

"Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." Matthew 24:37-44

Friday, 28 November 2025

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

Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope and Reverse Advent Appeal as "Pilgrims of Hope with kind hearts and a hunger for justice"

Last Friday morning, we were privileged to join Catholic schools across the Diocese for the live-streamed celebration marking the Jubilee Year of Hope. A Jubilee Year, which occurs every 25 years, is a special time for prayer, reflection, and renewal.

Throughout this year, our school community has embraced this spirit through meaningful activities, including our Pilgrimage Walk in July and the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have already collected over 500 items and Advent hasn't even begun!

Items for the Homeless in Birmingham need to be brought in by Monday 8th December while items for Fr Hudson's Care need to be brought in by Wednesday 17th December. You are welcome to send in items from other Year Groups if you prefer. Some students have asked if they can donate money so we have set up a Reverse Advent Calendar link on Arbor and we will use the money to buy items for your child's year group.

Thank you for continuing to make a difference in the lives of others through your kindness and compassion.

A reminder that donations for each year are:

- Year 7 Hats, gloves, scarves and socks
- Year 8 Soap, Shower Gel and Shampoo
- Year 9 Baby wipes and Deodorant
- Year 10 Oral hygiene e.g. Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Year 11 Chocolate / breakfast bars (no nuts)
- Sixth Form Tinned Food and Sanitary Products



The live-stream celebration reminded us of the importance of putting our faith into action, grounded in the belief that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and deserves love and care. After the service, a Year 7 focus group reflected on this message, sharing how they understood the significance of donating food, toiletries, and clothing to support those experiencing poverty, homelessness, and seeking asylum.

They understand that being Pilgrims of Hope means:

- "to put God at the centre of everything we do."
- "to give hope to others, by showing that there is always someone who cares for you."
- "I can have an impact not just thinking about my myself but also help others in need."

Hagley Catholic High School
Brake Lane, Hagley,
Worcestershire, DY8 2XL

Tel: 01562 883 193
www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk
Principal: Mr J Hodgson

Year 7 Update from Mrs Imrie

It has been another busy fortnight for Year 7, with once again their efforts being rewarded with a truly fantastic 26,582 collectively. 14 Year 7s have now individually amassed 200 or more house points with many hot on their heels. However, it is important to note that 85 students have not received any behaviour points and almost 40 have only gained 1!

We continue to celebrate Year 7 success and although 7 Gregory, and Mr Bayliffe, remain the top Form Group with the most weekly house points, we were all amazed at line-up that 7 Chad, and Mrs Treacy, were only 40 behind! Let's see how Monday's announcement at line up goes!

In Assembly this week we celebrated the successes of some of Year 7s out of school. Huge thanks to parents and carers for responding to my call to wow us with their achievements. This week we celebrated the following:

Sophie Parsons - A couple of weeks ago, after auditioning back in June, was one of only 22 children to perform a medley of Madness songs from the musical 'Our House' at London's West End, Shaftesbury Theatre.

Brooke Harris - receiving her 7 years participation award at a local Stagecoach Theatre Company.

Mikey Mayson - for being re-selected for Birmingham City FC U12s and starting his day release education programme today.

Flynn McGuinness, Olivia Rooke, Grace Green and Flo Lloyd - all performed both in groups and individually at the Midlands Irish Dancing Competition last weekend, placing some amazing podium rankings between them.

Annie Morton - for overcoming a broken foot in a dance competition less than 6 months ago to now being awarded Dancer of the Year.

Robyn Mauger - along with her fellow 'A Christmas Carol' cast being on BBC Hereford & Worcester this week BEFORE school.



Last week Year 7 competed in the Inter-house Indoor Football Competition. There was much excitement in the days running up to this and it was a great atmosphere. Although 7 Kenelm thought they had run away with it, Mr Connell announced the unusual results... Anselm, Bede and Kenelm all tied on 11 points. So, it went to goal difference... all having 5! Therefore, all three were awarded winners!

Reminder - next Friday we welcome Year 7 to our school disco to raise funds for our Sixth Form pilgrimage to Lourdes. Please book tickets via Arbor.

Year 7 have made a great start to the KS3 Advent Attendance Challenge and despite the huge number of bugs and illness going around we are striving to continue having the most entries into the draw!

Well done also to the Year 7s who all performed in this week's Music Concert, so lovely that so many were keen to perform and represent Hagley, a real testament to how well Year 7 have settled in.

Year 8 News from Mrs Palmer

Four weeks into the half-term, Year 8 have continued to demonstrate focus and determination, maintaining a positive attitude towards their learning. Many students are making noticeable progress across subjects, with increasing confidence and engagement in class activities.

One of the highlights so far was being invited into a Year 8 Biology lesson. The students were eager to share the lungs they had created as part of their science work. Their creativity and enthusiasm were fantastic to see and demonstrated how practical activities can make learning engaging and memorable. It was great to hear them explain their designs and use some very difficult words to tell me what each part was.



Star of the week



Last week the Year 8 form tutors picked a 'Star of the Week' from each tutor group to celebrate students who make our school a better place every day. Six fantastic students were chosen for their commitment and positive attitude, always ready to support others and give their best. We're so proud of them and grateful for the example they set for everyone!

Another amazing achievement is that 107 Year 8 students have not received a single behaviour point since returning after the half-term break. This is a fantastic reflection of their commitment to positive behaviour and the high standards they are setting for themselves.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the PGL residential next year. By Christmas, parents/carers should have paid at least £100 towards the trip. If your child is not currently signed up but would still like to attend, please contact me as soon as possible; we would love to see as many students as possible take part in this fantastic experience.

News from the Computing Department

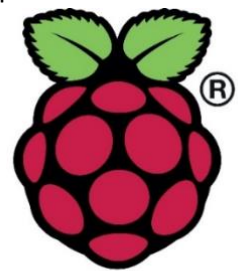


All the computing students have taken part in the annual Bebras Challenge which is run in collaboration with the Raspberry Pi Foundation.

The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to students worldwide. This exciting challenge took place in school. Annually, over 3 million students from more than 80 countries participate!

Each participant had 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills appropriate for their age group. The tasks are designed to allow every student the opportunity to showcase their potential, and every participant receives a certificate.

Certificates and subsequent awards will be available in a few weeks. We look forward to celebrating all levels of success with the students.



Raspberry Pi

Criminology

Many subjects have been offering the current Year 11 students the opportunity to experience extra-curricular experiences so they can experience a taste of life at Hagley Sixth form. This week the Criminology department arranged for a Criminologist from Oxford Brookes University, Peter Harris, to deliver a seminar to both Year 11 and our current Sixth Form students. During the session, students explored the crimes committed by Jeffrey Dahmer, and they gained an understanding of the many reasons behind his criminality. Both students and staff found the talk extremely insightful.

There are many opportunities also being offered by other departments across the school. It would be great to see more year 11 pupils attend these sessions being offered.

Enrichment at Hagley with a “Thirst for knowledge”

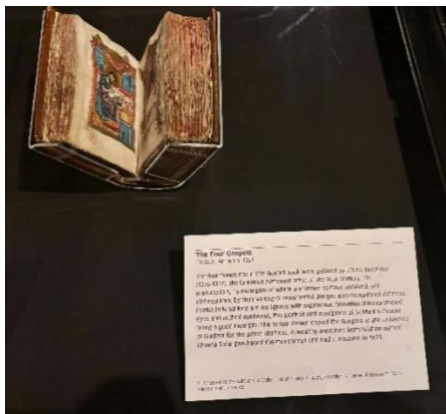
British Library Trip



On Tuesday 18th November, Miss Arnott, Ms Harkness and I took 24 of our highest achieving and most enthusiastic Year 11 English students to the British Library in London for the day, to see if we could tempt them into opting for A Level English Language or Literature next year. While we were there, we attended two A Level style workshops called ‘Exploring Black British Literature’ and ‘Sounds Familiar: Exploring Speech, Accent and Dialect’.



Both sessions were really informative; students left with a huge list of Black British-authored novels for their “To Be Read” pile, and a greater understanding of how much accent and dialect can change depending on where we live. Some heated discussions were held over whether it should be pronounced ‘bAHth’ or ‘bath’, and whether PE shoes should be called pumps or plimsolls!



During our lunch break, we also got to explore the library’s Treasures Gallery, and saw original versions of the Magna Carta, letters written by Jane Austen, Henry VIII’s Bible, and many other fascinating pieces of literary history.

The students’ behaviour was exemplary, and they had a fantastic time. I would like to take this time to thank them and their parents for getting them to school at the very early hour of 6:30am, and to Miss Arnott & Ms Harkness for their support with running the trip and giving up so much of their own time.

Bletchley Park Trip

The Mathematics Department chaperoned a wonderful trip to Bletchley Park with 50 Year 11 and Sixth Form students, who were an absolute credit to the school. They thoroughly enjoyed a guided tour and an engaging workshop where they explored the complexities of the Enigma machine and even had the chance to take photos with it.

The visit highlighted the vital role mathematicians at Bletchley Park played in cracking enemy codes, helping to shorten World War II. It also showcased the



significant contribution women made during the Second World War, with around 75% of Bletchley’s workforce being female.

Students also gained insight into how the groundbreaking work at Bletchley paved the way for the development of GCHQ and the modern applications of mathematics in cryptography and cybersecurity.

Year 12 Debate Team news

Last week saw a successful win for our year 12 debate team. We took 7 students to the event, and the 3 debaters (Mollie Harris, Adrian Piekarski and Alex Kelly) were exceptionally persuasive in their arguments to ban long haul flights. The team and their supporters have worked hard to plan and perform this debate, and it paid off when they won this initial round and are now through to the next round of the prestigious MACE debates in January.

Winter Music Concert 2025

On Wednesday 26th November, the Theatre was buzzing with anticipation for the Winter Music concert. Performers ranged from Year 7 up to the Sixth Form, with many of them performing in front of an audience for the first time.

The proceedings opened with the Keyboard Group playing a rendition of Michael Jackson's "Beat it" and the synth classic "Popcorn". The Year 7 band performed some "Taylor Swift" and "Bon Jovi", whilst the Irish band treated us to a couple of classic Irish songs including "Whiskey in the Jar". The Drum Group got everybody involved in their two pieces whilst Mr Smith's Beginner Guitars gave a tremendous performance for those students only learning an instrument for a few weeks. This was then balanced by the more advanced Guitar Heroes and the Year 11 band, Blackridge who performed pieces by "Lynyrd Skynyrd" and "Boston".



A number of our individual bands also performed: The Year 11 band, Limitless played some Mika, The Year 8 band performed some Oasis, whilst another Year 8 band, Headshot performed some Nirvana with some last-minute help from Bass player Zak and Vocalist Isaac, when their own band members were too ill to make the show. Another Year 11 band, Revival, put their stamp on the Tina Turner hit, "Simply the Best" whilst the Soul Band rounded off the evening with a superb version of "In the Midnight Hour" and "Sir Duke".

The Music team were proud and delighted with all the students who were involved, and we hope to encourage even more players in the Spring term.



Netball Round-Up

We are halfway through the netball season for Years 7-10 and all teams are doing extremely well so far, while Year 11's netball season is nearing the end.

Year 11 have won the Dudley South league and are through to a play-off final against Dormston (to be played before Xmas so I'll keep you updated).

They also placed second in their tournament losing out by one goal to Leasowes.



House Points

Anselm	15,716
Wulstan	15,715
Gregory	15,491
Kenelm	15,461
Chad	15,372
Bede	14,639

Our House Point drive continues and it's tight at the top now. Anselm remain at the top, while Gregory have had a surge and are up to third.

Please do continue to check your child's House Point log in Arbor so you can praise them too.

Attendance Matters from Mrs Palmer

Good attendance is key to success, and every day in school really matters for learning, confidence and friendships. We know there have been lots of illnesses recently, but please send your child whenever they're well enough. To keep things positive, Key Stage 3 students are taking part in our Advent Attendance Challenge; every day they attend earns them a ticket for an end-of-term prize draw, so the more days they're in, the more chances they have to win! Year 10 students and families, look out for details of the Attendance Reward, which will be emailed to parents/carers in the next day or two.

Safeguarding Travel: an important message from Ms Hackett, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Where train travel is likely, please ensure you have 61016 stored under BTP (British Transport Police) in you're your phone. Text messages sent to this number will alert the British Transport Police if a train passenger feels threatened, intimidated, or wants to report an incident. BTP have realised that young people may not be willing to make phone calls but are very adept at texting.

Christmas Jumper Day with "kind hearts"

On Friday 12th December students may wear a Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform. We ask that students make a donation by bringing in cash on the day or parents/carers can donate through

Arbor shop. Your donation will go towards supporting the Mizen Foundation, [Mizen Foundation – Forgiveness Peace & Hope](#), inspiring a revolution of forgiveness, peace and hope across the UK.



In-year capacity

A reminder that we still have some in-year capacity in Year 10, so if you know anyone looking to change schools or who has recently moved to our wide catchment area, please do let them know and point them in the direction of our admission page on the website,

<https://www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk/Page/Detail/admissions>

There is just so much going on at school, far behind the wonderful academic progress that children are making, and I hope you have enjoyed seeing a sample of it in today's letter. This week it was my pleasure to join Year 9 lessons throughout the week and every Year 10 student in science today and witness the fabulous, focus, participation and engagement in learning. I am looking forward to visiting Year 8 next week.

Finally, with three weeks to go till Christmas please do make every effort to send students in everyday they are more resilient than we sometimes give them credit for, even when the bugs are knocking about.

Please also note that when we break up on Friday 19th December 2025 we will do so at **1.50pm**. School buses will run at this time with trains expected around 2pm.

Wishing you all every blessing and a lovely weekend, and a warm welcome to the Season of Advent which commences on Sunday.

Yours sincerely

J Hodgson
Principal

Key dates for Autumn Term 2

05.12.2025	Year 7 Lourdes Fundraising Disco
09.12.2025	Y11 PPE results issued
11.12.2025	Y11 Parents Evening
12.12.2025	Voice Meeting
17.12.2025	Christmas Mass and Carols
19.12.2025	Break up for Christmas