



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

"When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And he vanished from their sight." Luke 24:30-31

28 May 2021

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

I do hope that, like me, you have something nice planned for the Bank Holiday weekend and perhaps the whole half term week. And if not, at the very least, find some time to rest, relax and enjoy the lovely warm sunshine that we are promised and have much need for.

This week has been a special week for many reasons. On Tuesday we celebrated the first year group Mass in well over a year and it was the first time that Father Philip celebrated Mass with a whole cohort too. A Catholic School is just not a Catholic School without the opportunity to share in the Eucharist and it was so lovely to have all our Year 7 together to share in this most blessed and holy sacrament. I am so pleased that after half term every year group will join together in at least one Mass before the end of the summer term.

On Monday Year 13 attended their last formal day at Hagley after up to 7 years of dedicated study and commitment to the character and culture of Hagley. Every student always leaves a mark, however large or small, on the fabric of a school and our Year 13 have certainly done that and will not be forgotten. The usual revelry, laughs and reminiscence was evident throughout the day, the annual fancy dress efforts did not disappoint, and Pizza and an ice cream van at lunch was a perfect send off.

Today it was the final day for Year 11 with much joy and emotion, and lots of tears throughout the morning. They say you never really know what you had until its gone, and this was so true of the emotions of those who will not return to us in September. Again a morning of celebration and reminiscence took place, with lots and lots of laughs and more ice cream too.

The staff and I wish them well for the summer ahead and look forward to celebrating with them at their respective Proms and on results days in August.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all of them every success in the future wherever it takes them and remind them that once part of the Hagley family you never truly leave. They go with all our thoughts, prayers and blessings.

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Principal: Mr J Hodgson

A Prayer for School Leavers

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

May you who leave this place
take with you every blessing you
have received here:

Blessings of friendship

Blessings of memories

Blessings of knowledge

And may you who leave here this
week to start a new journey,
leave us your blessing; your
uniqueness, the mark you leave
on this place that is only you.

May God bless you all this day
and all the days to come.

Amen.

Sixth Form Committee 2021 - 2022

As one committee leaves us another quickly follows. I would like to put on public record my thanks to Joe Scofield and Megan Chapman, Head Boy and Girl for 2020 - 2021, who despite the challenges of a COVID year have been exemplary in embodying the spirit of Hagley and its mission in their support and work around school.



I would also like to congratulate, welcome and introduce you to our Sixth Form Committee for 2021 - 2022.

Frankie Bach and Erin Morris were elected Head Boy and Girl and will lead a committee to include Ben Piggott and Amy Keay (Deputy Head Boy and Girl) Mikey MacCourt, Morgan Worrall, Josh Nolan, Robyn Toolan and Emily Trickett. I look forward to working with you this next year in shaping our improved sixth form provision.

Protocols After Half Term

When we return after the half term, we will be changing some of operating protocols. In the mornings when students arrive to school, they will no longer be expected to head to their bubble blocks, as they have since September, but instead they must go to outdoor spaces, where staff duty teams, Heads of Year and SLT will meet them before supervising their entry to their forms rooms from 8.55am.

Each year group will go to the following areas:

Year 7 - Canopy around H block

Year 8 - Top courts

Year 9 - Field behind C block

Year 10 - Field by volleyball courts

Of course, it remains our hope that further loosening of restrictions from Monday 21st June 2021 might offer us more flexibility to open up the schools routines.

COVID 19

It would be easy in the current climate to become complacent about COVID 19. Restrictions are being lifted, increased signs of normality are returning and cases in the area are low. However, the new variant of concern is prevalent in some parts of Worcestershire and the West Midlands and we must continue to be vigilant and follow the control measures. With that in mind please continue to home test with the LFD kits we have sent home with students on a twice weekly basis and especially on Sunday 6th June 2021 before students return to school on Monday 7th June 2021.

Please also be vigilant of the symptoms of COVID (temperature, cough, loss of smell or taste) and do not send your child(ren) to school if they have even the slightest signs, including the ancillary symptoms of headaches, nausea, sore throat, fatigue, chills, aches and sore throat. In such circumstances please book a PCR test and do not send your child to school while awaiting the results.

Drayton Manor

A reminder that we are very much hoping to take every student in Years 7 to 10 to Drayton Manor on Monday 19th July 2021 (Year 7 & 8) or Tuesday 20th July 2021 (Year 9 & 10) and have reserved enough tickets and coach spaces for all 760 students to go. To book your child's space and ticket please go to ParentPay to do so. Sales remain open until Friday 18th June 2021 and help is available from Mrs Stanton at stanton@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk or via the school number if you need help making payment.

Student Successes

I would like to congratulate Anna (Y12) and Maisy (Y10) who earlier this half term entered a national competition, run by RE Online and promoted by the RE department, to write a 500 word blog on why an education in religion and world views matter. Both girls blogs were selected as winning entries in their age groups and deserve huge credit for their very measured, thoughtful and considered pieces.

You can read their blogs here:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/2021/05/12/why-does-an-education-in-rw-matter-maisy-ks4/>

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/2021/05/12/why-does-an-education-in-rw-matter-anna-ks5/#>

Next term Key Stage 3 will be engaging in a competition to write their own proverbs. Let us hope for more winners here too and with the entries submitted this week to the Royal Mail to design a Royal Mail Heroes stamp.

Finally, in the Pentecost edition of The Sower magazine from the Archdiocese of Birmingham, former St Nicholas Owen MAC Director, Deirdre Finucane, has written an article on her favourite saint, our patron, St Nicholas Owen and the article includes our school prayer. You can read the article at the end of my letter.

With every good wish prayer and blessing for a lovely bank holiday and half term break.

Yours sincerely



Principal

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My favourite SAINT

In a regular feature, *The Sower* asks people to name their favourite saint and explain why. Here, **Deirdre Finucane**, former Head Teacher at St Edmund's, Wolverhampton, and a former Director of St Nicholas Owen Catholic MAC (which includes Hagley Catholic High School) chooses St Nicholas Owen.

MOST of us know little or nothing about St Nicholas Owen, even if in the Midlands his name is well-known. Some of us may be familiar with the fact that in a period of our regional history (early 17th century) when life was grim for Catholics and priests were often on the run, Owen designed and put together priest hides.

These offered the clergy refuge and, even under torture in the Tower of London, Nicholas did not reveal their whereabouts. Born and active in the Midlands, Nicholas Owen is one of us.

That Midland bond with Owen was highlighted for me by a visit to Harvington Hall during which I realised the extraordinary risks he and others took in practising the faith in such dangerous circumstances. To them credit must be given in large measure for the survival of Catholicism in our area.

Nicholas was born into a staunchly Catholic family in Oxford in about 1562.

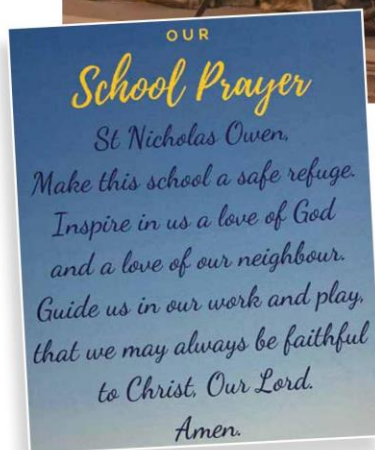
He was the second of five children: four of them were boys and two, John and Walter, trained for the priesthood. Nicholas was diminutive – possibly no more than five feet - and was therefore considered unsuitable for Holy Orders.

He needed to acquire a trade. 'Little John', as he was called, rather than be apprenticed to a carpenter as his father had been, opted to train as a joiner. He might well be suggested as the patron saint of those whose life dreams never quite worked out the way they wished. Or the patron saint of those who discover hidden talents and apply them to the highest level of skill and commitment. This makes Owen's vocation exceptional, at least in my view.

In 1588 Nicholas Owen met



Deirdre Finucane in front of a sculpture of St Nicholas Owen, located at her parish church – St Mary's in Harvington. Below, the prayer card used at Hagley Catholic High School.



Father Henry Garnet SJ, leader of the Jesuits in England, and entered his service. This decision to 'relieve, comfort, aid [and] maintain' a Jesuit meant that, were he captured, Nicholas would face certain execution as a traitor.

On the first occasion he was caught, in 1594, sent to prison in Cheapside and tortured, the civil authorities thought he was a mere servant and, once a ransom was paid, he was released. This experience must have lent renewed urgency to Owen's construction work. The better the hiding holes he could create,

the fewer priests would be captured and the longer they might live to continue their ministry.

The most fascinating story about Nicholas Owen is not that of making priest hides at Harvington, Hindlip, Coughton and Huddington, those Midland places of refuge associated with his name, but rather his involvement in the spectacular escape of Father John Gerard SJ from the Tower of London.

Owen had horses at the ready at Spitalfields so that Gerard, having shinned down the Tower and been rowed up the Thames, could ride to safety in Uxbridge one October morning in 1597. Owen was not just an ingenious craftsman.

He was very resourceful, of good cheer, and utterly trustworthy. He was a man of deep faith. His body had begun to feel the burden of the years when, in 1599, his horse fell on him, causing such injuries to his leg that, having been broken, it

had to be broken a second time in order for it to set properly. Father Gerard tells us that everyone at the inn to which Nicholas was taken after his injury admired his patience and virtue, expressing the view they would love to see him again. He was caught a second time in 1606 and was sent to the Marshalsea prison where he insisted on keeping a very low profile lest any careless conversation be overheard by spies. He devoted his time to preparing for his coming ordeal.

Nicholas remains hidden to this day because his service to the Church of his time made it essential that he operate out of sight. He was there to arrange, to support, to build places of refuge so that others were able to celebrate the sacraments, preach and transmit the Catholic faith.

His steadfastness, his quiet, unseen diligence and his personal integrity make Nicholas Owen a sterling example of faith and virtuous living and a truly appropriate patron saint for Hagley Catholic High School, Worcestershire.