) or above.
· A GCSE in Science at Grade 4 (C) or above if you want to pursue Primary Teaching

How do I apply?
You apply through the DfE website: https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk

We offer a full range of Secondary Subjects that you can choose to train in.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, then please contact the team at Bishop Challoner on 0121 441 6175 or email trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk