



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

“Give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:18-24

Friday, 17 December 2021

Dear parent(s)/carer(s) and students

I shan't pretend I am not happy to be writing to you today at the end of a long and demanding term, not least, because I have managed to get through COVID free and hopefully can enjoy the Christmas break. However, I am innately conscious that I have been very lucky and many of our community, staff, students, parents and family members, have not. To all of you, I do hope you are well, that the impact of this most dreadful virus has not been too harsh for you and your families and that you too can enjoy Christmas and the season upon us. You are in my prayers always.

Sadly, the virus continues to have an impact on school life and learning and many students attendance, and consequently learning, has been significantly affected by COVID, whether they were unwell with it or not. This makes any future school days more important than ever in order to recover this loss and I urge you to make sure that your child is in school at all times next term, unless dreadfully ill or having caught COVID.

With the Christmas Liturgical Season nearly upon us I am reminded of the true message of Christmas. The celebration that God, our Almighty Father, sent his only son, born of the virgin Mary, to atone for our sins and give us the gift of his life. I do hope that when Christmas morning comes that we are all blessed with many gifts from our family and friends but that we can find time too to remember why it is that we give and spend a moment in thanksgiving for the gift of Christ and all that gift bestows upon us.

Reconciliation Service

Last Friday afternoon we held our first reconciliation service of the year with Year 7. We have wanted to add such services to our Catholic Life calendar for so long and have not been able to, so it was lovely to finally have this opportunity. Fr. Phillip was joined by Fr. Stefan and Fr. Shanju who led the service with Mr Thomas (Lay Chaplain) and Mr Miastowski. After prayer and reflections, over 100 Year 7 students came forward to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, a very powerful statement of faith in action. We shall be hopefully holding similar services in Lent for other year groups.

Charity

Advent is always a key time for charitable activities and initiatives, and I wish to thank you for your generosity this year, whether it was donating items for the homeless appeal, or money for the non-uniform and Christmas Jumper Day.

Christmas Jumper Day - This was another fabulous occasion at school last Friday with a vary varied selection of Christmas jumpers on show. Thanks for everyone's support with this initiative and for your contribution to raising £516 for Save the Children.

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Mud Run for Cancer - Three of our Year 8 students completed a Mud Run this term raising money for cancer. A huge public congratulations to Mia, Evie and Issy for their efforts and commitment and epitomising the school values of being generous and active. Mia wrote:

'We had always wanted to do a sponsored mud run for cancer, after many of our loved ones fell ill or sadly passed with cancer, it would have meant the world to if we could do one. So in November we went and did, it and we smashed it!! We raised a total £400 between the 3 of us, we came 10th as a team. We honestly felt so rejoiced afterwards knowing we had made someone's life a little bit better by doing the run and raising so much money to support someone's rough time with cancer.'

Beatitudes Homeless Appeal - On Wednesday our Year 12 Beatitudes group headed off into Birmingham City Centre with Mr Miastowski, Mrs Palmer and Mrs Morris to deliver packs to the homeless having first attended mass at St Chad's cathedral. These spiritual and corporal acts of mercy are so symbolic of how to live a Christian life and say so much about our Year 12's being witnesses of faith. I ask for God's blessing on them and on you all for your generosity.



Year 11

On Tuesday I spoke with Year 11 on the morning they received their Autumn PPE results about the term they had had and the effort, application and attitude they had shown. They have been magnificent and so many have risen to the challenge of this examination year already. As always, some will be delighted, and others less so, with their results but it is important that this holiday period they take time to rest, recharge and refresh. They can afford to, but must do so sure in the knowledge that it is full steam ahead in January right through to June.

A reminder to parents that Year 11 Online Parents Evening is on Thursday 13th January 2022 and a booking link will go out today.

Wyre Forest Swimming Club

We are delighted as a school to be developing a very strong link with Wyre Forest Swimming Club and many of our students train and swim competitively there, and are producing great things in the pool. Of course, we are always happy to support local sports providers and clubs, not least WFSC, and encourage more of our students and their families to get involved into the wonderful world of swimming: keeping generations fit and healthy, both mentally & physically, whilst also seeking and investing in the athletes of the next generations. There is further information in the flyer at the end of this letter.

Arbor

I have mentioned in previous letters that we are moving to a new Management Information System in January, and we shall be in touch early in January with information about how to register with the Arbor Parent Platform. This means that from January Class Charts will only report on a student's behaviour and house points, and their homework. It will still show attendance, but this will not be accurate and will need to be monitored in Arbor once you have your log ins. Eventually, and hopefully by February half term, all information will be accessed through Arbor and ClassCharts will cease.

Home test kits and January Testing

Students have been sent home with home tests kits today to allow for regular testing over the holidays.

A reminder that on Tuesday 4th January 2022 (our original return to school date) we shall be operating our Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) only. Consenting students will need to attend school for a test only and then return home. **Students do not need to wear their uniform.** School will then begin in earnest on Wednesday 5th January 2022 for all students at the usual time.

In order for your child to be part of this testing new consent needs to be obtained and you can supply this consent by completing the form at this link: [Asymptomatic testing consent form](#). **Students who are over the age of 16 can complete this form themselves.**

On Monday 4th January 2022 testing will operate as follows:

All students who catch a Thandi bus should catch the bus as normal and ensure they are wearing a mask at all times. On arrival to school they will attend the ATS in the gym immediately for testing and once tested the buses will take them back home again. I anticipate that this will be around 10am.

For students who do not use the buses the ATS will operate as follows:

Year 7 will operate from 10.00am

Year 8 will operate from 11.00pm

Year 9 will operate from 12.00pm

Year 10 will operate from 1.00pm

Year 11 will operate from 2.00pm

Students in Year 12 and 13 can come at any time throughout the day.

Please note that siblings can arrive together and should come at the earliest allocated time.

Students must arrive at their allotted time and report to the gym. They will be sent home once tested and as long as their test is negative.

In the event that a student tests positive, they will be placed in isolation, and a parent/carer contacted to collect them and arrange a PCR test.

I would urge everyone to engage in this testing programme to ensure our return to school for the Spring Term is as COVID free as possible and we do all we can to avoid further lost learning days. I also appreciate that some families might not want their child to come in just for a COVID test and may choose to test at home instead.

If you do test at home please report this test result at this link : [COVID test reporting](#)

Finally, I wanted to make you aware that we have three live vacancies at the moment that might be of interest to you or people you know. We are currently keen to recruit a Site Manager, Attendance Officer and Admission Officer. Details can be found on the website [here](#).

It therefore just leaves me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and blessings for peace, joy and health in 2022. Thank you for all your support for all of us here at Hagley.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hodgson

Principal

Key dates:

Tuesday 4 th January 2022	On site Asymptomatic testing for consenting students
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	All Students return to school for 8.55am
Thursday 13 th January 2022	Year 11 Online Parents Evening (4.30 - 7.15pm)
Thursday 27 th January 2022	Year 12 Online Parents Evening (4.30 - 7.15pm)
Wednesday 2 nd February 2022	Staff Training Day
Thursday 10 th February 2022	Year 7 Online Parents Evening (4.30 - 7.15pm)
Thursday 17 th February 2022	Hagley Pyramid Concert
Friday 18 th February 2022	Break up for half term



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