



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

*Forming Christ centred pilgrims of hope
with kind hearts, questioning minds,
a thirst for knowledge
and a hunger for justice.*

Friday, 27 February 2026

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

I hope everyone reading this week's letter is well and that if you were away for the half term you had a lovely break!

We have, of course, returned to school during the liturgical season of **LENT**. It was strange not being in school for Ash Wednesday and I know the students missed not being in school for our annual pancake races on Shrove Tuesday.

On our return to school I held assembly with Year 8 and 10, while Mrs Oliver did so with Year 7 on Tuesday and I will see Year 9 on Monday and Y11 later next week.

Pope Leo has spoken about this **Lent** being focussed on *"refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour"* and this has very much been the focus of our assemblies. Pope Leo challenges all of us this **Lent** to *"begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves."*

He goes on to ask us to *"strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."* This has very much been my challenge to our students too.

This **Lent** the RE department are also promoting the Catholic Union Young Writer Competition. RE teachers will be launching it in Year 8 to 11 lessons this coming week and speaking with students about the question:

"Why do we go to confession?"

Time will be spent considering how they might respond and then encouraging them to enter the competition which we will also run as a House Competition in school as well as hoping they enter the Young Writer Competition too.

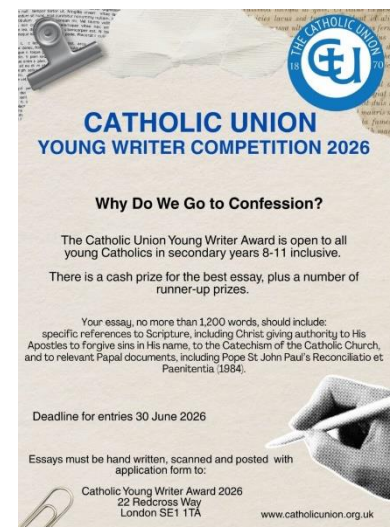
Finally, this week students in Year 7 also gave up their time to make bunches of daffodils with inspiring words of scripture and then members of our Sixth Form Beatitudes group delivered them to staff.

This was another wonderful example of living out the values of being compassionate and loving and the Emmaus Mission of acting with **kind hearts**.

My bunch certainly brightened up my day and my office.

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

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



This Week in Worship *"Forming Christ centred pilgrims of hope"*

Stations of the Cross Year 7

Today we marked the start of Lent with the first walk of witness Stations of the Cross, students walk the school site in a procession of prayer. We prayed each station marking the fact that Lent is a chance for each of us to grow in our relationship with Christ.

The Stations of the Cross was a very enjoyable experience because everyone got to spend valuable time with God in prayer and had the chance to carry the Crucifix through the school in to each building. Lots of us got a chance to lead a different Station of the Cross. We ended in the Chapel with a nice and calm prayerful reflection. Thank you for this great opportunity. **Robyn (Y7)**

Year 7 prayers in the Chapel

Today for 7W we went to the chapel for prayer and we focussed on Lent and keeping our Lenten promises through these 40 days of fasting and if we get it wrong we know we can always start again because of God's forgiveness. I found it to be a calming start to the day as we had a chance to think about our journey together in Lent.

Today in prayer in had a time of Adoration where we knelt and prayed to show respect to God. We reflected on Lent and how this is a chance for us to get closer to God. It was relaxing and a good start to the day.

Brooke and Sam

Year 9 and 10 Think Tank session with Kenelm Youth Trust.

This afternoon we had a Think Tank visit from KYT. We started of by doing a quick warm up asking us basic questions about 'this or that'. After this, we went into groups with a KYT worker. Ours was Maria and we had 3 topics to discuss. They were mental health, safety and faith. Maria went round as a group and asked us all our responses to her questions. It was a great afternoon and we thank some of the KYT team for coming in today.

I believe that this Think Tank session has allowed us all to contribute to our wider community by voicing our opinions in an open and safe environment that ensures we feel valued and heard.

We discussed topics of Mental Health, Safety, and Faith, with a focus on listening – a practice I feel is fundamental to rebuilding a peaceful world where no one feels less than, unheard, or ignored.

The KYT team presented us with this quote from Pope Francis: "When someone speaks to you, wait until they finish to understand them well, and then, if you feel led, say something. But the important thing is to listen.", emphasising that listening is the key to communication, and contribution should come in turn, as to fully understand the prior points made, allowing our ideas to be heard and shared in order to improve our communities and the lives of those within them through solidarity and communal effort.

We were encouraged to answer questions such as 'Has social media affected your mental health', gathering multiple viewpoints in turn, to ensure we can build on each other's answers and experiences to take forward the important lesson of listening into the rest of the school, taking care to not interrupt and wait in turn as our peers speak, in class and in free time.

This message conveyed this afternoon should be carried forward to the rest of the world; to global, governmental, and organisation leaders, as often the quietest people think the most revolutionary ideas; we just need to listen and allow their voices to be heard.

Unlocking the thoughts and strategies of young people is crucial to creating more positive social media services and building deep and influential relationships across the globe both through online and physical media. If we take time to listen, to not be consumed by selfish thoughts or greed, we would achieve peace. Listening to others puts you in a selfless mindset to take in others' thoughts as you want them to absorb

yours, leading to peaceful and quickly resolved conflict, no exploitation of the Earth's resources, and inspiring younger generations to live with one value at heart: kindness. ***Emeline, Harry and Woody***

Stations of the cross at Hagley Catholic High School

You are warmly invited to join us at Hagley Catholic High School to pray the Stations of the cross as a walk of witness. We will be meeting at the school Reception at 9am on Wednesday 18th March 2026. If you would like to attend, please book a place by scanning the QR code, clicking on this [link](#) or phoning the school office on 01562 883193. The places are limited to 20 so we will operate a 'first come, first serve' basis. We will look at offering another date, if interest is high.



Year 7 Update from Mrs Imrie

Wow! What a busy couple of weeks Year 7 have had!

Briars Retreat:

The weekend before we broke up, 68 Year 7s all headed off very excitedly to The Briars in Derbyshire for a retreat focusing on 'Belonging & Defined.' What a weekend! Lots of great activities from scavenger hunts, evening prayer and adoration on night 1 to a jam-packed Day 2. We started with great teamwork doing 'The Wall,' an activity to remind us that no matter what shapes, sizes, personalities etc. We all 'belong' and maybe at times we just need to 'tweak' certain parts of ourselves and others.

This was followed by one of my favourite sessions where Year 7 were asked to look at a 'letter from Our Father' and were tasked to pick out scripture to reflect this. What reverence our young people showed!

On a wet, drizzly Saturday afternoon in Derbyshire, we then split into 3 different activities; a walk, arts workshop and team building activities. Again, another absolute highlight! Watching some of our students blossom within a small group and take on leadership roles was a joy... I also loved how when my group had to choose a song to sing to get a plank back, they suddenly burst into a wonderful rendition of 'My Lighthouse,' acapella style!

The Saturday finished with a beautiful Mass prepared by our students and then then a 'Battle-off' - the staff team were storming the 'Riff Off' until Mr Button missed the brief and burst into the wrong song!!! We then had a fantastic 'drop pole' with Mr Smith becoming uber competitive and jumping off the stage like he was re-enacting the infamous scene from Dirty Dancing!

In the final small group activity students offered their affirmations to our peers. In our final liturgy it was simply a beautiful time to reflect on our experience, how it has changed us and to share our affirmations. The reaction on some students' faces when reading their affirmations from their peers was just the perfect embodiment to me of Year 7 truly 'belonging' in our wonderful Hagley family.

As their Head of Year, I was very proud of each and every one, who thanks publicly must go to Mr Thomas for leading and making the trip happen and to Mrs McCole, Mr Button, Mrs Winters and Mr Smith for joining me and giving up their time to make this happen.



Back in school:

This week we have celebrated a new winner for the first time in our weekly house point challenge, well done Anselm!!

On Tuesday we all gathered together with a beautiful Collective Worship led by 7 Kenelm's Form Tutor, Mrs Oliver and some of her Year 7 students. Here our "40 Days of Lenten Worship Challenge" was launched as I wrote home to you. I am pleased to report that Year 7 have made a great start with this, please continue to encourage the challenges they can do at home.

We then all participated in our Lenten charity for Father Hudson's with our 'Walk A Mile.' Many thanks to Mrs O'Loughlin for organising this, wonderfully supported by 'The Voice.' As of yesterday, we had raised almost £500, please continue to send in your sponsorship via Arbor Pay, this will be open until next Friday and we aim to double this.

Tuesday afternoon Year 7 were all off timetable and took part in a STEM workshop. It was great to see them all get so involved and to see them enrich their wider curriculum.

Here's to another great couple of weeks. On Monday I launched the Spring Term Attendance Challenge as detailed by our Attendance Lead, Mrs Palmer, in her email. All students in Year 7 who attend all 25 days this half term will be invited to a celebration with some treats in store along with some added surprise extras!

Year 8 Highlights from Mrs Palmer

There are lots of things for Year 8 to look forward to throughout the rest of this year! In the final week of the spring term, students will be taking part in our Charity Quiz, a lively event that brings the year group together while raising money for our chosen charity. We will also be running an Easter Hamper Raffle, packed with treats for families to win.

Students are already getting excited for their upcoming PGL trip in the summer term. A reminder for parents: the remaining balance for the trip is due by 28th April. If you have any questions about payments or need any support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Uniform continues to be a focus area. We have noticed an increase in students wearing false eyelashes, which are not permitted. These must be removed by Monday so that all students are meeting our uniform expectations.

I would also love to celebrate and hear about Year 8 students' achievements outside of school, so please do let me know if your child has been involved in anything exciting, meaningful, or worth celebrating, we really enjoy sharing in their successes.

The Voice *"kind hearts and a hunger for justice"*



Our annual 'Walk the Mile' Campaign took place on Tuesday. It was certainly a cold and windy morning, but we braved the weather in proud support of Father Hudson's Caritas, the Archdiocese of Birmingham's chosen charity.

Year 7's commitment to this event was second to none. As a whole year group, they walked one mile together around the school grounds, demonstrating fantastic spirit and unity.

We have now started collecting donations through Arbor Pay. Our target is £1,100, and by Thursday had raised £418, a great start! Please may I encourage families to upload their donations and help us reach (and hopefully exceed) our goal.

There are two exciting prizes available:

- ★ One for the form group that raises the most money
- ★ One for the student who collects the most sponsorship

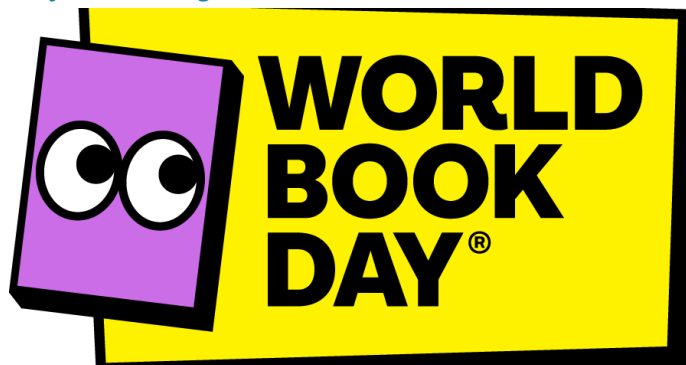
So, remember; pounds mean prizes!

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Finally, I would like to publicly thank the amazing students who make up The Voice. Without their time, commitment and leadership, events like this simply would not happen. They consistently demonstrate our school virtues and values, and we are incredibly proud of them. **Mrs O'Loughlin**

Literacy - World Book Day *"questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge"*

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. This is a global, annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books, and the joy of reading, designated by UNESCO to promote reading for fun. This year, Hagley is celebrating World Book Day with a variety of Year Group activities.



Year 7 will be given a 'Treasure Hunt' quiz to be completed at break and lunchtime. There will be prizes for the form group with the most entries, and for the student with the most correct answers.

Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 will have a themed World Book Day quiz at lunchtime, where representatives from each form will compete to prove which House is victorious.

As 2026 is the National Year of Reading we would love to promote reading for pleasure this World Book Day. Teachers will take the opportunity to promote their favourite book, by reading the opening chapter to their classes at the start of each lesson. Parents/carers can download a digital World Book Day token at [2026 digital token - UK](#). All the terms and conditions can be found here.

Ms E Haigh (Whole School Literacy Lead)

British Science Week *"questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge"*

We are excited to celebrate British Science Week, taking place from 6th - 15th March 2026, with a range of fun and engaging activities designed to spark curiosity in our young scientists. Throughout the week, students in Years 7 - 9 will have the opportunity to take part in a selection of hands-on science activities held at lunchtime on selected days, giving them the chance to explore this year's theme in creative and practical ways.



We will also be running a British Science Week Poster Competition, giving students the opportunity to showcase their scientific ideas through art and design. Posters will be judged on creativity, originality and scientific thinking, with winners announced at the end of the week. We look forward to seeing our students' enthusiasm and imagination shine through!

Mr Jones (STEM Lead)



Science Revision Resources for sale *"a thirst for knowledge"*

We are approaching exam season so could I remind you that the Science Department has a number of revision resources available via the School shop:

- KS3 (Yr 7 & 8) revision guide and revision cards
- KS4 (Yrs 9,10 &11) revision bundle containing Revision Guide, Exam practice work book and Revision cards.
- KS5 (Yrs 12 & 13) Subject specific bundles in Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as an optional text book.

Should you wish your child to have a different tier book than the one shown in the school shop, they can be swapped directly in the Science Department.

These items will be available until the end of May .

House Points

Students continue to live out our values virtues and expectations and house points awarded continue to recognise and acknowledge this. **Wulstan** House remain top of the leaderboard but only just, while we are seeing more and more examples of living out our Emmaus Mission too.

House	Total House Points
Wulstan	24,259
Bede	23,915
Anselm	23,887
Kenelm	23,751
Gregory	23,384
Chad	22,141

Emmaus - Pilgrim of Hope	240
Emmaus - Kind Heart	490
Emmaus - Questioning mind	890
Emmaus - Thirst for Knowledge	3080
Emmaus - Hunger for Justice	500

Attendance Matters from Mrs Palmer

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our students and parents for their continued support this week. It has been a fantastic start back in school, and we are delighted to see such strong attendance across all year groups. Many students are making a real effort to be in school every day, and this commitment is helping them stay engaged, keep up with their learning, and make the most of every opportunity.

With only 20 school days to go until the Easter break, we'd like to remind everyone about our Lent Challenge: to give up absence - Let's aim to be in school every single day, 25 days of showing up is now only 20!!!

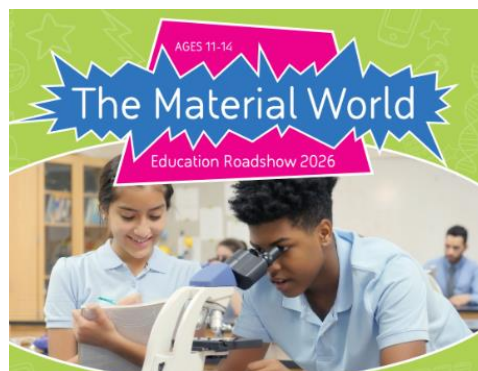
Personal Development: Careers *"questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge"*

Year 7 STEM roadshow

On Tuesday, Year 7 took part in a **STEM based roadshow: Material World**.

This live theatre and interactive science show explored the fascinating world of materials. Students discovered how metals, composites and smart materials underpin innovation in engineering, manufacturing, technology and aerospace.

The show inspired students to see themselves as future scientists and engineers.



Student successes



You know how we love to share in student's successes and scripture reminds us not to hide our light under a bowl. This week we are celebrating the success of Guillaume in Y9.

Back before Christmas Guillaume competed in the British Taekwondo Championships in Worcester and came away with the gold medal in the Green Belt Boy Heavy Weight for sparring. Then at the beginning of February, he competed again in the Midlands Championship in Kettering for the T.A.G.B Team and took home the gold medal again. Well done, Guillaume, an amazing achievement!!

Vacancies

There are still vacancies at Hagley that are now live on the Emmaus vacancies page at this link: [Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy - Vacancies](#) and on WM Jobs. They include:

- 2 x maternity cover teachers in Science

Please do share far and wide and get in touch, if you are interested.

Sending you every good wish and blessing for a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

J Hodgson
Principal

Key dates for Spring Term 2

27.02.2026 - Lourdes Quiz Night Fundraiser
02.03.2026 - National Careers Week
04.03.2026 - Y10 King's Trust Enterprise Event
05.03.2026 - World Book Day
06.03.2026 - Year 13 Report issued
09.03.2026 - A Level Geography Fieldtrip
12.03.2026 - Year 9 Parents Evening
13.03.2026 - Y8 & 12 Reports issued
16.03.2026 - A Level Geography Fieldtrip
17.03.2026 - Y11 NEA Food Practical Exam 1
20.03.2026 - Ski trip departs
23.03.2026 - Year 9 Options Deadline
24.03.2026 - Y11 NEA Food Practical Exam 2
27.03.2026 - Year 7 Reports issued
27.03.2026 - Non-Uniform Day
27.03.2026 - Ski Trip Returns
27.03.2026 - Break up for Easter

OUR LOCAL PARISH COMMUNITIES

CHURCH	MASS TIMES	CLERGY	CONTACT
Our Lady and All Saints- Stourbridge	Saturday - 5pm Sunday - 8.30am, 11am	Fr Philip Griffin	01384 395308
St Ambrose - Kidderminster	Sunday - 11am, 6pm	Canon Douglas Lamb	01562 822839
St Mary's - Brierley Hill	Sunday - 9.45am	Fr Shanju John	01384 274520
St Gregory's - Smethwick	Saturday - 5.00pm Sunday - 10.00am and 4.30pm	Fr Peter Conley	0121 429 1743
Our Lady and St Hubert's - Oldbury	Saturday - 6.00pm Sunday - 10.00am	Fr Roger Peck	0121 422 2388
Our Lady and St Kenelm's - Halesowen	Saturday - 6.30pm Sunday - 10.00am	Fr Stefan Laszczyk	0121 602 1972
Our Lady of Fatima - Quinton	Saturday - 6.00pm Sunday - 10.00am	Covering Priest - Canon Gary Buckby	0121 422 4865
St Francis Xavier - Oldbury	Saturday - 5pm Sunday - 11am	Fr Joseph Nwafor	0121 559 1677
St Philip Neri - Smethwick	Sunday - 9.30am	Fr Gerald Bonaventure	0121 558 1065
St Wulstan's - Stourport	Saturday - 5.30pm Sunday - 10am	Fr Richard Sharples	01299 822633
Our Lady Queen of Peace - Worcester	Sunday - 10am	Canon John Batthula	01905 963 712
Sacred Heart and St Catherine of Alexandria - Droitwich	Sunday - 8.30am, 10.30am and 6pm	Fr George Mathew	01905 773 258
St Joseph's - Warndon	Saturday - 6pm Sunday - 10am	Canon John Batthula	01905 963 712
St George's - Worcester	Saturday - 12.30pm Sunday - 9.45 and 11.30am	Canon John Batthula	01905 963 712
St Mary's - Harborne	Saturday 6PM Sunday 9.30AM and 11AM	Fr Hilary Basil	0121 427 2538