



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”. (Matthew 11:28)

Thursday, 18 July 2024

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

Another academic year has come to an end. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support over the course of the year. Education is a team effort, and the success of our young people very much depends on us working together collaboratively and you can be sure that the staff and I remain firmly committed to this at all times.

Catholic Life

Last week the Diocese hosted their first annual celebration awards for school staff and Governors from across the Birmingham Diocese.

Everyone at Hagley was delighted to see staff recognised for their exceptional contribution to Catholic Education. Those awarded included Mr Mallinson (Exceptional contribution to music opportunities), Mrs Imrie (Exceptional contribution to the support staff team), Miss Holland (Exceptional contribution to teaching and learning), Mr Miastowski (Exceptional contribution to the Catholic Life and Mission of the School) and Mrs Yates (Exceptional contribution to Catholic governance)



Accompanying this letter is our Summer Catholic Life Newsletter and I want to thank Mrs Ball for putting this together with Mr Thomas.

Emmaus MAC Year 5 Sports Day

One of the best events that we have been able to host and organise at Hagley over the last 4 years has been our Emmaus Year 5 Sports Day which took place last week. On Wednesday I had the pleasure to visit an assembly at this year’s winners, St Joseph’s, Stourbridge, to present the winners shield.

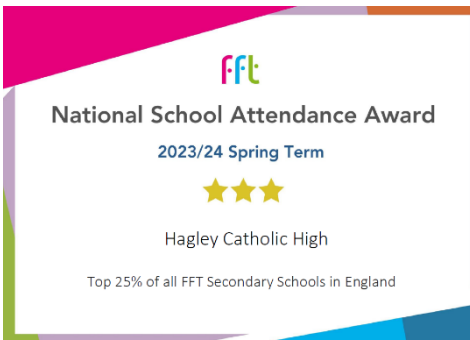
School	Boccia		Football		Rounders		Tennis		Trampolining		Tri-Athletics		Total	Final position
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G		
Our Lady of Fatima	2 nd place 16 points	1 st place 20 points	7 th place 4 points	3 rd place 6 points	1 st place 10 points	5 th place 8 points	2 nd place 8 points	7 th place 2 points	74	2 nd place				
St. Ambrose	3 rd place 12 points	3 rd place 12 points	5 th place 8 points	8 th place 1 point	3 rd place 6 points	8 th place 2 points	1 st place 10 points	2 nd place 8 points	59	4 th place				
St. Francis Xavier	4 th place 10 points	6 th place 6 points	2 nd place 16 points	2 nd place 8 points	6 th place 3 points	1 st place 20 points	5 th place 4 points	5 th place 4 points	71	3 rd place				
St Gregory’s	5 th place 8 points	5 th place 8 points	4 th place 10 points	6 th place 3 points	5 th place 4 points	3 rd place 14 points	8 th place 1 point	1 st place 10 points	58	5 th place				
St Joseph’s	1 st place 20 points	2 nd place 16 points	1 st place 20 points	1 st place 10 points	4 th place 5 points	2 nd place 16 points	4 th place 5 points	8 th place 1 point	93	1 st place				
St. Mary’s	7 th place 4 points	7 th place 4 points	3 rd place 12 points	5 th place 4 points	8 th place 1 point	7 th place 4 points	3 rd place 6 points	4 th place 5 points	36	8 th place				
St. Philip’s	6 th place 6 points	4 th place 10 points	6 th place 6 points	7 th place 2 points	7 th place 2 points	6 th place 6 points	7 th place 2 points	6 th place 3 points	37	7 th place				
St. Wulstan’s	5 th place 8 points	8 th place 2 points	8 th place 2 points	4 th place 5 points	2 nd place 8 points	4 th place 10 points	6 th place 3 points	3 rd place 6 points	44	6 th place				

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Attendance



At the start of the letter I mentioned the importance of collaboration and so this recognition for high attendance during the spring term is reward for us all. So I want to thank everyone who played their part in making sure children are in school regularly. Attendance in school remains at the top of the Government and our agenda and rightfully so. Absence creates disadvantage and we all must do everything we can to address this. Good attendance means attending school on time every day unless too unwell to do so and this must be everyone's mantra moving forward as we aspire to be in the top 10% next year.

Literacy and all things books

I want to thank everyone who has contributed so generously to our fundraiser for books to stock our new reading room from September. Currently we have together raised £2,200 and it was great to be able to place an order this week to ensure the books are in place for the new academic year. The fundraiser remains open till Monday so if you haven't donated yet and still wish to please do so at this link, confident that your donation will provide a reading book in our school. [Hagley Catholic High School - Support your school](#)

This term we have also continued our Year 7 visits to Hagley Library and thanks go to Mrs Lawson for organising this and giving every Year 7 the chance to experience a local library and engage in the books available. Students learnt how to locate a fiction and non-fiction text, worked as a team to decide on their top 3 books, had a series of challenges to find texts from around the library in the fastest time plus ample time to explore the books available.



Mrs Lawson with the help of Kiera, Tom, Annalise, Keon and Anna ran our second book swap of the year, an event that we plan to do much more regularly in 2024-25. We had a fantastic turn out. Students and staff were able to take away a book to read for the summer or exchange one they had brought in.

We had many donations of books too which we are so very grateful for.

Student opportunities

I am always pleased when we can support student opportunities outside of school whether it is in sport, the performing arts, the world of work and more.

Recently we were able to support Harry in Year 9, who was fortunate enough to spend two weeks in New Zealand with the men's England Rugby Team.

This was a once in a lifetime experience and included meeting all the players and management team, including access to their training and preparation as elite athletes.



Sports Day 2024

It was Sports Day today and what a day we have had with all students involved in some capacity with rounders, volleyball, tennis, badminton, boccia and field events taking place this morning and then the usual track events this afternoon.



Students were brilliant through out the day and the competitive spirit was evident with a great sense of camaraderie and support for an event that once again celebrates the inclusive nature of Hagley.

Congratulations go to this year's winning house, Bede, and to Ellen Curley (Y8) and Lissy Whitmore Benjamin (Y9) who both broke school records in the 800 metres and 100 metres respectively.

Foundation Governor

We are looking to recruit another Foundation Governor to the Local Governing Body for the new academic year. This post is open to applications from anyone who is a practising Catholic and involves 6 meetings a year in school plus the ability to support with quality assurance, leadership and management challenge, staff recruitment and student admissions. If you or anyone you might know is interested please contact me, Mr Hodgson, in the first instance or you can apply directly to the Diocese using the application form at this link: [Foundation Governor Application Form](#)

A safe summer for all

The Head of Operational Risk at Network Rail wrote to me this morning and has asked me to share this with you, including the additional information that was attached alongside this letter.

Ahead of the Summer Holidays, we are reaching out to local schools which are in the vicinity of our railway network, in order to publicise the dangers on our infrastructure and how we can all stay safe.

Sadly, every year and during school holidays we see an increase with incidents involving children and young people and naturally we want to ensure that your pupils are "switched on" to the dangers of the railway network. We would like to promote our summer of safety in a bid to ensure everyone gets home safe every day.

We would be grateful if you could utilise the attached letter, in the best way you see fit, as an official communication from Network Rail and the British Transport Police aimed at parents and guardians.

Included within the letter are some links to websites which provide fun, educational resources which seek to inform and raise awareness of the importance of making the right decision and understanding the risks, these are tailored for each age group.

I would also urge you to visit [You vs Train - Harrison's Story - Network Rail](#) to watch the story of Harrison Ballantyne who tragically lost his life when he was electrocuted by overhead power cables after straying into a rail freight depot to retrieve a lost football. He was hit by 25,000 volts of electricity. There was nothing his friends or paramedics could do to save him. Harrison died at the scene. His family are now campaigning to get this message into schools ahead of the school holidays so that another family doesn't have to experience what they have been through.

Mental Health - Supporting my Teen

Please also see the information attached with this letter about mental health and supporting your teenager.

Finally, a reminder that school is open tomorrow all day and students should arrive in their full school uniform and bring some money as ice cream vans will be on the field as a small treat to end the year.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in the new academic year and hope that you but especially the students and staff get a well-deserved rest and return refreshed in September.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer, with every prayer and blessing.

J Hodgson
Principal

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items

- 04.09.2024 - Year 7 and Year 12 return to school
- 05.09.2024 - All other years return to school
- 10.09.2024 - School Photo day (Y7, 9 & 11)
- 11.09.2024 - Year 12 Information Evening
- 03.10.2024 - Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening (in school)
- 04.10.2024 - School closed
- 05.10.2024 - Open Morning (9 to 12.30pm)
- 17.10.2024 - Family Mass (Evening event in the school hall)
- 23.10.2024 - Sixth Form Taster Day and Open Evening
- 25.10.2024 - Break up for October half term