



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

" Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them." Matthew 18:20.

Friday, 08 September 2023

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

Welcome back to a new academic year. I do hope that everyone had a lovely summer and managed to find time with family and friends, and perhaps a holiday too.

It is good to be back, and it has been wonderful to welcome all the students over the course of the last 3 days. I had the privilege of taking assemblies for Years 7 to 11 on our return and this was an opportunity to challenge each and everyone of them, to bring their best self this year each and every day. This challenge is at the heart of our mission statement, but it is something that should not be just a mantra, recited every day, but something that we try to constantly live out. That is the challenge for every member of the Hagley community this and every year.



New Year 7

Of course, a significant part of this week was about welcoming our new Year 7 students and ensuring that they settle in well at what is always an exciting but also nervy time for everyone. But as I said to the Year 7 in their assembly on Wednesday, nerves are good thing because they demonstrate that we care and that something is important to us.

An additional welcome to our new Year 7 parents and carers who are receiving this letter for the first time. I hope that your own nerves and trepidation has tempered throughout the week. Year 7 have settled into school life wonderfully well and already we are seeing the value they will bring to our Hagley family.

Free School Meals

Please be aware that your child may qualify for additional support through the Free School Meal scheme and regardless of which area/authority you live in you can apply for this scheme via this link: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals

Please remember that if you do qualify but your child does not want the free meal it is important you still apply, as additional funding comes into school to help us provide a better education for your child and all Hagley students.

Students in receipt of free school meals can also apply to school for financial support through our Pupil Premium Promise and you can find more details about this promise and the support we can offer at this link: [Hagley Catholic High School - Pupil Premium & Free School Meals \(hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk\)](http://Hagley Catholic High School - Pupil Premium & Free School Meals (hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk))

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Principal: Mr J Hodgson

Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

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Uniform, standards and expectations

High standards of uniform and expectations has always been central to running a calm, ordered and safe school, where members of our family can come together unified by a common identity and set of expectations for all.

Of course, the unusually hot weather for the time of year has come as a shock but regardless uniform in the main has been exemplary and we have made reasonable adjustments to accommodate this.

However, from Monday when the temperatures will return to somewhere closer to normal we expect everyone to be in full uniform for the Autumn Term and this includes girls being in tights and not socks.

In addition, can I take this opportunity to remind everyone about some core uniform expectations for Year 7 to 11:

1. Girls skirts **must** not be rolled at the waistband but worn at all times as designed.
2. Piercings **can only be** worn in the ear, with a maximum of one small (4mm) plain stud in each lobe. Other facials piercings **must** be removed and **cannot** be concealed by plasters, **this is not negotiable**.
3. School shoes **must** be black leather shoes and **not** trainer type shoes with sports branding.

Thank you in advance with your support with this.

Open Day

Today we have launched our Open Morning for admissions in 2024 and the flyer below is now on our website, social media and has been sent out to all feeder primaries. If you know anyone interested in a Year 7 place for September 2024, please do let them know.

Called as God's family, we strive to achieve our personal best, by living and learning in Christ.

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OPEN MORNING

Saturday 7th October 2023
9:00am-12:30pm

We will be offering personal tours of the school site, an opportunity to hear from the Principal and staff, try out some of our facilities and discover the wonderful education that is awaiting you and your child, as part of the Hagley family.

EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PRE-BOOK A PERSONAL TOUR VIA EVENTBRITE

This is your personal invitation to join us at Hagley Catholic High School for our annual Open Morning on **SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2023** from 9:00am to 12:30pm

Hagley is a Catholic school, totally universal in its approach, with the very highest levels of academic achievement, behaviour, progress and pastoral care.

Hagley Catholic High School is part of Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company, a family of 10 schools.

Set in the village of Hagley adjacent to the train station with excellent transport links through Dudley, Sandwell, Birmingham and Worcestershire.

We encourage applications from students of all faiths and backgrounds.

Why not make joining the Hagley family your choice for the next exciting stage of your educational journey

Ofsted Good Provider

More details can be found at www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk/admissions

Transport (Buses)

Thandi buses have asked me to inform families that bus passes will be with us to distribute early next week. Students without their pass, once disseminated, will not be allowed to travel on the buses. The deadline for purchasing a pass for your child(ren) was 28th August 2023 and any passes purchased after this date cannot be guaranteed. The HC2 and HC4 routes have seen the greatest demand and no more tickets will be sold for these routes. We anticipate having to support Thandi in contacting some families to request moving to another route to maximise the use of the available capacity. Please also be aware that both the HC2 and HC4 do have a license for standing but Thandi are working to ensure everyone has an allocated seat.

Education Sunday

This Sunday is Education Sunday and churches across the Diocese and country will be praying for our schools. The Rt Reverence Bishop Marcus Stock, Chairman of the Catholic Education Service has written to all schools, and I have shared his letter at the end of mine.

I have also included the adjacent Education Prayer. If you are not able to attend Mass this Sunday then please do find some time to offer this prayer for Hagley and all schools in Emmaus MAC and across the Diocese, Country and the world.

At Hagley a key part of our Catholic Life and mission is to ensure that every encounter with one another is an opportunity to meet Christ in each other and accompany one another on our journey, as Christ did on the road to Emmaus.

All students and staff have been reminded about this over the course of our first week and will strive to live this out. As members of our family too I hope you can also find opportunities to encounter Christ in yourself and each other and accompany us and your child on the road of education.

Summer Exam results

I am delighted to be able to report some amazing outcomes from our exam years over the summer. Year 13 received their A Level and L3 vocational results on 17 August 2023 and it was great to be able to see so many students celebrating their superb outcomes and hear about the next steps in their educational or employment futures. Every single Year 13 student was able to secure a pathway of choice beyond Hagley, whether that was university, a higher level apprenticeship, employment or a gap year with university secured for September 2024. This is true testament to their hard work but also the provision and dedication of the specialist Hagley staff.

On Thursday 24 August Year 11 students received their GCSE and L1/2 vocational results. There was a fabulous atmosphere and buzz in school that morning as the relief and excitement overwhelmed each and every one of them. With GCSE assessments returning to the rigour of the pre-pandemic years this was a challenge that Hagley students rose to, and outcomes are in line with the excellent results we achieved in 2019 and place Hagley in the top 3 schools in Worcestershire for 6 out of the 10 most significant measures, and top 5 for all 10. This is once again testament to everyone; students, parents and school staff.

Finally please be aware of some forthcoming events that are listed at the end of this letter and watch out for additional communications from us inviting you to these.

Wishing you all every blessing and a wonderful weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hodgson
Principal



Dear Lord,

Thank you for the gift of Catholic schools.

Thank you for all those who have given their talents to educating our young people. Through the challenges they encounter each day, lead them to an ever deeper appreciation of the sacred duty to which you have called them.

Thank you for all those who contribute to the efficient running of our schools: support staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, governors and chaplains. We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you for all those who lead our Catholic schools. May they be people of integrity so that they can be witnesses as well as teachers. We pray that the schools they lead will become places where our young people can experience your love in their lives.

Thank you for our pupils. May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them. We pray that through their time at school they will flourish and grow to discover who you have called them to be.

We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord,
Amen.

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items

Autumn 1:

- School Photos: Y7, 9, 11 & 12 12 Sept
- Y12 Info Evening 13 September @ 6pm
- Y11 Info evening 20 September @ 6pm
- Y7 Parents Evening 04 October 4.15pm to 7pm (Tutors only)
- Teacher Training Day 06 October (School closed to all students)
- Open Morning 07 October
- Sixth Form Open Evening 25 October @ 6pm
- Break up for half term 26 October



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, the 10th September, marks the 175th celebration of Education Sunday for the Church in England and Wales.

Education Sunday, at the start of the new academic year, offers us an opportunity to pray to Almighty God for all people involved in Catholic education, to celebrate the achievements of the past and to ask Our Lord to bless the work of the year ahead.

The resources for Education Sunday this year focus on the promise given by Jesus in St Matthew's Gospel:

Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.

Matthew 18:20

As you gather today in your schools and universities, you can take these words to heart, for our Lord Jesus Christ always keeps His promise. You are gathered together in His name and He is with you as you work, learn, pray, grow and live out your mission.

The great desire of Jesus is to be with us and to invite us to enter into a personal relationship with Him, a relationship of love. When a person knows they are truly loved, a new confidence abounds.

St John Bosco, the great patron saint of young people and of education, once said: "Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them."

The mission of our Catholic schools, colleges and universities is to provide a holistic education which enables the lives of children and young people to flourish and for them to be formed into the men and women that God the Father has created them to be.

May our Catholic schools, colleges and universities always be places where children and young people discover that they are known and loved by the Lord in their uniqueness.

May they be able to look back and recognise that our Lord Jesus Christ was present to them throughout their education.

May the gift of faith inspire them, the gift of hope encourage them, and the gift of love sustain them as they strive to live out their unique mission in the world.

When young people leave our institutions, with Christ at their centre, may they do so with stronger faith and greater confidence, to share the love that they have received with others, in whatever vocation or work they undertake.



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We owe much gratitude to all those who, over the past 175 years, have governed, led, taught and supported the children and young people in our Catholic schools, colleges and universities, and who have created the environments and opportunities for a loving encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ.

On this 175th Education Sunday, as we gather in the name of the Lord Jesus and have confidence that He is with us as He promised, let us give thanks to Almighty God for all the ways He has been present to us amidst the joys and sorrows of our life. Let us invite Him to be with us over the coming academic year.

I remain, yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

+ Marcus

The Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds
Chairman of the Catholic Education Service