



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned..... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Friday, 26 November 2021

Dear parent(s)/carer(s) and students

It hard to believe that Advent is upon us with this Sunday being the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. It's also only three weeks today till we break up for Christmas. Advent is such a lovely time in school and today our Christmas Trees have arrived to be decorated on Monday by our Chaplaincy Teams. Our thanks go to Spa Decorators and Mr Stockford (parent) at Churchill Forest Nurseries who have donated trees for us this year.

The light of the candle, so synonymous with Advent and the birth of Christ is more important than ever. There has been much darkness in recent times and as we light the candle on

our Advent wreath this coming week we will be reminded of the light that Christ is to us but also the light that our young people give too through their daily witness of the Gospel in their thoughts and actions.

It is traditional to hold Mass and a carol service at school in the last week of term. This is calendared for Thursday 16th December at 6pm. However, I am very wary of holding this event with the growing number of COVID cases and unnecessarily disrupting peoples Christmas holiday plans. I shall make a decision in the coming week and advise you accordingly of whether we will continue with it.

Charity

Today we held our first non-uniform day of the year. Thank you to everyone for your support and generosity with this charitable event. The money raised will go to charities of each year groups choosing which are:

Year 7 - British Heart Foundation

Year 8 - Cancer Research

Year 9 - Monies raised will be split between Birmingham Children's Hospital and MIND

Year 10 - Macmillan Cancer Support

Year 11 - NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Sixth Form - Birmingham Children's Hospital

On Friday 10th December we will once again be supporting Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, and everyone is encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper to school (if they have one) and donate £1 to Save the Children UK. Donations in cash or via Parent Pay are welcome.



As we enter Advent this weekend it is also the last week of our appeal for items for the homeless that our Y12 Beatitudes group are collecting to disseminate to the homeless at the end of term. Please, if you can, do send in the following:

Year 7 - Toothbrushes/paste

Year 8 - Baby wipes/sanitiser

Year 9 - Deodorant

Year 10 - Socks/Gloves/Hats

Year 11 - Energy/Chocolate bars, small packs of crackers

Sixth Form - Beverage gift cards (suggested £5) e.g. for Costa, Subway, Greggs

Sporting Success

There has been much to celebrate this past fortnight in the Hagley World of Sport. The Under 13, 14, 15 and 16 girls netball teams are all top of their respect leagues. While the under 14 and 16s also placed 3rd in a National County tournament last weekend.

The Under 14 girls basketball team won their first match of the season against Kinver last night 46 - 32 and the Under 16 boys football team were crowned champions in the District 6 a-side tournament two weeks ago.

Our Under 18 boys football teams also had resounding victories on Wednesday against Old Swinford Hospital School with the A team winning 7-0 and the B team winning 3-2. While on the same night our Under 15 boys placed second in a 6 a-side district tournament.

On 12th November we had a large group of students compete in the Wyre Forest District Cross Country Championships. A huge well done to Abi R who won the Under 16 girls event with Grace C finishing 2nd and Lucy F placing 6th, for an overall first place for the team. The boys also placed well, coming 3rd overall with 4th and 7th place finishes for Gianluca and George L respectively.

Finally, Leo Handy (Y13) is competing in the British Weightlifting Championships on Saturday in Leeds, in the 67kg category. Leo has held the British title on 6 previous occasions, in various age categories, and we wish him well in hopefully repeating this success again.

COVID 19

It would be remiss of me not to continue to mention COVID in my letters. The virus has had a significant impact on us this past fortnight with numerous staff and students being struck down and having to isolate. Fortunately we have been able to procure staff to support us in ensuring lessons can continue but this is not the case in all schools and the demands on supply agency staff is greater than their capacity.

With the situation as it is please do continue to ensure that your child is testing twice a week, at the very minimum, so that we can isolate positive cases quickly and keep them from the school premises.

Arbor/Class Charts

In a previous letter I mentioned that in January we will be moving to a new Management Information System (MIS) called Arbor. This will lead to changes in how we communicate with parent(s)/carer(s) and how you can garner information about your child to include attendance, behaviour, homework, timetables, school communications and reports. In the long term this will completely replace Class Charts and the In-Touch messaging service but in the interim, while we switch systems, Class Charts will remain live for homework and behaviours. However I will be writing to you early in the new year to advise how you can access the

Arbor parent portal so that you can continue to receive the information you require. The new portal also enables parent(s)/carer(s) to update their contact information which should very much help with ensuring we are always up to date with any changes to your circumstances.

Assessment Calendar

Due to the implementation of our new MIS we have had to put the spring assessment and reporting schedule back a week and so reports will come out one week later than previously scheduled in January and February. You can find an updated copy of the reporting schedule on our website [here](#).

PPEs

This last fortnight Year 11 have completed their second round of Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) or mocks in old money. They have been exemplary in their commitment to this process and should be congratulated for this. It will hold them in good stead for future examination windows and we hope that their energy and commitment to this is rewarded when their results are released on 14th December. Next week Year 13 begin their PPEs, and we wish them all the very best of luck with them.

Please note the third round of PPEs will be in February/March.

Winter Music Concert

Last night we held our first music concert since the Autumn of 2019. It was wonderful to come together and celebrate the musical talent at Hagley with over 50 students performing a range of songs and music pieces from our Hagley Singers, Chamber Group, Keyboard group, Jazz band, Y7 band, and much more. A public thank you goes to Mr Mallinson (Head of Music) and all his dept and team who put on such events and dedicate hours of extracurricular provision and support to nurture the children's talent and love of music.

Tom Bennett

We are continually striving for improvement at Hagley and determined not to rest on our laurels and always strive to be better each and every day. One of our key foci this year has been developing our POWERful culture of learning and behaviour, raising the standards in and out of the classroom and aspiring to be the very best we can in all things. This week we were privileged that Tom Bennett, Lead Advisor to the Department of Education, joined us once again. Tom has been a great support to Hagley since we first invited him to join us on a regular basis back in the Spring and this is his third visit to Hagley in the last 6 months. It is always great to have his feedback and validation of the work we are doing.

Vacancies

Please be aware that we currently have vacancies available to come and work at Hagley as part of the Emmaus Multi Academy Company. Posts are currently advertised for a Site Manager, Principal's PA, Attendance Officer and Teacher of Maths and you can find more information about these posts at <https://www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk/Page/Detail/vacancies>

New staff and departures

Mrs Barrett has finished today to commence maternity leave and she goes with our best wishes for the arrival of baby no. 2. We welcome Mrs Hill (Teacher of English) who joins as maternity cover. This week Mrs Hazel (receptionist) also joined the family, and we welcome her to our front of house administration team.

Uniform, Buses and Trains

High standards are an important part of driving a culture of excellence and this has always been so at Hagley. These standards can sometimes drop when it comes to uniform and behaviour on school and public transport. Please do re-familiarise yourselves with the [uniform expectations](#) on the website and support us

in ensuring your child meets these. Please could you also reinforce with your child the expected behaviours that you, and we, have of them when travelling to and from school, especially being courteous to others on the trains, waiting for passengers to alight before they get on and behaving in a way they would if you, or I, were sat with them.

As ever I do hope you and all your family have a lovely weekend and don't get caught out in the Black Friday weekend madness.

With every good wish, prayer and blessing.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hodgson

Principal

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Forthcoming Events and Calendared items:

- Y13 PPEs 29.11.21
- Christmas Jumper Day 10.12.21
- Christmas Mass and Carols 16.12.21