



HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Website: www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk

Principal: Mr J Hodgson



Archdiocese of Birmingham

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this." Thessalonians 5:16-18

8 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and students

What a week, and a start to the new year, it has been for us all! I do hope that everyone in your family is well and that the topsy turvy nature of this last week has not unsettled you too much.

Might I also start by thanking you for your support, understanding and patience, but also for the numerous kind messages of support we have received this week as we moved into another national lockdown of schools, and a move to remote education.

This week as a Catholic community we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany. The gifts that the Magi (three Wise Men) brought to the Holy Family are a reminder to us all, of the gifts God blesses us with, and we will all need to pull on the gifts of patience, resilience, strength, generosity of spirit, kindness and many more over the coming days, weeks and months, sure in the knowledge that *"all things are possible with God"*.

The liturgical season of Christmas comes to an end this Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This Sunday we are reminded of the second manifestation of the Lord, of God incarnate (made flesh), and in Jesus' baptism the Lord shows his humility and dedicates himself to the redemption of humanity.

Examinations 2021

On Wednesday, the Education Secretary announced the cancellation of examinations this summer, and I have written to all students, and their parents/carers regarding this. Despite this announcement the process of education, learning and knowledge development continues and will be critical in the weeks ahead when, hopefully, clear and specific guidance is given for the awarding of qualifications this summer. Please do keep all out Year 11, 12 and 13 students in your prayers.

Year 11 Parents Evening

Next Thursday we are holding our rearranged virtual Year 11 Parents Evening via online appointments and video meetings through student's Teams accounts. Specific details will come out to Year 11 parents/carers and students on Monday about the process, purpose and content of the appointment.

Online Learning

Since Tuesday, our online lessons have kicked in apace and I am delighted that we (unlike so many other schools) are able to offer full face to face teaching and contact for all our students. Engagement and behaviour from students has been excellent also, so a huge well done to them/you.

A reminder that our remote provision will take up one of these forms:

- a live lesson in teams for 60 minutes.
- a pre-recorded PowerPoint with associated learning tasks.
- some introductory teaching followed by a set of independent tasks with a set of resources to work through.

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As always, the member of staff will be available for the full duration for the 60 minutes, even if not live, through the chat or call functions in the lesson. The only time any of this might not be the case is if a teacher is ill, at which point work will be uploaded to Teams for the lesson, but the teacher will not be available.

Please also note that while the contact/lesson is 60 minutes, additional associated work/homework will also be set.

Increasing Data Allowances on Mobile Devices to Support Disadvantaged Children

To support disadvantaged families the Government has released a scheme to increase data allowances on mobile devices.

Schools can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home.
- cannot afford additional data for their devices.
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit: Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile, O2, with other providers potentially joining the scheme.

We can make this request on your behalf and would need you to complete the form in this [link](#) to do so.

Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing

We have now set up an operational Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing Centre in school, and yesterday began the process of testing staff.

Prior to the lockdown plans were afoot to offer testing to those students returning next week but with the changes this is on hold. However, we anticipate that when school does reopen to more students the expectation from Government and Public Health will be to move forward with such testing. Consequently details have gone out today to all families (we sent them to Year 12 and 13 earlier in the week) about Lateral Flow Testing, with a link to the online consent form which you can also find [here](#).

We will test staff, with consent, routinely from now on but vulnerable and critical worker children, with supplied consent, will join our testing programme from next week. Please be reassured that testing is only done with consent from parents/carers of students in years 7 to 11, while Sixth Formers can give their own consent.

Sixth Form Applications 2021

For students in Year 11, and any external candidates that you might know, Sixth Form applications remain open through our website, <https://www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk/Page/Detail/admissions-and-applications>.

Any Year 11 students who submitted applications on or around 17th December 2020 should check with Mrs Elcock (selcock@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk) to ensure it was received, as the IT shutdown may have affected this. If students have applied, a confirmation of receipt email will be sent to students from Mrs Elcock.

Birmingham University Masterclasses

The annual Masterclass Programme for Years 10 - 13 is back and now taking bookings! These hour-long sessions will be hosted by experts in their field at the University of Birmingham and will cover a wide

range of subject areas. The programme is designed to enrich the learning of your students from Year 10 to 13 and will start on 18 January 2021.

Due to the ongoing health and safety concerns with the COVID pandemic, all masterclasses this academic year will be delivered virtually.

Designed to provide students with insights into what it is like to study at a selective university, the masterclasses cover a wide selection of subjects including:

* Medicine, English Literature, Dentistry, Academic Writing, Politics, Art History, Maths.

More information and registration for these masterclasses can be found at this link: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/teachers/year-12/masterclasses.aspx>

Finally, it leaves me to wish you all well, stay safe and do keep in touch if we can support you further with anything.

With every good wish, prayer and blessing.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hodgson

Principal

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