



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
SEMPER FIDELIS

“...he had fasted forty days and forty nights.” (Matthew 4. 1)

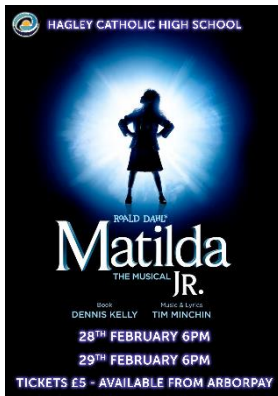
Friday, 23 February 2024

The return to school this week hasn't been the easiest, largely because at times everyone has felt a little like a drowned rat with such appalling weather starting the days off on Wednesday and Thursday, and now as I write to you the black clouds have circled and hail is pouring down outside my window. I hope that it is a little kinder to us this weekend and that you and your families have some nice things planned.

We have returned to school this week in the season of **Lent**, and our virtues and values focus this term is **Faith-filled & Hopeful**. As always we shall focus much of our efforts as a community on our Lenten commitment to prayer, fasting and giving alms. Children in all years have already chosen their charities to support and activities will begin forthwith to raise money in support of these worthy causes. Please do support as much as you can, as you always do.



- Year 7 - Fr Hudson's Society
- Year 8 - Cancer Research
- Year 9 - Acorns Children's Hospice
- Year 10 - Cancer Research
- Year 11 - Asthma and Lung UK
- Sixth Form - Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal



### Matilda The Musical

The school production of Matilda is next Wednesday and Thursday. Students have been working tirelessly with Miss McKee over recent days and weeks to be ready for the show.

Tickets are on sale via Arbor in the School Shop section at £5 per ticket. It would be great to see the Theatre packed to the rafters for this wonderful musical and to support our young people's efforts and talents.

We do hope you can join us on one of the two nights.

### Foundation Governor

A vacancy has become available on the Local Governing Body for a foundation representative. Foundation governors are appointed by the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service and are willing to be called by His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham to serve as a Foundation Governor. A Foundation Governor must be a practising Catholic and have the support of their Parish Priest.

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Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

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Previous experience as a school governor, whilst helpful, is not essential and governors may have many skills and experiences in education and other fields that they can bring to the local governing body. Training for new governors is provided by the Diocesan Education Service.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested and would like to discuss the role in more detail they can contact me in the first instance or contact Mrs Taylor (Principal's PA) for an application form at [principalpa\\_hchs@emmausmac.com](mailto:principalpa_hchs@emmausmac.com).

### **Kenelm Youth Trust Mission Team Opportunity**

The Kenelm Youth Trust, the youth service for the Archdiocese of Birmingham, are promoting opportunities for young people aged 18-25 to join their mission team. These experiences provide unique opportunities for personal development and community engagement. Both Mr Thomas and I worked for the Diocesan Youth Service prior to embarking on our careers in education and I can whole heartedly recommend taking up such an opportunity. You can find more details at the end of this letter.



### **Young People's Health and Emotional Wellbeing Survey**

Healthwatch Worcestershire finds out what people think about health and social care services. They use this information to tell those who run the services how they can be improved.

They want to hear the views and experiences of young people (age 13 to 25) in Worcestershire. In particular they want to hear about the experiences of accessing help with their emotional wellbeing, as well as accessing support for issues around gender identity and/or neurodiversity.

The survey is anonymous and confidential – responses will be combined and used to create a report which will be publicly available on their website later this year.

The survey can be completed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YP24live> and will be running throughout February 2024.

### **Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUGs)**

#### **Don't miss out on Free Home Improvements now available to Worcestershire residents**

The Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUGs) is designed to tackle colder homes that do not have mains gas central heating. Homeowners and tenants in Worcestershire could benefit from a variety of measures to help reduce energy bills including internal and external wall insulation, loft and cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps, solar panels, draught proofing and many more.

Worcestershire County Council is working in partnership with Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils to deliver this programme. Worcester City Council and Wyre Forest District Council are administering their own HUG2 scheme and information can be found on their websites.

To qualify, households must **not** use mains gas to heat their home, have a gross annual income of less than £31,000 with a current Home Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D to G. Funding is also available for

landlords in the charity and private rented sector. Those who qualify for the scheme will undergo a free technical survey to determine the most suitable energy efficiency measures.

For more information please download the [Home Upgrade Grant flyer](#). Alternatively please visit the [HUGs webpage](#) for full eligibility and details how to register your interest or contact Act on Energy on their free advice line **0800 988 2881**.

All projects must be completed by March 2025.

### Student successes

This week we once again hosted our annual Catenians Public Speaking competition for Year 12 students. It was a lovely afternoon and the Catenian members who joined us once again commented on the excellence they witnessed and heard from the five students who presented their 4-minute speeches, all were worthy winners.

However, only two can go through to the next round to compete against other students from across the Archdiocese. Congratulations go to this year's winner and runner-up, Annalise Flavin and Calum Edwards, pictured here with the chair of the judging panel and Keira Johnston who placed third. Notable mentions go to Emma Richardson and Tom Hughes who also competed and to Mrs Bunn who pulled the event together and has coached the students in preparation for the competition.



### Sport Results



Our first week back after half term has already seen great success on the basketball court with our Under 14 and Under 16 girls teams being crowned Dudley District Champions.

The under 14 team were exceptional and played lots of incredible basketball against a physical Bishop Milner side who did not make it easy for our girls. Every member of the team knew their role and played it out on court.

Here's to many more years of success!

The under 16 team have worked so hard to develop their own skill level, which is exceptional, and become a solid team! They stuck to the game plan against a capable Ellowes Hall side to win 35 - 5.

For our Year 11's in the team, yesterday's final is a demonstration of their 5 year commitment to be the best players possible, we are so proud of them all.

Public recognition also goes to Mrs Trinham and Miss Devine for their dedication to the girl's teams and the time and energy put into their development.



(For children, young people & families.)

St Ambrose Church, Kidderminster – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11am.

(For more information, please contact Jon on 07731842591)

Finally, we have been contacted by one of our local parishes, St Ambrose, Kidderminster, and asked to advertise their Good Friday reflection service for children, young people and families.

Please do make every effort to join services in our parishes throughout Holy Week at the end of March.



With every good wish and blessing for the weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hodgson  
Principal

### **Forthcoming Events and Calendared items**

#### **Spring 2:**

- 28.02.24 - Matilda 6pm in the Theatre
- 29.02.24 - Matilda 6pm ion the Theatre
- 01.03.24 - NEA Y11 GCSE Food Mock
- 05.03.24 - NEA Y11 GCSE Food Mock
- 06.03.24 - Y11 Geography Fieldwork (am)
- 07.03.24 - Y11 Geography Fieldwork (am)
- 08.03.24 - Y11 Geography Fieldwork (am)
- 14.03.24 - Year 9 Parents Evening
- 22.03.24 - Break up for Easter

## **JOIN THE ADVENTURE WITH KYT'S MISSION TEAM!**

Unlock the extraordinary and embark on a journey of impact with KYT's Mission Team! Our opportunities are open to applicants aged 18-25, who are ready to make a difference.

Dive into exciting retreats, work with young people, and engage in youth ministry that empowers you to be a positive force for change. Build lifelong friendships, develop leadership skills, and create lasting memories while contributing to a better world.

Don't miss out on the chance to be a part of something meaningful!

Join KYT's Mission Team and turn your enthusiasm into action. Ready for the adventure? Sign up today and let's make a difference together!

**#KYTMissionTeam #MakeAnImpact #JoinTheAdventure**



Visit our website for more information about post-18 opportunities...

[WWW.KENELMYOUTHTRUST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.KENELMYOUTHTRUST.ORG.UK)

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