



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS



"So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law." Matthew 7:12

Friday, 14 March 2025

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

What a blessing this last week or so has been as Spring appears to have arrived in full force. I am sure everyone is enjoying the brighter, and longer days.

Students in Year 12 were living examples of this week's bible quote. When on Wednesday the 6th Form Beatituders brought a wonderful sense of Spring, gratitude and hope to our school community, as Theresa writes;

"This week members of the Year 12 Beatituders took daffodils around the school site to members of staff as a symbol of gratitude for all their hard work. In a job often unappreciated or overlooked, it was important to value all they do for us. This was a truly brilliant opportunity during such a significant Jubilee Year of Hope, as Hope that they will continue in all they do and be blessed by the Holy Spirit."

I wasn't in school on Wednesday afternoon when they were delivered, but it was lovely to arrive home at the end of the day to receive mine (courtesy of Mrs Hodgson) alongside one of my favourite Bible quotes.

It's these acts of kindness that make Hagley such a special place to go to school and work.

With Lent now in full swing Stations of the Cross have commenced around the school site. All 14 stations are set up around the school and Year 7 RE groups have this week begun walking the stations in prayer and reflection alongside Mr Thomas and their RE teacher.

In this time of Lent, I would also ask you to focus your prayers on our wider community and family as today a former student, who only recently left, is laid to rest having tragically lost his life.

"Eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace."

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CAFOD

CAFOD have set up an online calendar for Lent that offers daily scripture, reflection and prayer. I've been trying to post some of it on our Facebook page and with the staff daily, but you might be interested to look at it via this link: [Lent calendar with daily prayers and reflection](#)

Here was yesterday's;

"So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law." Matthew 7:12

The final words of today's gospel reading (Wednesday 12th) remind us to treat others as we would wish to be treated. We know that this is what is expected of us, and that if we were all able to follow this simple instruction, the world would be a much better place. Yet still we struggle.

It is easy to get waylaid, to put our own desires above their impact on others. We behave thoughtlessly, or even deliberately, towards others in a way that can cause great pain.

Knowing that God is always there to hear us and to help us when we struggle, we seek forgiveness today for the times we have forgotten to treat others as we should. We pledge anew to support and share with one another.

We are also reminded, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." So perhaps we can ask God today to strengthen in us the desire to treat others fairly, with compassion and kindness.



Generous God,
show us how to live together
with solidarity, love
and inner harmony,
so that this world may become a place
where all your people might flourish.
Amen.

Ofsted

As you well know last week we were inspected by Ofsted, and we await their report. The inspection was a Section 8 inspection and so the school won't be graded. As soon as the report is published, I shall be sure to share a copy with you. I wanted to thank the 140+ families who took the time to complete the Ofsted Parent view survey, in quick time, in a very small window of opportunity, plus the countless number of students who spoke to inspectors over the two days.

Curriculum Opportunities

The Computing Department are excited to be involved in an industry partnership with Flip Computing this term. Flip Computing create learning experiences for Tech Ed companies and publishers around the world. They have created a brand new 3D creation tool called Flock XR.



Rebecca from Flip Computing has been delivering lessons to some of our year 7 groups. The lessons are giving learners an introduction to creating 3D worlds and they will also learn the programming concepts from the national curriculum in a fun and engaging way. We look forward to developing this relationship with Flip Computing and Rebecca.

Y12 Young Enterprise

We're excited to share that the students of "Hagley Vintage" have been working hard to upcycle their clothing collection for their upcoming stall on Worcester High Street, outside Guildhall from 10.00am - 3.00pm tomorrow, Saturday 15th March.

Please show your support for their sustainable fashion initiative by following them on TikTok

(@Hagley Vintage) and on Instagram ([@hagleyvintage](#)). Don't miss out on the chance to shop their unique vintage style and if you are in and around Worcester tomorrow, please do support them.

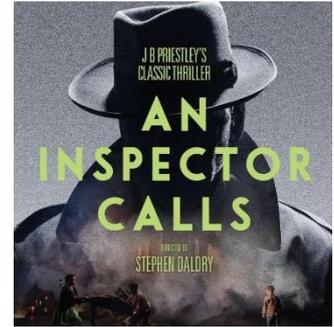


Enrichment and Student Successes

Theatre Visits for Years 7, 10 & 11

In the last fortnight, we have visited the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre twice, last week with Year 10 and 11 to watch a production of *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley (a GCSE set text), and this week to see *War Horse* based on the book by Michael Morpurgo (the Year 7 form reader).

Last week we marvelled at the sight of the Birlings' house collapsing on stage as their world view collapsed around them, and this week Mrs Barrett (and lots of the students!) shed a tear over the demise of a puppet horse. Going to the theatre is truly a magical experience and it was an absolute honour to take some of our students to their first ever live performance.



Both sets of students behaved in an exemplary manner, and both groups were complimented by the theatre staff and members of the public for their exceptional manners and courtesy. They made me proud to be a teacher at Hagley and made the trips an absolute joy to run. *E Barrett (Head of English)*

Year 7 War Horse Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 1, along with 59 other Year 7 students, had the great pleasure of seeing *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

War horse is set during World War One. It is a touching tale of a horse and his owner being forced to separate and hoping to find each other against all odds.

The actors were amazing, keeping the energy up throughout the performance and showing emotion so convincing I felt like I was witnessing a real World War One tale in the present. And the props...Wow! Originally, I was expecting a pantomime horse but instead I am greeted by magnificent Puppets made by the fantastic South African Handspring Puppet Company, which really brought the whole story to life.



The staging was brilliant. I have never seen a stage set up like *War Horse* was before. Hanging above the stage was a piece of canvas shaped like a scrap of paper which, throughout the play would show pencil sketches which served as a backdrop and turned a stage into a village, an auction, a cavalry charge. This backdrop was brilliant and tied in perfectly with the scene. The props and costumes were astonishing, with the soldier costumes and the accompanying props looking exactly like the real thing.

It was very emotional, and I am filled with nothing but praise for the wonderful show I witnessed. Huge shout out to the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre actors for the fantastic show they put on. An even bigger shout out to the teachers for putting up with 60 sugar-filled Year 7s and giving me the fantastic privilege of seeing this show.



Cillian Hopkins, 7W

Year 7 Walk a Mile

On Tuesday morning this week students in Year 7 completed Hagley's annual Walk a Mile event to raise funds for Fr Hudson's Caritas. This event was superbly organised and marshalled by members of the school council "The Voice" and the weather was kind to us too. As I type students have raised to date £854 with our target to raise £1120, equivalent to £1 for every child on roll.



Medical Society



Our Medical Society were delighted to welcome back Dr Ahmed to deliver a workshop on suturing last week. The students thoroughly enjoyed the session, using professional equipment and materials to practice their technique, and learning about how and when different suturing techniques would be used in real life scenarios. Dr Ahmed generously shared his experience and expertise, and was impressed by how diligently our students applied themselves! Future surgeons in the making...you never know!

Sporting success

Stourbridge Volleyball Club Shines with Talent from Hagley Catholic High



The Stourbridge Volleyball Club U18 team (photo left), has a strong representation from Hagley Catholic High School students. Their dedication has led to several players advancing to the Black Country team, which competes in the National Grand Prix.

Notably, the U16 Black Country squad features Tom, Anthony, Josh and Isaac, who have helped secure the team's impressive ranking of 11th in the country. Meanwhile, the U18 Black Country team includes Oliver Rattigan, Tom Barnbrook, and former pupils Tom Leashorne and Sean Mercado.

Head coach Pete Bragg emphasised the crucial role of Hagley Catholic High's curricular and extracurricular programs, stating, "*Without them, there would be no Stourbridge or Black Country volleyball pathway.*" The future looks bright for these talented young athletes!

Last Saturday four of our Year 11 represented the Black Country District Volleyball Team in the West Midlands Regional Grand Prix competition. They played really well and came away in 3rd place taking the bronze medal. This is a great achievement for the boys and the Black Country team and testament to their commitment to their sport and the work they have put in.



Spring Music Concert



On Wednesday 26th March 2025 we will be hosting our annual Spring Music Concert at 6pm in the Theatre. All our music ensembles will be performing pieces that they have rehearsed this term, and it promises to be a fun packed evening as ever.

Tickets can be purchased at £2 via Arbor Pay. Please do come along.

Summer Term Enrichment Week

This year's enrichment week is once again in the first week of July (Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July 2025). By then Year 11 and 13 will have left with their exams long behind them and Year 10 students will be on Work Experience. Activities and day trips for all students in Years 7 to 9 will be on offer and will be launched and advertised next week.

National Youth Strategy - Government survey open until 16 April

The Government is seeking the views of 10 - 21 year olds, and those up to age 25 with SEND, to shape its [National Youth Strategy](#). A [survey](#) as part of its national listening exercise is open until 16th April 2025. Young people are encouraged to share their views on support services, facilities, and opportunities they need "outside the school gates", and it is itself a good opportunity for students themselves to engage with Government services. You can find out more and complete the survey via the hyperlinks in blue.

Stakeholder Feedback

I have mentioned before that one of our new initiatives is to develop a platform for all stakeholders and visitors within our community to offer their feedback on their visit or experience of the school, whether that is a personal one or one of your child's. You can give us some feedback or a review by scanning the QR code or by clicking on this link: [HCHS Stakeholder Feedback Form](#)



Vacancies

Vacancies to teach in our excellent English and RE departments are still open for applications. Closing date is next Tuesday 18th March 2025, and the adverts are online in the TES, E-teach and on our website at this link: [Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy - Vacancies](#)

Please do share these adverts far and wide to anyone who you think might be interested in these two very exciting positions.

 <p>We are recruiting for a Teacher of English with responsibility for Whole School Literacy Required for September 2025 Salary Range: Main Scale/Upper Pay Scale + TLR 2b Hours: Permanent Full-time position</p> <p>Hagley Catholic High School is looking to recruit a teacher of English and whole school literacy lead for the start of the next academic year. It would be desirable that the candidate can teach across all year groups from KS3 to KS5.</p> <p>This is a fabulous opportunity in a very good school. The English Department is very experienced and well qualified. It has a team of ten staff all based in the same block, schemes of learning are well sequenced, and students make excellent progress. Students secure very good GCSE results, 91.1% achieving grades 9-4 in 2024 and 36.3% of students achieving 9-7 grades. The department also secured an excellent value added English score of +0.53, placing it well above the national average. Students achieve well in English at A level and are consistently above national averages, the highest performing subject in terms of progress with value added scores of +0.11 and +0.05 for language/literature in 2024.</p> <p>English is consistently one of the highest performing subjects at Hagley and the successful candidate would quickly become part of a fabulous team with the opportunity to make a big impact.</p> <p>As School Literacy Lead the successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a passion for reading and literacy, and the impact reading fluency and comprehension has on academic progress and lifelong opportunities. They will demonstrate an up-to-date knowledge on the latest research related to literacy development and will have a clarity of vision of how they can develop this area. They would be expected to drive the Literacy Policy and reading culture, lead on interventions for the lowest 20% of readers, track and monitor reading progress and develop new opportunities to take literacy development further.</p> <p>We welcome applications from both Catholics and non-Catholics but respect all employees to support the Catholic ethos and values of the school. If you meet the requirements of the job description and person specification and feel that you make a positive difference to our school, then we can't wait to receive your application.</p> <p><small>Emmaus Catholic MAC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.</small></p> <p><small>All applicants must be able to provide documentation to cover their right to work in the UK.</small></p> <p><small>Effective from September 2025, KS26 states as part of the shortlisting process schools and colleges should consider:</small></p> <p>EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC Our journey with Christ</p> <p>THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM</p> <p>HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SEMPER FIDELIS</p>	 <p>We are recruiting for a Second in Department for Religious Education Required for September 2025 Salary Range: Main Scale/Upper with a TLR 2b Hours: Full time/permanent</p> <p>Hagley Catholic High School is looking to recruit a fulltime teacher of RE. It is essential that the candidate can teach across KS3 and KS4, while teaching at KS5 teaching is desirable but not essential. The RE Department is very well regarded. It has an experienced and established team; schemes of learning are well sequenced, and students make excellent progress.</p> <p>Students secure very good GCSE results, 82.8% achieving 9-4 grades in 2024 and 42.5% of students achieving 9-7 grades. The department also secured an excellent progress score of +0.69 in 2024 and an average grade 6, placing it well above the national average. Students achieve well in Religious Education at A level and are consistently above national averages. Average grade at A level in 2024 was a B-. Recruitment to A level RE is also very good with 10 students in current Year 13 and 12 students in the current Year 12.</p> <p>The department has seven specialist teachers currently. The appointed candidate would be expected to provide a secure specialist knowledge of the RE curriculum, as well as being responsible for the continued promotion of the department and its success. RE is taught to all pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4, plus core RE at KS5. The appointed person would be responsible for leading Key Stage 3 and implementing the new Catholic RE Curriculum Directory. The appointed candidate would teach both KS3 and KS4, with opportunities to teach A level for the right candidate. The school is looking to appoint a committed and conscientious practitioner, with a passion for Religious Education and a desire to add to add further value to the subject and department as second in charge.</p> <p>The school welcomes applications from candidates of all faiths and backgrounds. The successful candidate would be expected to contribute to teaching and developments across the whole department. A commitment to promoting the ethos of the school is also very important.</p> <p><small>Emmaus Catholic MAC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.</small></p> <p><small>All applicants must be able to provide documentation to prove their right to work in the UK.</small></p> <p><small>Effective from September 2025, KS26 states as part of the shortlisting process school and colleges should consider carrying out online searches, as part of the due diligence on shortlisted candidates. This is to determine suitability to work with children and keep them safe. All shortlisted candidates are now subject to an online check and if there is anything concerning, then the shortlisted candidate will be asked to comment on it at interview.</small></p> <p>EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC Our journey with Christ</p> <p>THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM</p> <p>HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SEMPER FIDELIS</p>
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There are also vacancies currently to work for the Archdiocese. The following vacancies are currently being advertised:

- Operations Director

- IT Manager
- Finance Manager
- Gift Aid Officer

Full details and closing dates can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs. If you know of anyone suitable, please do pass on the details and encourage them to apply!

As always, this letter is sent with every good wish, prayer and blessing for a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

J Hodgson

Principal

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items - Spring Term 2:

- 19.03.25 - Y11 Food NEA Day
- 20.03.25 - Y9 Parents Evening
- 24.03.25 - Y9 Pathways Deadline
- 26.03.25 - Music concert rehearsals and performance
- 28.03.25 - Y11 NEA Food Day
- 31.03.25 - Y12 A level Geography Trip
- 02.04.25 - Performing Arts Danced Showcase
- 03.04.25 - Y12 A level Geography Trip
- 08.04.25 - Y8 HPV Vaccinations
- 10.04.25 - Y8 Parents Evening
- 11.04.25 - Break up for Easter