

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." James 1:12

12 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

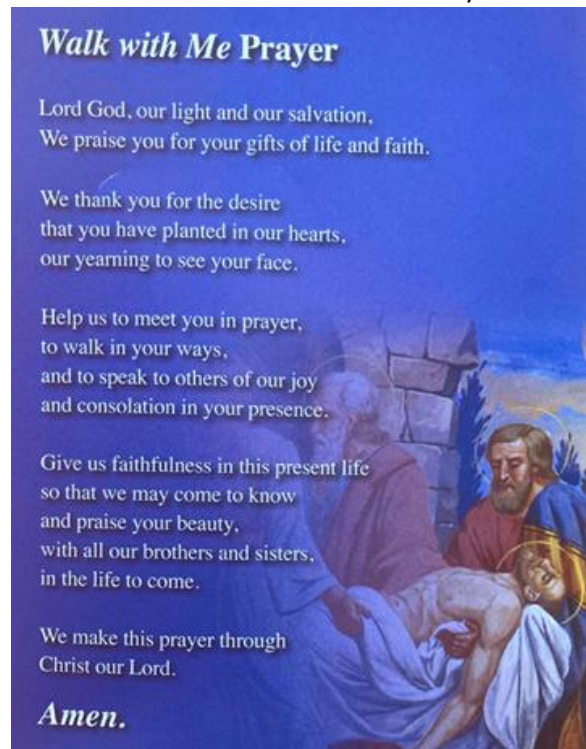
It is strange to write to you today at the end of another half term when our contact has been so very different to previous times. But in reflecting on this I am reminded about how our distance as a family in one sense has also brought us closer in others.

It has been amazing to be able to offer all our students the comprehensive online provision that we have been able to this half term. I am eternally grateful, as I know, from the numerous emails I have had, that you are too, to the wonderful staff we have at Hagley who have risen to this latest challenge and ensured that every effort has been made to keep education, learning, pastoral care and routine at the heart of your children's daily lives.

It has also been equally rewarding to find new ways to engage with you, our parents and carers, and the two highly successful virtual parents evenings we ran this term have provided us with opportunity to continue the positive relationship and level of engagement we have with you that is so important to your children's achievement and progress.

As we enter the half term break, I do want the students to take some time to rest from their studies, it has been an intense 6 weeks and I encourage them to take their down time, take a break from their screens, get out and enjoy the late winter fresh air, try a new challenge or at the very least have a mighty feast of pancakes next Tuesday. I know I will.

We will return to learning on Monday 22nd February 2021, and it will continue in its current form until such time as the Government decides on when and how any return of children to schools will be managed. At this current time I have no more information to report on when this might be but will, as always, be sure to be in touch as soon as I do.



Not only do we look forward next week to Shrove Tuesday, but the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Archbishop Vincent Nichols writes in this year's "Walk with Me" booklet of Pope Francis' new book "*Let Us Dream*". His Holiness highlights that we are all brothers and sisters created in God's image and likeness as children of God. His Grace also points out that we are all in this together and that we must not only look to our own interests but to the interests of all others, as St Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians.

Recent weeks and months have challenged us to cope in times of trial and crisis. In Lent we are reminded of Christ's own trial and crisis and in doing so often recognise the great difficulties that many of our brothers and sisters are going through that are far greater than our own. His Grace reminds us further of our Christian duty to reach out where we can, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

And so as we enter half term and Lent let us dream. There is a better tomorrow, together we will get through this and, as we always have, will continue to do whatever we can for those less fortunate than us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill Food Share

This week I was reminded about how one of our local parishes supports those who might be in need of our support. Every Tuesday morning from 11am to 12.30pm the Church opens to families who need that little bit more help with food parcels at this difficult time. We can support this through our own donations too, which are most welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes Old Hill, Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, B64 6HN.

Lateral Flow Device Testing Volunteers

As you know we have been running our LFD Testing centre at school since the beginning of January for staff and students who have been in school. We do not yet know the scale of any testing that we might be asked to do if, and when, students return to school, but do anticipate that it will be more voluminous than it is currently. Therefore we are seeking volunteers to help us run our testing centre. If you think you might be able to spare some time after half term to join our LFD Testing Team, then please email Mrs Brown (School Business Manager) at tbrown@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk to register your availability and interest and she will be in touch to set up training and discuss how it operates.

Staff Update

Next half term we say a sad farewell to one of our most dedicated and valued members of staff. Mr Capponi has been at Hagley as a member of the PE Department and then as Head of Year since 2009. He leaves us, on Friday 12th March, to take up training to join the Police Force. I am sure you will join me, and all my colleagues, in wishing him every success for the future and offer a huge debt of gratitude for the positive impact he has had on so many Hagley students over the years. He will be sorely missed, but always part of the Hagley family.

Sixth Form Information Evening

Last night we presented a live virtual Sixth Form Information Evening about our offer. If you missed it, you can still view it via our You Tube channel at <https://youtu.be/t3OsgdkVIU> and on our website. Please also feel free to share it with other interested families and students who you know might be interested in joining our Sixth Form family.

Finally, it leaves me to wish you all well and I hope you have a lovely half term.

With every good wish prayer and blessing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hodgson', with a small flourish at the end.

Mr J Hodgson

Principal

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