



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

“Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour” (Matthew 25:13)

Friday, 10 November 2023

Good afternoon and welcome back to another new half term. I do hope everyone managed to get some sort of a break last week.

On our return after half term we began our week first thing on Monday morning reflecting on the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids which was the Gospel at Mass last Sunday. The Parable reminds us of the importance of being awake and alert to the coming Lord as we do not know the time or the place when he might return.

This Gospel passage links perfectly with our virtue and value for this half term of being **Attentive and Discerning** and as we move through the half term and Advent draws near we will be continually reminding ourselves and each other to be looking out for those moments when we can see Christ in our lives around us but also when we too can be Christ to others, by living out our values.



In supporting the Catholic Life formation of our students and community we have some wonderful opportunities this term. This afternoon 50 students from Year 7 are off to The Briars Catholic Youth Retreat Centre for a weekend of fun and games but also reflection on who they are called to be in their young Catholic lives.

In the coming weeks we also have three in school retreats for Years 8, 10 and 12 being run by The Kenelm Youth Trust (The Diocese Youth Service). Year 8 will explore the theme of encounter and accompaniment. This is at the heart of our mission at Hagley so that as God’s family we ensure every encounter with one another is an encounter with Christ and that we always accompany each other on our journey through life as Jesus did on the road to Emmaus. Year 10 will focus on Catholic Social Teaching and our call to physically live out the values of faith and ensure that we work for the common good and are always focussed on the option for the poor. While the Year 12 retreat will focus on managing mental health and strategies to deal with the challenges of Post 16 life, growth and development.

Parish Mass - 30th Anniversary of the minibus accident

A reminder that next weekend on Saturday 18th November Hagley students and staff will be joining the parish of Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church in Stourbridge at the 5pm Mass. The Mass is being offered for the Hagley family past and present and is poignant as it falls on the 30th anniversary of the minibus accident. All are welcome to join us.

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Sicily Trip

Over half term 45 Year 11 students were in Sicily for a long weekend with the Geography Department. The visit included a visit to Mount Etna and Taormina where they can be seen here sat in an ancient Roman Amphitheatre. They also enjoyed the views from the top of an active volcano before a lazy afternoon at the beach. A wonderful time was had by all, and thanks go to the staff that put this trip on during their own holidays.



Fundraiser for the Little Princess Trust

In my last letter I wrote about the efforts of Oscar in Year 7 who was raising money for the Princess Trust who make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer. Oscar raised a huge £1105, enough for two wigs and he has asked me to thank everyone who supported him and donated.

Netball Success

Our Year 11 girls final netball season at Hagley has already come to an end this week but has done so in style by winning the District Netball Tournament on Wednesday and then winning the District League last night.

It was a tough ask all-round beating Holy Trinity, Kidderminster on both nights to claim the respective titles, especially on Wednesday when they were 3 goals behind at one point. Huge credit also goes to their coach Mrs Trinham, who I know is immensely proud of them and the work they have done to achieve as they have.



Student successes out of school



Winnie in Year 7 spent last weekend in Ireland competing in the Irish Sandee Open Tournament for Muay Thai Boxing. She came home victorious in her category and now holds the following titles: S3 area champion, ISKA champion, 5 nations champion, Sandee champion and Irish Sandee Open champion.

What an absolute superstar she is and another fabulous example of a Hagley student making the best of their God given talents.

Train Safety

On Tuesday this week British Transport Police and the Safer Travel Team from West Midlands were in school taking an assembly with Year 7 on the dangers that are prevalent on the trains and railway lines and how they can keep themselves safe. The assembly was really well delivered and received by the students, and it has led to Mr Barratt and I speaking with Years 8 to 11 too, about safe and responsible behaviour at the station, especially in the afternoon, as we support the students in getting home safely.



Year 7 Disco fundraiser for Lourdes Pilgrimage

On Friday 1st December Year 12 students who are going on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next May are holding a **Year 7 Disco** in the school hall from 6 to 8pm to raise money to fund their pilgrimage. More specific details are to follow but do save the date for your Year 7 child.

Winter Music Concert

Sadly, we have had to cancel this terms Winter Music Concert that was due to be held in a couple of weeks' time for matters beyond our control. Our sincere apologies and thank you for your understanding.

Wishing you all every blessing and a lovely weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hodgson
Principal

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items

Autumn 2:

- 10th November - Y7 Briars Retreat
- 10th November - Y10 autumn reports issued
- 13th November - Y11 PPEs begin
- 23rd November - Y13 Parent's Evening (Virtual)
- 24th November - Y9 autumn reports issued
- 27th November - Y13 PPE's begin
- 01st December - Y8 Autumn reports issued
- 15th December - Y7 & Y12 autumn reports issued
- 15th December - Y13 PPE results issued
- 15th December - Non-Uniform Day
- 19th December - Y11 PPE results issued
- 21st December - Christmas Mass
- 22nd December - Break up for Christmas - Christmas Jumper Day