

"For God gave us a spirit, not of fear but of power and love and self control" 2 Timothy 1:7

5 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and students

It is nice to sit here and write to you all today with a small sense of spring in the air. The fresh and cool air, daffodil shoots showing and evenings just that little bit lighter is the perfect tonic to end the week.

Such small things are so important to give us the lift that we all need at the moment, and it is worth remembering that such small things can lead to so much more. I was reminded of this when I shared this image with the staff today that however tough what's in front of us might seem we can always see one small step, and if we can't there is someone to guide us.

This was so relevant this week as our community of students were able to engage in a number of events to raise awareness about mental health and we joined in Place2Be National Mental Health Week and students across a number of years took part in the Now and Beyond Festival.



Students in Year 7 and 8 joined a webinar on Mental Health and Well Being from the Peer Education Project, Year 10 were engaged with the Generation R Resilience Programme and Year 11 joined a webinar on "Being at your best more often" with Lane 4 and Behind Every Kick.

The student feedback on the opportunity to take some time out from their online learning and have some time to explore issues around mental health and wellbeing has been overwhelming, and a huge thanks goes to Ms Hackett (Assistant Principal, DSL and Mental Health Champion) for organising this event.

In addition, a group of staff were involved in an assembly on Tuesday talking about their own mental health and ways they manage it with some tips for everyone to manage theirs. You can watch this assembly via our You Tube channel at <https://youtu.be/NYFjP6ggT2M>.

National Apprenticeship Week – 8th to 12th February 2021

Next week is National Apprenticeships Week and as part of our commitment to a careers education for every student we are inviting all students to join the NAW Big Assembly that is live on Tuesday 9th February at 11.10am. This means that all students will be expected to join this event online and there will be no timetabled lesson. A link to the event will be sent out to students via email and Teams, and thanks to Mrs Smith (HCHS Careers Advisor) for leading on this. A follow up survey will come out to students to measure their engagement and its impact.

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Our journey with Christ



In addition to this event for students there is also a Parent's Beginners Guide to apprenticeships taking place on Monday 8th February 2021 at 6pm and parents/carers can register to attend at:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-awareness-for-parents-registration-138457212249>.

Finally, there is a number of additional activities that students can get involved in to explore the opportunities available through apprenticeships at:
https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2021/01/Events-Listing_V1-1.pdf

Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

This is my first letter since the formation of Emmaus Catholic MAC that Mrs Horan wrote to you about on Monday. This is an exciting time to be part of a growing family of Catholic schools committed to excellent Catholic education for all, committed to "Our Journey with Christ" and through collaboration "nourishing faith, nurturing talent and fostering aspiration".

Parents Evenings and School Events

Last night we held our third virtual Parents Evening with parents, carers and students of Year 8. Once again it was an extremely successful evening and thank you for your engagement and for the many complimentary messages we have had on the back of it.

Next it is the turn to engage with Year 9. Parent's Evening is on Thursday 11th March 2021 and online booking information will come out straight after half term. Before then we will launch the Year 9 Pathways Programme for students to begin the process of choosing the subjects they wish to specialise in at Key Stage 4. Originally an Information Evening for this was planned for Thursday 25th February 2021, but as we are unable to run this, we will provide a virtual pathways process for you and everything you need will be launched by Friday 5th March 2021.

Sixth Form Information Evening

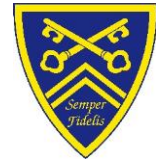
Next week we are holding a Sixth Form Information Evening live via You Tube, which is open to anyone to attend online to find out more about our wonderful Sixth Form offer and the exciting developments ahead. This event is open to Hagley students and students from other schools, so please pass this on. Registering to attend the event can be done [here](#), and the live event accessed at <https://youtu.be/t3OsgdkVIU>.



Future Return to School

Sadly, as yet I have nothing further to report on whether we will be able to return to school on Monday 8th March 2021, but rest assured as soon as I do you will be the first to know. In the meantime, thank you for your continued encouragement of our online learning endeavours, the support for your children's remote learning and the continued prayers, rest assured you are all in ours too.





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Principal: Mr J Hodgson

Finally, it leaves me to wish you all well and I hope you have a lovely weekend.

With every good wish prayer and blessing

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. Hodgson".

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Our journey with Christ



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