

**"The blind receive their sight and the lame walk... and the poor have the good news preached to them." Matthew 11**

Friday, 12 December 2025

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

This will be my last letter of the term and of 2025. What a fabulous year and term it has been, topped off wonderfully last weekend when we were named the 10<sup>th</sup> best comprehensive secondary school in the West Midlands by the Sunday Times Parent Guide. This recognition is testament to so many people's hard work and dedication, and is something that all staff, students, parents and alumni should celebrate in.



In this Sunday's Gospel, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, when John the Baptist asks whether Christ is the one for whom he has been waiting, Jesus replies with these words (at the top of the letter) that echo the prophet Isaiah. He is the one who will help the blind to see and bring good news to the poor.

Jesus spells out his mission here, and it is the message of Jubilee; a time of renewal and freedom. It is a message to which we have been called to pay particular attention in this Jubilee Year 2025. We have all been called to be **pilgrims of hope** and to consider how we can create a world of justice, peace and love.

Throughout the past year, so many people have answered this call, not least the students and community of Hagley Catholic High School. In parishes, schools and on their own, young and old have taken part in pilgrimages, raised their voices and raised funds for the poorest people in our world.

As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, we take this moment to reflect on all that has been achieved. And we commit once more to participating in Christ's mission, which seeks the flourishing of all.

This commitment to the values of acting with **kind hearts** and being generous, compassionate and loving has been so evident this past few weeks. On Wednesday Year 12 B-Attituders were privileged to have the opportunity to take 18 large bags of your donations to the homeless in Birmingham. They also popped into St Chad's Cathedral on the way to light a candle and say a prayer of hope. The whole group agreed it was a humbling experience that they will never forget.



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While today we have delivered over 2000 items to Brushstrokes in Smethwick as part of your donations in support of the work of Father Hudson's Caritas, and further donations will go to the Stourbridge foodbank next week.



### **Year 7 Update from Mrs Imrie**

As we near the end of Year 7's first term here at Hagley I am delighted with how they have settled in and have fully immersed themselves in the Hagley family and wider life of the school.

This fantastic start is clearly evidenced in their collective house points total, which now stands at an amazing 31,218 by close of play yesterday, with 32 students achieving over 200 individually. Additional to this over 70 students have received zero behaviour points and a further 10 just picking up 1. I am sure you will all agree this testifies to how well they have made this transition to high school and in becoming truly wonderful Hagley POWERful learners.

To celebrate the end of term, next Tuesday we will hold our 1st end of term Celebration Assembly. Staff have been busy behind the scenes nominating students for different awards and achievements and I look forward to announcing these on Tuesday morning.

New to this year we will be holding our 1st 'Big Christmas Quiz' between forms after our Celebration Assembly. I look forward to crowning our 1st winner!

Form Tutors continue to award a member of their tutor group each Friday as Star of the Week, along with my Head of Year award on a Monday. A huge well done to all this term's well-deserved winners.

We also continue to celebrate other wider success in Year 7. It was great to see 7 Bede awarded as having the highest attendance and although the elusive 7 Gregory continue to top the house point challenge, Chad and Bede are hot on their heels!!!

Many thanks for continuing to share success outside of school. Here is just a snapshot:

**Robyn Mauger** - giving up her own time to volunteer for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal.

**Theo Clews** - successfully achieved his 2nd Dan Black Belt in Jeet Kune Do MMA, covering Thai Boxing, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Combat Submission Wrestling, Kickboxing and Olympic Boxing.

**Imogen Foley** - Performed an electric guitar solo at Stourbridge Town Hall and a distinction in her Grade 3 singing.

**Roxanne Packwood** - first on floor, beam and bars and second on vault and first overall in a recent gymnastics' competition in Birmingham.

**Bernadette Sony** - and her team won first prize in the Catholic Christian Malayalam group song competition at the Birmingham Syro-Malabar Catholic Region Bible Kalolsavam, held in Stoke-on-Trent.

It was lovely to welcome over 100, very loud but above all, very happy, Year 7 students at last Friday's Year 7 disco to raise monies for our Sixth Form Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Over £500 was raised and it was great to see everyone enjoy themselves. Thanks to Mr Thomas for his overall organisation and making it happen, Mrs

McCole for her 'sweet shop,' Mr Sommerville for manning the doors and to some of our Chaplaincy and Beatitudes Team(s) and a few Year 11s for your invaluable support.

Finally, I would like to wish all families a happy and healthy Christmas, many thanks for your support as always in making their first term such a positive one. Here's to a wonderful 2026!

### **Year 8 News from Mrs Palmer**

The past couple of weeks have been full of fantastic activities and achievements for Year 8!

One of the highlights was our Santa Sponsored Walk, organised by the PE department to raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital. It was a wonderful morning, and Year 8 were absolutely brilliant as together they raised an incredible £620 for such a worthy cause. After completing the walk, everyone enjoyed a well-deserved cup of hot chocolate to warm up and celebrate their achievement!



We've also celebrated lots of Stars of the Week recently. These students are chosen by their form tutors for living out our school values and being excellent role models. Well done to all of them—you make Year 8 proud!

In addition, Year 8 attended Mass this week and demonstrated outstanding respect and reverence throughout the service. Bede led the celebration beautifully, and several students delivered thoughtful readings with confidence, a commendable achievement given the challenge of speaking in front of their peers.



We also enjoyed the Inter-House Football Competition, which was fantastic to see with so many boys and girls taking part. After a well-fought battle, Gregory House emerged as this year's champions—well done to them and to Bede House for putting up a great challenge!

As we approach the end of term, we know this time can be challenging for students as they are all very tired. I've spoken to all students in Year 8 this week, and my message is simple: dig deep and keep going. Let's remember to do everything with a kind heart, supporting one another and finishing the term strong. Year 8 have shown fantastic resilience and positivity so far with 620 house points achieved in the last week alone. Let's keep that spirit alive right to the end!

A huge thank you, and recognition, must go to Matteo and Jide who helped decorate our Reception Christmas tree.



With a huge public thanks to Spa Decorators and Mr Stockford (parent) for the donation of the trees this year.



## Year 9 News from Mrs Winters

Year 9 have had a fantastic Autumn term! It's been wonderful to see them engaging with their lessons across the curriculum, as well as taking part in a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities. Last Tuesday morning 9 Kenelm were rewarded for their hard work. They have not only collectively achieved the most house points in the year but have also received the fewest behaviour points! Their commitment to being POWERful learners has really shone through when I have visited them in their lessons and joined them in form. As a reward students were invited to join me for a lesson of board games and Christmas music. Students enjoyed playing some firm favourites such as Uno, Dobble and Guess Who but also enjoyed learning new games like Monopoly Deal, Sneaky Goose and Cobra Paw amongst others. It was wonderful to spend time with students teaching them new games and learning some of their questionable rules to others.



## The Voice



Mrs O'Loughlin would like to thank the members of The Voice for all their hard work and commitment to school life during this busy term. We have successfully completed our work with Mrs Brown, our school's Business Manager, on our recycling project. We were delighted to take receipt of our brown bins for food waste, and we are committed to being good stewards of the earth.

Some of our Year 7 members helped deliver donated items for our Advent appeal to Father Hudson's. Thank you to all our families who kindly sent items into school.

Thank you to Jide, Matteo, Rupert and Nathan for giving up their time so freely to help decorate the Christmas trees, and for truly getting us all into the Christmas spirit.

## FREE SEND Workshops and Webinars

[SENDIASS](#) provide **FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars** for parent carers and professionals/practitioners. These workshops can help build knowledge and skills for families with a child or young person with SEND and any professionals that support them. **They have released new dates for the Spring Term.**

Workshops currently available for **Parent Carers** can be accessed at these links:

- [Autism and Me \(developed by autistic young people\)- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? – HW SENDIASS](#)
- [How to check a draft Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)-HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [Supporting Young People with SEND: Preparing for Adulthood- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Supporting your child to cope with change \(Transitions\) | HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Understanding Dyslexia | HW SENDIASS](#)

**All sessions are interactive, enabling participants to ask questions.**

A pink and purple poster for SENDIASS Training and Development. It features a stylized tree graphic on the right. The text includes: 'Information, Advice and Support Service Herefordshire &amp; Worcestershire', 'Training and Development', 'Inform • Empower • Improve', 'Free SEND Training Workshops for Parent Carers &amp; Professionals', 'Do you have a child/young person with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)?', 'Join one of our workshops across Worcestershire to increase your knowledge and understanding of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).', 'Workshops available include: Autism and Me, What does a good Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) look like?, SEND- what you need to know, SEND-Preparing for Adulthood', and a QR code with the text 'Visit our website herfordias.co.uk or scan the QR code to find out the next available session'. Logos for SEND, ADULT LEARNING WORCESTERSHIRE, and WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL are at the bottom.

# Enrichment at Hagley

## Textiles Club “a thirst for knowledge”



Amongst our fantastic extra-curricular opportunities, we have been running a Textiles Club at Hagley this year. Meeting on Friday lunchtimes in the Design and Technology workshops, this wonderful club was started by a group of keen students. We have made lots of different products from hats, ties, and cloaks, to skirts and stuffed toys. In the run up to Christmas, club members have been making Christmas stockings for

themselves. Students have become expert at passing on skills and knowledge and supporting one another to develop their techniques. We are really lucky to have the wonderful Ms Field offering her expertise in this area and leading the club.

## Generation Stem “Questioning minds”

A group of Year 9 girls had the opportunity to attend the Generation STEM event at Mazak’s this week aimed at inspiring and empowering the next generation of women in careers in industry, technology science and engineering.

Izabella in Year 9 wrote:

*“When we first arrived, we explored many stalls from different companies and could learn about different careers in STEM such as Biomedics, Pharmacy, Zoology, Engineering and more. We then attended a presentation where Mazaks and other companies told us how you can progress into these different careers and the possible routes. We then were given a tour of the MAZAK engineer machinery which was amazing to see how each bit was built and saw people working on the machines whilst we were there!”*





## House Points

House	Total House Points
Anselm	17,546
Wulstan	17,491
Bede	17,435
Kenelm	17,274
Gregory	17,105
Chad	16,903

Since my last newsletter we have continued to see our students earn 100's of House Points. Anselm remain at the top once again. However, Bede has moved up 3 places! Please continue to check your child's house point log on Arbor.

Next term we will be recognising students who live out our

Emmaus Vision with additional House Points awarded for:

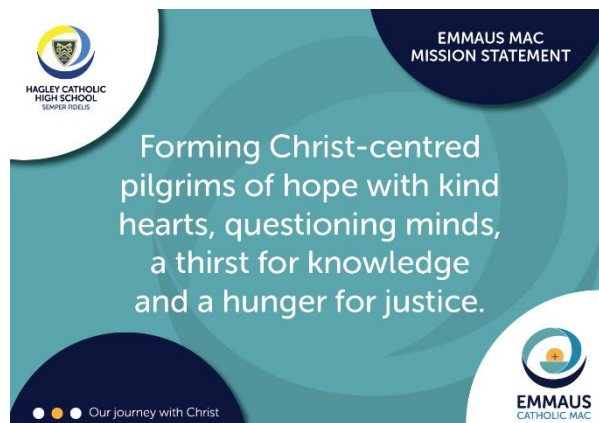
**Emmaus HP - Pilgrim of hope**

**Emmaus HP - Kind hearts**

**Emmaus HP - Questioning minds**

**Emmaus HP - Thirst for knowledge**

**Emmaus HP - Hunger for justice**



## Principal Merits: Autumn term to Date

I have awarded 424 Principal's Merits this term to 326 individual students in recognition of their fabulous commitment to their learning and life at Hagley.

Special mentions to Magdalena C, Maisy G, Mason G O'C, Humphrey K and Eliana M who have received 4 such merits.



## Stars of the week

Since introducing our Star of the Week Form Tutor nominations, we would like to recognise the following students from the last two weeks:

Year	Student
Year 7	Josiah C, Lola M, Jack F, Jack CJ, Jacob N, Ilaria F, Ralf A, Nancy S, Josh T, Cian S, Maisie E, Annabel P
Year 8	Rosie P, Maisy G, Juila B, Jide R, Isaac T, Angel M, Henry E, Abbie B, Finnley C, Sebastian C, Kefe N, Rhodri M, Chloe P
Year 9	Grace G, Cian E, Evie M, Kai M, Jakub, N, Joey M, Liam L, Henry R, Harry M, Toby K, Wiktorina P
Year 10	Sophie K, Jacob J, Matthew O
Year 11	Caitlin B, Danielle U, Ronan K, Madisyn M, Daniel K, William S, Olivia C, Molly G, Zak H, Dominic C, Oliver T, Keon M, Ryan B, Chloe W, Seth B, James N

## More sporting success from the Hagley PE Department!



We're pleased to announce that the **U16 Girls Football Team are officially league champions**, having beaten every school convincingly throughout the league tournament. The girls didn't even concede a goal!

They finished on an impressive 16 points, over double that of the second-place team! Please join us in congratulating the girls on their outstanding achievement!

Our Year 11 girls played their final netball fixture for Hagley. Over the past five years, they have built an outstanding record of success on the court, securing league titles and tournament victories along the way.

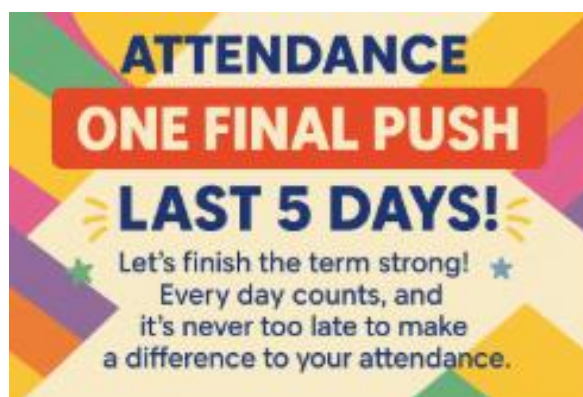
On Monday evening, they faced Dormston in the district play-off final, after once again winning the league. Although the result did not go in our favour, it was an exceptionally close and competitive match against a very strong opposition. The girls worked tirelessly, demonstrating high-quality netball throughout, but unfortunately Dormston ran away with it in the final quarter.



Our team have been a true credit to the school community. Their commitment, teamwork, sportsmanship, kindness and respect have been evident in every game they have played. They have been a pleasure to coach. Please join us in congratulating them on their achievements and their contribution to Hagley sport.

### Attendance Matters from Mrs Palmer

As we head into the final week of what has been a long and busy term, I know it can feel challenging to keep the momentum going. We have just five days left, and I'm asking for one last push from everyone. Attendance is vital, every lesson counts, and learning will continue right up to the end. On the final day, we'll celebrate with our Key Stage 3 draw and the Year 10 breakfast, rewarding those who have shown excellent attendance and commitment throughout the last few weeks. We know flu is still around, and we are so grateful to parents for the commitment they've shown in getting their child into school and being mindful of appointments. Remember, you can still make a difference to your attendance, it's never too late to finish strong and make these last few days really matter.



### Christmas Jumper Day with "kind hearts"

Students across all years embraced the opportunity to wear their Christmas jumpers today to raise funds for the Mizen Foundation. Thank you to everyone who embraced this and brought some Christmas cheer today and stood in solidarity with a wonderful charity.



### Christmas Mass and Carols "Christ-centred pilgrims of hope"

A reminder that this coming week we are holding our annual Christmas Mass and carols in the school hall at 6pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Please do make every effort to come and join us.

After Mass we will be providing refreshments and running a raffle, a craft stall and a tombola for our Lourdes Pilgrimage fundraising.



Finally, today I had the privilege of welcoming back to Hagley Mr Paul Hill, former Headteacher, who retired 25 years ago this month. I can confirm that he is looking very well for 87!

I am sure there are many of our parents, as former students, who remember Mr Hill well and it was a joy to walk around school with him and reminisce, as well as show him how the school had changed in those 25 years.



I shall end with a reminder that next Friday we break up at **1.50pm**. School buses will run at this time with trains expected around 2.00/2.15pm.

Please do continue to send your child into school every day next week. On Tuesday we will host our termly Year Group Awards Assemblies and on Friday our annual Christmas Karaoke will take place with our Key Stage 3 attendance draws too.

Everyone then returns to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2026.

Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas when it arrives.

Yours sincerely

*J Hodgson*  
**Principal**

### **Key dates for Spring Term 1**

05.01.2026	All students return to school for the Spring Term
06.01.2026	Feast of the Epiphany
15.01.2026	Year 12 Parents Evening
19.01.2026	Feast day of St Wulstan
20.01.2026	Vaccination UK in school
23.01.2026	Feast day of St Nicholas Owen
23.01.2026	Year 11 Reports are issued
03.02.2026	Mizen Foundation talks with Year 9 and 10
05.02.2026	Year 8 Parents Evening
06.02.2026	Year 9 Reports are issued
06.02.2026	Briars Retreat
09.02.2026	National Apprenticeship Week
13.02.2026	Year 10 Reports are issued
13.02.2026	Break up for February half term