



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS



"Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world.'" John 8:12.

11th Friday, 11 April 2025

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

Another Spring Term comes to end, and it has been an extremely long one for everyone when you consider that this time last year, we were already one week into the Summer Term.

All but two days of this term have been in the liturgical season of Lent and as always, the whole Hagley community has stepped forward in prayer and charity at this important time in our Christian calendar.



Year 7 have successfully raised £1,133.90 Walking a mile around the school site to support Father Hudson's Caritas.

A huge thank you to our Year 8 students who during Lent have focused their thoughts and prayers on young refugee families living in the Sandwell area. They have worked together and successfully collected the following items:

- 14 Toothpaste and 25 toothbrushes
- 33 Packets of baby wipes
- 8 Head to toe wash
- 25 Bottles of baby shampoo
- 35 packets of nappy bags
- 4 packets of cotton wool
- 4 families of rubber ducks and a bath thermometer



We would like to say thank you to those families who have donated children's clothes and bags of new nappies. Brushstrokes were delighted to accept your donations.

There have been many other individual fundraising efforts from sponge the teacher to cake sales and raffles. In Year 10 students in 10 Kenelm ran a hamper raffle that they had put together with Mrs Mouzer drawn out of the hat this morning as the winner.



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St Basil's Charity Sleep Out



On Friday 28th March 2025, around 30 pupils were selected to participate in an overnight sleepover to raise money for the homeless. We heated soup and rolls before creating our sleeping area, under the canopy in chosen groups. Cardboard boxes were used to build our forts, allowing us to replicate the homeless experience, although extra luxuries such as blankets, pillows, sweets and fairy lights were brought along too! As we woke up the next morning, having had little, if no, slept, we were able to truly empathise and sympathise with those in the unfortunate situation of not having a safe shelter every night. In total we were able to raise around £646 which will significantly help those suffering from homelessness. **Lexi and Evie**

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school's charitable efforts this term, no doubt I will have more to report when all the fundraising has been collated and counted.

Watch out for our work as a school during Refugee Week in June too.

Head Boy and Girl appointments

This week elections were held for our next Head Girl and Boy. 8 students put themselves forward for election and on Tuesday morning delivered their pitches to the whole Sixth Form in the school theatre before the elections took place with everyone present able to vote. This year's pitches were some of the very best and a tough decision for all the electorate.

A close contest though saw Elle Ashe and Will Kennedy elected Head Girl and Boy, with Therea Collins and Kisera Weldemichael elected as deputies. An additional note should go to Ryan, Ben, Darcie and Eilish who will form next year's committee.



It would be remiss though not to publicly thank this year's 6th Form Leadership Team of Sophie, Sebin, Emma and Tom (pictured above) with the newly elected team, for their wonderful work and leadership this past year.

Medical Society

This week, our medical society took "hands-on" learning to the next level with an exciting brain dissection! Students got a closer look at the intricate structure of the brain, uncovering its many folds and functions. Along the way, they also explored how Alzheimer's disease can affect the brain, disrupting memory and cognition in some truly fascinating ways. It was a brainy hour of learning about the human mind!



Sixth Formers visit the Bank of England



On Friday, March 28th, 50 students had the incredible opportunity to visit the Bank of England, where they delved into the fascinating history of the institution and discovered its pivotal role in the economy today. They explored the origins of paper money and uncovered the secrets behind why banknotes are so difficult to counterfeit. The highlight of the visit was the chance to test their strength by lifting a real gold bar and learning why the Bank's building sits atop one of the world's largest gold reserves.

The group also ventured into the heart of London, where they explored some of the city's most iconic landmarks, including Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, and the Southbank Centre. It was especially exciting to see how many students were visiting London for the first time and riding the underground for the first time as well. It truly was a memorable experience for everyone, filled with learning, discovery, and a sense of adventure!



Dance Showcase

Last week Miss McKee and her team of KS4 Dance Leaders, Jacqueline, Maria, Iris, Edward, Jessica, Thomasin and Annabelle, who have all achieved their Level 2 Dance Leaders qualification, put on the most wonderful showcase of dance with students from across Key Stage 3 and students studying Performing Arts at KS4.



Dance is a huge part of our curriculum and enrichment offer at Hagley with some 50 +students involved through clubs and examination pathways. Do keep an eye out for the next showcase as you are sure to be in for a treat.

The Voice

Wood Goldstraw Yorath who work with Hagley and across Emmaus in project management consultancy donated money to purchase a tree for the school grounds earlier this year. The spring was a perfect time to purchase and plant. So last week Mrs O'Loughlin and I went over to the local garden centre with 3 members of the voice, Matilda Winnett, Humphrey Kennedy and Jonathan Seery, where they chose a beautiful pink blossom tree, and found time for hot chocolates too. Then yesterday the Voice all showed up for its planting ceremony. Our public thanks goes to Wood Goldstraw Yorath for their support and kind donation.



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Poetry Competition

We ran a Hagley Poetry Competition earlier this term, alongside the Worcestershire Poetry Competition, where students had to write a poem inspired by the theme of courage. We had the most incredible poems submitted, which addressed this theme, some were witty, sensitive and had super advice for us all, making the contest difficult to judge. It was so hard to choose the winners a group of students had to help to make the final decisions!

Winners/ Runners Up:

Year 7: Hermela Kidane/Will Bond

Year 8: Emily Gibson/Tess Wood/Demi-May Gavin

Year 9: Faith Rawlins/Paolo Bonifacio

Year 10: Anna Benavidez

KS5: Ealish Kiely

We also had a number of 'Special Recognition' awards for poems written across the Key Stages and Riley Griffiths won the competition that was run to design a bookmark for World Book Day.

Some students also submitted their poems into the Worcestershire Poet Laureate competition.

I am delighted to share that Kareena Thumber (Y12) has been selected as a finalist on the back of her poem **"The Seeds of Courage"**. This is the second year running a Hagley student has reached this stage. This is a wonderful achievement, and we wish her the very best of luck in the final which takes place over the Easter break.

More Netball Success

Another fantastic win for our Year 11 netballers last week in their final ever fixture that marked the end of their netball journey at Hagley. A convincing 36 - 2 victory was some way to bow out. The win confirmed their position as league winners 🏆 once again. This team has been exceptional, maintaining an unbeaten streak in all league matches and district tournaments for 5 years. Progressing onto county and regional tournaments as well. I am extremely proud to have coached all of them, it has been a pleasure. **Mrs Trinham**



The Seeds of Courage

In a world full of chaos and disorder,
I was raised by hands that built.
By hearts made up of love,
Through long, difficult and tireless days,
They carved their dreams and helped others in quiet ways.

They made it to the top,
While others gave them the chop,
They turned loss to lessons, pain to gain.
With every risk, with every leap,
They sowed the seeds that we now reap.

They taught me that courage isn't loud,
It's keeping plans quiet till they're fulfilled.
They taught me to be the person that dares to dream,
To do the extraordinary and the extreme.

Through highs and low, through fear and fight,
They built a home of love and light.
A legacy not just of gold,
But grit and grace, both fierce and bold.

And because of them I want to now,
Be the most courageous I can be,
Because when things were bad my parents showed me,
That failure comes and goes,
but strength is what the struggle goes.



Congratulations to our Year 7 girls on 2nd place in their District Netball Tournament. 11 schools competed so it was impressive they did so well. They had a wonderful start to the tournament but got rocked a little by a very good Summerhill team in the group stages. We finished the group in 1st place and comfortably beat Redhill in the semis. We started to regain our composure. Then on to the finals where we met Summerhill again. This time we were back at our best and gave them a very close game but unfortunately lost by 1. Although we didn't win what I loved was their drive to keep going and work hard during that match. I am very proud of them all. They are a new team, and many haven't played netball before. **Mrs Tringham**

Year 9 Football

Big shout out to the boy's Year 9 football team that were unbeaten in the District League this season, winning 7 out of 7, finishing with Tuesday night's 9-0 victory vs local rivals Redhill. The boys have been outstanding this year under a new coach in Mr Connell who has brought footballing success to Hagley in his first year. Well done to all the boys who have represented the school this year.



Summer Uniform

When we return after the Easter holidays we will have 11 weeks of the summer term. A reminder to all parents and students that blazers remain a compulsory item of uniform at all times, while jumpers are always optional. Girls will be permitted to wear long socks with their skirts **BUT ONLY** during extremely warm days or periods. On days when long socks, rather than tights are permitted, we will inform you.

Reminder: Summer Term Trains Passes

Student Season Tickets for the summer term are now on sale. These provide students who travel by train up to 50% off standard Season Tickets, offering unlimited travel between two stations for the entire term.

<https://www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/tickets-discounts/discounts/student-season-train-tickets>

Key Information:

- Students aged 16 and over can save 50% on a standard adult Season Ticket.
- Students aged 15 and under can save 25% on a standard child Season Ticket.
- Summer Season Tickets are available to purchase until Friday 30 May 2025.
- The summer term travel window runs from Monday 28 April to Friday 25 July.

WMR recommend purchasing Season Tickets up to a week before the travel window begins to allow for any delivery delays. This will help ensure students get the best value for money.

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 offer 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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At the heart of our partnership is an innovative and ambitious curriculum that is created by teachers for teachers.

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

As always, this letter is sent with every good wish, prayer and blessing for a lovely weekend but also for a happy and Holy Easter. I hope everyone reading this gets a lovely break in some way shape or form and we look forward to the summer term, which starts on Monday 28th April, renewed and refreshed.

Yours sincerely

J Hodgson
Principal

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items – Summer Term 2:

28.04.2025 - Summer Term begins
28.04.2025 - KS3 Core Assessments begin
30.04.2025 - Y11 Speaking Exams commence (Day 1 of 6)
30.04.2025 - Y11 Art Exam Day 1
30.04.2025 - Y10 Sicily trip
01.05.2025 - Y11 Art Exam Day 2
06.05.2025 - Y8 HP Vaccinations
08.05.2025 - Y10 Parents Evening
09.05.2025 - Y10 Geography Fieldtrip (am only)
12.05.2025 - GCSE/GCSE exams commence
14.05.2025 - Y9 Soli House Trip departs (3 days)
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