



Friday, 23 January 2026

Dear Parent(s), carer(s)

I cannot believe that we are already half way through this half term and I have not yet made time to write to you. Please forgive me.

Wishing you a happy new year and hoping you had a lovely Christmas also seems a little overdue but I do so all the same.

Today we celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron, Saint Nicholas Owen. He was an English Jesuit brother, carpenter and principal builder of priest holes during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and King James I in the 16th and early 17th century. Arrested in 1606 and tortured to death in the Tower of London, he was then canonised in 1970 by Pope Paul VI.

As our patron he is the perfect example of faith and service of others in the name of Christ Jesus, determined to create safe refuges and use his skills and talents to do so.

It is why we ask for his intentions every morning but today as **Pilgrims of Hope** we have prayed our school prayer at the start of every lesson.

As is tradition on our Feast Day, every child and adult in school has been given a chocolate treat this afternoon as a small token of generosity and as an example of the **kind heart's** that bind us and the **kind heart** that St Nicholas Owen demonstrated throughout his life.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Feast Day, not least the many, many alumni amongst our parents and carers too. Do try to find time to pray our school prayer in solidarity with us.

#### **Year 7 Update from Mrs Imrie**

It has been lovely to welcome Year 7 back to school and their 2nd term here at Hagley. Although a cold start, they have continued to impress, clearly living out both the New Year's goals they set in week 1 and our Curious and Active values and virtues for this half term with over 4800 house points collectively since the start of term!

Year 7 had a wonderful end of their first term. On Tuesday 16th December we held our End of Term Celebration Assembly which was a lovely celebration of just some of their amazing achievements with awards and prizes given for each subject and for living out the term's Catholic Values and Virtues. We finished by



Forming Christ-centred  
pilgrims of hope with kind  
hearts, questioning minds,  
a thirst for knowledge  
and a hunger for justice.

• • • Our journey with Christ



**Saint Nicholas Owen**

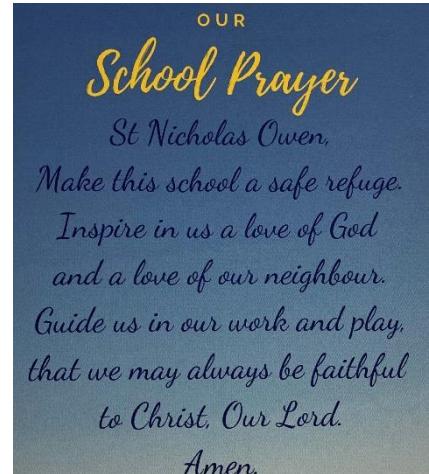
1550-1606

Patron Saint of Hagley Catholic High School



Designed By: Christine Rose A Pupil Of This School 2008 - 2009

Saint Nicholas Owen was a carpenter who dedicated his life to the construction of safe refuges for Catholic priests in times of persecution. He was canonised in 1970 for his sanctity, faithfulness and endurance under torture.



finding out whether 7 Gregory who had topped the House Point Challenge each week since September would be victorious. They were literally pipped at the last post with 7 Chad taking the Autumn Term title.

We then followed this with the Christmas Inter-form quiz which was very well fought and almost as loud as the Year 7 disco!

In the final week some Year 7s, along with myself, Mr Jones and Mrs Anderson, had the fantastic opportunity to visit Birmingham University where we were invited to a couple of Christmas Science Lectures, looking at Stem Cell research, the age of Rudolph and how Santa's metabolism is able to deal with 22,656,424,000 calories! We were then treated to a guided tour of the campus, and it was great to think that some of the students with us that day may be studying there themselves in a few years' time!

It is always great to hear of Year 7 success outside of school. Below is just a few to celebrate...



- ★ Mireya Carberra Hoban - success in a recent singing exam & being awarded a distinction in her Grade 5 from the London College of Music.
- ★ Ilaria Favata - Placing both 1st and 2nd place in recent dance competitions with her lyrical dance group.
- ★ Flynn McGuinness - Storming the stage during his 1st live singing performance.

Please do continue to share success, we love to hear it!

Now that the Spring Term is fully underway there continues to be lots to look forward to such as:

- Our Weekly House Point Challenge continues with a new twist!
- Form Tutor and Head of Year Stars of the Week
- Briars Retreat in February
- More Inter-house sports competitions

And much more...

Last week Year 7 celebrated a beautiful Mass on our journey as **pilgrims of hope**, led wonderfully by 7 Bede. What a joy to see them all so reverent and really get involved with their responses and their singing (including the 'My Lighthouse' actions!).

I would like to finish by congratulating the wonderful Year 7 Girls Football team who this week represented Hagley in a tournament with local schools in Halesowen. The girls (Annalynn, Ruby, Ivy, Elsie, Mirella, Liv G, Freya, Jasmine, Harper & Liv R) were formidable, winning all 3 games, scoring 12 goals and conceding none! Huge well-done girls, we look forward to your continued success.



### **Year 8 News from Mrs Palmer**

We are now a few weeks into the term, and it has been great to see Year 8 settling back into school life. Overall, students have returned with a positive attitude to their learning, which has been reflected across classrooms, form times, and around the school. I had the pleasure of joining Year 8 in one of their RE classes,

where students were fully engaged, enthusiastic, and eager to contribute with their [questioning minds and a thirst for knowledge](#). I spent time looking through their books and listening to their responses, which were thoughtful, well-reasoned, and showed a genuine interest in the topics being explored. It was encouraging to see how confidently students shared their ideas and how supportive they were of one another during discussions. I look forward to visiting more lessons in the coming weeks.

## **Year 9 Barcelona Trip [“a thirst for knowledge”](#) Coming Soon!**

We are excited to announce an upcoming cultural trip to **Barcelona** for our **Year 9 students**, taking place from **Monday 29th June to Thursday 2nd July 2026**.

This fantastic opportunity will allow students to explore some of the city's most iconic landmarks, including:

- **Camp Nou** – home of FC Barcelona
- **La Sagrada Família** – Gaudí's world-famous Basilica
- **La Boqueria Market** – a vibrant taste of Spanish culture and cuisine

The trip will bring learning to life, giving students the chance to experience Spanish culture, architecture and history first-hand.

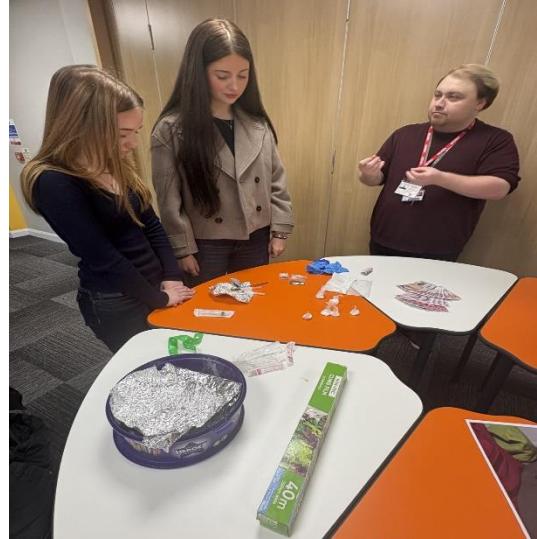
More information, including pricing and how to secure a place, will be shared **at the start of next week**.

Please keep an eye on communications. We look forward to sharing further details soon!



## **[Criminology at KS5 ... questioning minds and a thirst for knowledge](#)**

Last Friday, the year 13 Criminology students received a visit from Newman University. They arranged a brilliant crime scene investigation, which focussed on the crimes of county lines and cuckooing. Newman University brought in props to bring the crime scene to life, and the lecturers were very complimentary about our student's knowledge and application skills. We have been invited to return to Newman to visit their crime scene flat, for a further experience. Well done Year 13 Criminologists!



## Literacy – Year of Reading 2026

As 2026 is the National Year of Reading, Hagley is excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to school. The fair will be available 3rd, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 from 12.00pm - 12.30pm in DG6. This is a cashless event. Students will be able to pay via card or Apple Pay. Additionally, there is the option for students to fill out a Wish List and reserve these books at the event. Students will then take their Wish List home where there is a link to pay for the books via a QR code. They will then be able to collect their books on the Friday.

There will be a range of exciting books on offer, and this is the perfect opportunity to engage students with independent reading. Every sale also goes towards raising money to purchase books for the school library collection. We look forward to seeing students at the fair!

*Miss E Haigh (Whole School Literacy Lead)*



## House Points

Since the start of our term in January students have earned more than 13,000 house points! What a wonderful demonstration of their commitment to learning and their **thirst for knowledge**.

Bede students have had a brilliant start to our Spring Term earning the most House Points since our return after Christmas, closely followed by Wulstan and Gregory.

We also launched our Emmaus Mission House Points this term, with the current numbers and our House Point League table below:

<u>House</u>	<u>Total House Points</u>
<b>Wulstan</b>	<b>21,445</b>
<b>Kenelm</b>	<b>21,246</b>
<b>Anselm</b>	<b>21,210</b>
<b>Bede</b>	<b>20,919</b>
<b>Gregory</b>	<b>20,369</b>
<b>Chad</b>	<b>19,986</b>

<b>Emmaus - Pilgrim of Hope</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Emmaus - Kind Heart</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Emmaus - Questioning mind</b>	<b>580</b>
<b>Emmaus - Thirst for Knowledge</b>	<b>1270</b>
<b>Emmaus - Hunger for Justice</b>	<b>0</b>

## Attendance Matters from Mrs Palmer

Attendance continues to be a key priority across the school, and we know that recent transport issues haven't helped. We are genuinely grateful for the effort parents and carers are making to get students into school each day. Thank you. We are reassured that all buses will be back up and running for Monday.

A reminder please that when in school, students are expected to arrive by 8:45am, so please ensure transport arrangements support this.

At the end of last term, we celebrated Year 10's excellent attendance with a breakfast, and we hope to offer similar rewards to other year groups during the spring term. Thank you for your continued support, and please keep encouraging your child to attend school as regularly as possible, every day really does make a positive difference. There are only 40 school days till the Easter holidays from Monday, so this seems like a great target for all of us to aim for.



## Tutoring

At this time of year many families are considering getting additional tutoring for their child. Emeryl Tutoring is largely made up of Hagley Alumni with some of the highest academic outcomes. Do get in touch with them directly if you are looking for extra support for your child.

## Vacancies

Some vacancies have arisen at Hagley that are now live on the Emmaus vacancies page at this link: [Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy - Vacancies](#) and on WM Jobs. They include:

- Teaching Assistant Level 3
- Assistant Exams Officer

Plus, in the coming days/week a Teacher of Maths and an Assistant SENDCO/HLTA vacancy will go live too.

Please do share far and wide and get in touch if you are interested.

If your child's mock results weren't what you expected, don't panic.

Mocks are a diagnostic tool, not a final judgement. At Emeryl Tutoring, our student-led team identifies learning gaps and builds personalised plans that actually work. With one-to-one support, we help students deepen understanding, boost confidence, and enjoy learning.

Our programmes

• KS2 SATS/11+	• personal statement support
• KS3	• UCAT exam revision
• GCSE	• Oxbridge applications
• A-level	

Contact us

emeryltutoring@gmail.com  
+44 7305759321  
<https://www.emeryltutoring.com/>

NOW HIRING

Assistant Examinations Officer

Visit the link in our bio to apply

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SEMPER FIDELIS

## New Cashless Catering with Civica and Arbor Pay

With effect from Monday, 26th January 2026, we will be transitioning to Civica Catering for our payment for lunch services. This means that all lunch payments will now be processed through Arbor Pay.

Please note that ParentPay will no longer be used for any payments at Hagley. We will not be using ParentPay after today so can we please remind you that any outstanding balances that do not already sit within your school meals account should have already been moved. Any existing balances or debits will then be automatically transferred to your child's meal account with Arbor by the end of today (23.01.26).

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, they will continue to receive their allowance at the tills at lunchtime.

For your convenience, we have included instructions on how to make payments using Arbor Pay in the link below. Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.  
[Using the Basket to make payments on Parent Portal – Arbor Help Centre](#)

If you need help accessing or help with resetting your password for the Arbor parent portal, please see the help guide at this link: [Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App – Arbor Help Centre](#)

Thank you for your support and understanding as we make this transition.

And finally, with a **hunger for justice** please see the charitable initiatives that we are supporting at the moment, if you can help and support with your very **kind hearts** please do so.

## We are collecting pre-loved backpacks and rucksacks!



Do you have bags, rucksacks or backpacks that you are no longer using?

We are collecting them for children within our Diocese. If you would like to donate, please bring bags to the RE department and Mrs Kirk will pass them on.  
Thank you for your help!



Sending you every good wish and blessing for a lovely weekend. Happy Feast Day!

Yours sincerely

*J Hodgson*  
Principal

### **Key dates for Spring Term 1**

23.01.2026 - Feast day of St Nicholas Owen

23.01.2026 - Year 11 Reports are issued

05.02.2026 - Year 8 Parents Evening

06.02.2026 - Mizen Foundation talks with Year 9 and 10

06.02.2026 - Year 9 Reports are issued

06.02.2026 - Briars Retreat

09.02.2026 - National Apprenticeship Week

13.02.2026 - Year 10 Reports are issued

13.02.2026 - Break up for February half term