



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS



“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Hebrews 6:19

Friday, 07 February 2025

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

I hope that your fortnight since my last letter has gone well and that you and your families are in good health. This week I have reflected very hard on the devastating events at All Saints Catholic High School, Sheffield and as a community we have prayed for the repose of the soul of Harvey, so tragically stabbed while at school. However, hard our week might have been I cannot imagine how tough it has been for that community. So today I ask that you pray with me for the eternal rest of Harvey Willgoose, that amidst this tragedy, this community might still find hope, a way forward in Christ, light at the end of a dark tunnel, and comfort and hope amongst their community as they pull together as one, supported by the prayers of all of us.



“During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.” Pope Francis

Such events, however tragic, must not destroy our hope though. Only in prayer and united together can we seek to improve the world we live in, and are creating, for our children. As Pilgrims of Hope this year we continue to respond to God’s call for a reset, a renewal of faith and a recommitment to a just world.

Year 7 Briars Residential Retreat



This afternoon we have waved off 70 of our Year 7 on their own pilgrimage to The Briars Youth Retreat Residential Centre in Nottingham. They will have a packed weekend of fun activities but also time to join together in faith, friendship and communion with one another and Christ. We look forward to hearing all about it when they return and are extremely grateful to Mr Thomas, Mrs Winters, Mr Smith, Mrs McCole and Miss Morris for giving up their weekend to run this trip.

Stakeholder Feedback

One of our new initiatives this week 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. This might be on the back of a visit to the school, a meeting with a member of staff, some correspondence you got from a teacher or an event you attended. The feedback form also offers the opportunity to recognise specific individuals within our school family for particular recognition. You can give us some feedback or a review by scanning the QR code or clicking on this link: [HCHS Stakeholder Feedback Form](#)



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Grease is the Word

It was an absolute joy to be able to attend the school production of Grease this week. Three packed nights of entertainment was an absolute treat for all who came as our Theatre was turned into our very own Rydell High School. Once again Miss McKee pulled together a wonderful show with her team of staff and we were royally entertained with music, song, dance and drama by a cast of over 70 students from across all years.

Here is just a sample of the wonderful feedback we had via our new feedback forms:

"I am so glad that xxxxx chose Hagley. I cannot tell you how proud we are of all his achievements and this is because of the great support group from his peers and the hard working teachers who have encouraged him so much."

"Absolutely fantastic, well done to all involved! Outstanding, what a credit the students are to the school and their parents/carers and families."



"Hagley RC Secondary school for the second year in a row have just put on a performance of the highest calibre that they should be extremely proud of. Matilda last year and Grease this year were both thoroughly enjoyable. The energy and talent that comes from the children is astounding to see. Watching the show with continued admiration and pleasure the whole theatre is filled with a wonderful atmosphere. Thank you to everyone on the stage and behind the scenes for a great evening entertainment."

If you couldn't make it, you missed a treat but watch out for next year's production. I am sure Miss McKee has plans already!

The Voice

After half term The Voice will be launching our "Walk a mile campaign". Year 7 will take part in our annual sponsored walk around the school site to raise money for Father Hudson's Caritas, the Diocesan Charity. Sponsor forms will follow the launch with a target of £1200 to be raised.

Father
Hudson's
Caritas



Year 8 will be supporting Brushstrokes. Brushstrokes is a charity based in the Sandwell area working with Refugees. As part of our campaign our Year 8 students will be asked to donate items for infants. More information will follow in the next few weeks. However, as a wider school community please could we ask you to take part. If you have any children's clothes that you wouldn't mind donating, you can drop them into reception with a label marked for Mrs O'Loughlin. The charity also needs new nappies for any age.

Many thanks from Mrs O'Loughlin and the members of the Voice.

Hope for the Holy Land Concert

On Thursday 27th February at 7pm, St Chad's Cathedral will be hosting a fundraising concert featuring classical folk and choral music. Further information and tickets are available via [Eventbrite](#), if you are interested.



Catholic Life, Charity Events and Parish Links

There are some fabulous Catholic Life initiatives going on in school and through our parish links with Our Lady and All Saints, Stourbridge. Three weeks today our intrepid 23 Sixth Formers are hosting a Quiz night to raise funds for their pilgrimage to Lourdes in May. While our school Chaplain, Liam, through his links with the parish, is hosting Theology on Tap on 4th March 2025 at The Old White Horse, Stourbridge and on Sunday 23rd February 2025 the OLAS Walking group are meeting in Kinver for a walk across Kinver Edge. Please do support these fabulous events/initiatives to raise money and build our community as Pilgrims of Hope.

"Called as God's family we strive to achieve our personal best by living and learning in Christ"

LOURDES QUIZ Night

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
6PM - 8:30PM

Join us for our Lourdes Fundraising evening at Hagley Catholic High School.

- Prizes to be won through the quiz and bingo
- 6 people per team
- Please bring cash for the bingo and raffle
- Bring your own drinks
- Tickets available for £5 on Arbor POU or cash on arrival

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

THEOLOGY ON TAP

COME AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF PRAYER, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP.

When and Where?
We are hosting our next Theology on Tap evening at the Old White Horse pub opposite Mary Stevens park on Tuesday 4th March at 18:30

What is the Theme?
This time we are hosting Fr Marco as he leads us in an open and honest Q and A session with no topic going unaddressed! This is one not to miss.

Who can attend?
Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to attend. As the name of this event suggests we are having an open conversation about our faith with a pint in hand, therefore we ask that everyone is over 18.

Why should I go?
Theology on Tap is a fantastic way to grow closer in friendship with like minded people and develop your relationship with God in a wonderful environment.

How do I sign up?
Simply text Liam (Parish youth worker) on 07566754220 or come over to the Parish Centre on Tuesday evenings to introduce yourself and to confirm attendance

OLAS WALKING GROUP

JOIN OUR NEW WALKING GROUP

Sunday 23rd February

Meet at Edward Marsh Centre, Legion Drive, off High St, Kinver, Stourbridge, DY7 6ET
Families and Dogs welcome.

Please message Liam on 07566754220 to find out more

Student successes

Poppy, Trinytee, Lexie, Eviee, Ella and Minnie represented the school at the Zonal School's Trampoline Competition in Hinckley, Leicestershire, on Sunday 26th January 2025 aiming to gain a space for the National Finals. All 6 girls represented themselves brilliantly well, with the Inter team, finishing in a hugely respectable 3rd place. Well done girls!!



Young Enterprise Scheme



Some of our Sixth Formers as part of the Young Enterprise Scheme are setting up a vintage clothing shop and have secured funding to help with the startup of their business. A huge thank you to Forward Products, CEF Electrical and OuttaReach who have supported the students in their new venture with some capital support.

Lockdown Drill

In light of the tragic events in Sheffield this week we will hold another lockdown drill this coming week so that everyone in our school knows what to do in the event of a threat to our communities' safety. I hope that this serves to reassure everyone that we are always doing everything within our power to mitigate risks and keep us all safe.

Vacancies

In my last letter I mentioned that we had vacancies that were being published. These have not yet gone to advert but will at the end of the month when we will be recruiting for an English Teacher and Literacy Lead and a Teacher of RE, both for September 2025. If you know anyone that might be interested do give them a heads up, please.

This will be my last letter before half term so please don't forget that next Friday it is a Training Day for all Emmaus Schools and students, therefore, break up on Thursday 13th February 2025 and return after the break on Monday 24th February 2025. Please do make sure they are in everyday next week and I wish them and you a happy half term.

Sent with every good wish, prayer and blessing.

Yours sincerely

J Hodgson
Principal

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items

Spring 1:

- 13.02.2025 - Y7 Online Parents Evening
- 13.02.2025 - Break up for February half term
- 14.02.2025 - KS4 Poland Trip
- 14.02.2025 - Emmaus MAC Teacher Training Day