



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
SEMPER FIDELIS



**“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye,  
but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” (Luke 6).**

Friday, 28 February 2025

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

Our first week back after half term has been a very positive and busy one for all concerned and it's not over yet as we host the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fundraiser Quiz tonight in the hall.

At the start of the week our thoughts and prayers were with, and for, the Holy Father, Pope Francis. In this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope our prayers were very much in hope for improved health and recovery of his Holiness as he battled pneumonia. We know

This Sunday is the last Sunday in **Ordinary time** for a while as the liturgical season of **Lent** starts next week on Ash Wednesday. This Sunday's Gospel is from St Luke and Jesus says, “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

Hypocrisy - telling people what to do and not following the right path oneself - always resulted in a stern warning from Jesus. Often it was the Pharisees who provoked Jesus' wrath for hypocritical behaviour and condemnation of their neighbour. This time it is the disciples to whom he issues a strong warning and, in speaking to them, he speaks also to us. He condemns those who accuse others of sins that they themselves are guilty of committing.

For Jesus the heart was the centre of compassion, as it must be for us. As Pope Francis writes in his latest encyclical Dilexit Nos: “Living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another ... all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart.”

We must have a heart large enough to encompass all the injustices we see around us and be prepared to do something about them. Our compassion and help must be generous and freely given. As we approach the season of Lent, may we learn to be liberal with our charity, both in judgement and practically at home and abroad, to show we truly follow the call of Jesus without counting the cost.

***Give me a heart, O God, large enough to see as you see the suffering of others and to work to spread your love and compassion for all. Amen.***

Next week with our annual Key Stage 3 Pancake Races on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday Services in school next Wednesday morning we will commence **Lent**. This will, as ever, be an important time for us all with our focus on prayer, almsgiving and fasting during this Holy season where once again we will come

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Almighty and Eternal God,  
you are the everlasting health of  
those who believe in you.  
Hear our prayers for your sick  
servant Francis  
for whom we implore the aid of  
your tender mercy,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
**Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of  
the Sick, pray for him.**

together united in our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching to act in solidarity for the common good and with those less fortunate than us and commit to acts of charity.

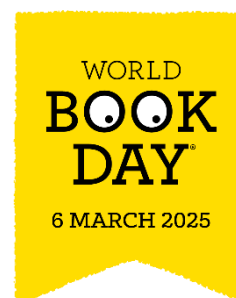
## The Voice



The Voice met this week with a busy agenda for the term ahead. Items on the agenda were The Hub redesign, new recycling systems and bins, Year 7 Walk a Mile (Launch and Planning), Lenten charities and planning a trip for the end of the year. They were joined by Mrs O'Loughlin and Mrs Mouzer but also welcomed Mrs Brown (SBM) to discuss sustainability initiatives and Mr Thomas (Chaplain) to discuss Lent and the trip.

## Literacy: World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and there will be events going on during form time and English lessons next week. This year's theme is **'Read Your Way'** and is focused on supporting students (and us all) to celebrate all types of reading that we do and have done in our lives and create our own 'reading rivers', e.g. reading a recipe book, listening to an audio book or reading a magazine, alongside more traditional forms of reading we may expect. The idea is to try and break down the barriers to encourage students to read more and enjoy choosing their own reading materials.



Students have also received a £1 voucher to spend or go towards a book.

## Literacy Ambassadors

We are looking to grow our student leadership model and opportunities. One of the first new initiatives is to develop Literacy Ambassadors with two students from every Form in school taking on this role. If your son/daughter has a love for literacy, please do encourage them to let their form tutor know if they are interested and to see Mrs Lawson on Monday lunch time in DG2.

**Hagley poetry competition** on the theme of 'Courage' is running through English homework for KS3 and then optional entries from KS4 and KS5 with an additional chance to submit their poem for the Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate competition.



Deadlines are Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and should be handed in to each child's English teacher for Hagley entries or by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for Worcestershire Poetry Competition entries.

Mrs Lawson can also submit the poem for you, or you can find the competition details below.

- [Young Poet Laureate 2025 | Severn Arts](#)
- [Could you be Worcestershire's next Young Poet Laureate? | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Poetry writing support sessions are on Monday Lunchtime in DG2 on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## National Offer Day - Monday 3rd March 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 is National Offer Day for secondary schools when all parents and carers who have applied for a Year 7 place for their child will receive notification of the outcome of their application either electronically or by post. If a family has named Hagley Catholic High School on their application and is offered a place at the school, **they must confirm acceptance of this offer through whatever process their Local Authority indicates.**

To support Hagley Catholic High School in confirming its cohort for Year 7 in September 2025, as early as possible, it would be very much appreciated if all parents/carers of pupils who have been offered a Year 7 place for September 2025 at Hagley Catholic High School, also confirm acceptance of their place **directly** with the school by completing the MS Form "Year 7 Intake September 2025 - Confirmation of Acceptance" which can be accessed via <https://forms.office.com/e/1q9ggh3U9X>, by scanning this QR code or by referring to the admissions page of our school website [Hagley Catholic High School - Admissions](#).



This will support the school in communicating with all new parents/carers as early as possible using our Arbor Parent Portal.

Families of pupils who have been allocated a place at Hagley Catholic High School, and who have accepted this offer, will receive a Welcome Letter via email in early April 2025 once all offers are confirmed. We are very much looking forward to supporting our new Year 7 cohort as they make this important transition to secondary school.

### **Enrichment and Student Successes**

#### **Careers and STEM**

Year 7 & 8 today took part in a roadshow from BAE systems in collaboration with The Royal Navy and Air Force with the aim of opening students' eyes to the broad and varied careers achieved from studying STEM subjects. Students were able to see a Robotic Dog in action and learnt about some of the latest Artificial Intelligence systems.



#### **Medical Society**

Our Medical Society were privileged to visit the Three Counties Medical School in Worcester on Wednesday. They heard first hand from current medical students about the different pathways into Medicine, before participating in a carousel of activities including using state of the art holographic dissection tables, learning how to perform and interpret an ECG, debating ethical issues related to organ transplantation, and learning how to perform CPR and to stop a person from choking. Our students held their own brilliantly, demonstrating their excellent science knowledge, and confidently interacting with every task throughout the day. A fantastic day was had by all, and we are incredibly grateful to the team at the Three Counties Medical School for hosting! (@worcester\_uni, @worcesteracutenhs)



## Poland Trip



Over the first weekend of half term students from Years 10 and 11 had the most fantastic opportunity to visit Poland. While they were there, they had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz Birkenau, the Galicja Jewish Museum, meet with Righteous Among the Nations, take a 3-hr guided tour of the Jewish Quarter, Schindler's Factory Museum and a

guided tour of Wawel Castle, plus an evening meal at Jewish Restaurant "Ariel" including dinner and Klezmer music concert. Students also had free time in Krakow to explore the local markets and shops. It was the most fabulous trip and the feedback from students and parents/carers has been excellent. A huge public thanks to Mrs Price who led the trip.



This was such a wonderful opportunity for our daughter with such varied activities throughout the trip. They were busy the whole time and I am so glad that she had this opportunity. The trip was excellent!

My son really enjoyed the trip. Lots of activities to do. He felt he had time to speak to other staff members, peers he didn't usually at school. I would just like to thank the staff for arranging and giving up their time for this experience.

My son was lucky enough to get a place on the Poland trip via the waiting list this year. From start to finish, the communication and organisation was excellent. The trip itself was well organised, thought out and gave students the opportunity to be immersed in the local culture, reflect on the events of the Holocaust, expand their knowledge of Judaism and also spend time with their friends. There was an excellent mixture of learning, exploring and, from what I am told, immense amounts of fun! ..... experiences that will stay with him for a lifetime. Opportunities that do not exist within other schools. I felt that he was safe and supported at all times. This is the longest he has been away from home and certainly the furthest he has travelled without me but I felt secure in the knowledge that he was with people who would keep him safe.

I consider it a privilege that we are part of the Hagley family and that my child is taught and surrounded by dedicated, hardworking adults that make up the staff team. My son was a child who hated being away from home and now is a young man who thrives, gets on a plane and goes and this is partly due to the secure environment he goes to every day.



More student success has been revealed to me this week with Catherine in Year 8, a member of Stourport Rowing Club, competing in her first competition at Trafford Rowing Club, Manchester last Saturday and winning her event in the double skull. This weekend she should have been heading off to a West Midlands Regional competition to compete in the double and quad but sadly the event has been cancelled because of the high river levels but we wish her well for her next event in a few more weeks.

Elsewhere on the back of their success in the Country Cross Country Championships back in January I can confirm that both Will Kennedy and Ruben Ray have qualified for the Cross Country National Championships on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in West Sussex. Once more we hope they go well and shall wait with baited breath for news.

## Under 16 Girls Basketball

Our U16 girls' basketball team have maintained their position as Dudley champions 🏀 in what was an incredibly competitive match against a determined Ellowes Hall side with a final score of 19-12. For our Year 11's, this win meant a lot as it is the end of their competitive basketball journey at Hagley and once again, they were exceptional. All the girls dug deep on Thursday night and played some brilliant basketball. Well done girls!



## Catenians Public Speaking Competition

On Wednesday afternoon we hosted our annual round of the Catenians Public Speaking Competition for Year 12. The speakers, Theresa, Leo, Manase, Ealish and Darcy, were amazing. The judges were extremely impressed by the sophisticated content of the speeches and how delightful our students were. Mrs Bunn who leads the Debating Society was extremely proud of the entire debate group and Year 12 generally. They were a real credit to our school and really engrossed in the speeches, the way the Year 12s supported each other was truly special. The winners, and through to the next round, are Theresa (1st) and Leo (2nd) which will be held in a month's time.

## Stakeholder Feedback

I mentioned in my previous letters that one of our new initiatives was to develop a platform for all stakeholders and visitors within our community to offer their feedback on their visit or experience of the school. We have had some fabulous feedback since its launch about the Grease Literacy Production, the recent Poland trip and Y9 Pathways Evening. You can give us some feedback or a review by scanning the QR code or by clicking on this link: [HCHS Stakeholder Feedback Form](#)



## Short Formed Trains

Short-formed trains (2 carriages long) are becoming more routine than we would like at the end of the day heading northbound to Stourbridge and beyond at 15:46. When a two carriage train arrives it is not practical or safe to let 300+ students on to the platform or to even try and get on to that train. Consequently, where we are notified in advance of this being the case we will hold Years 9, 10 and 11 in the sports hall after school and direct them to the 15:56 train once the 15:46 has departed. I hope that this will not be as often as it has been this week, and we have raised our concerns about this with WMT but even as I write this, I have been informed that the 15:46 has now been cancelled today. Thanks for your support of this action and your understanding. Better safe, than sorry!

## Vacancies

We have published two vacancies this week for teaching posts for September in English and in RE. The adverts are online in the TES, E-teach and on our website at this link: [Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy - Vacancies](#)

Please do share these adverts far and wide to anyone who you think might be interested in these two very exciting positions.



### We are recruiting for a Teacher of English with responsibility for Whole School Literacy

Required for September 2025  
Salary Range: Main Scale/Upper Pay Scale + TLR 2b  
Hours: Permanent Full-time position

Hagley Catholic High School is looking to recruit a teacher of English and whole school literacy lead for the start of the next academic year. It would be desirable that the candidate can teach across all year groups from KS3 to KS5.

This is a fabulous opportunity in a very good school. The English Department is very experienced and well qualified. It has a team of ten staff all based in the same block; schemes of learning are well sequenced, and students make excellent progress. Students secure very good GCSE results, 91.1% achieving grades 9-4 in 2024 and 36.1% of students achieving 9-7 grades. The department also secured an excellent value-added English score of +0.53, placing it well above the national average. Students achieve well in English at A level and are consistently above national averages, the highest performing subject in terms of progress with value added scores of +0.11 and +0.05 for Language/Literature in 2024.

English is consistently one of the highest performing subjects at Hagley and the successful candidate would quickly become part of a fabulous team with the opportunity to make a big impact.

As School Literacy Lead the successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a passion for reading and literacy, and the impact reading fluency and comprehension has on academic progress and lifelong opportunities. They will demonstrate an up-to-date knowledge on the latest research related to literacy development and will have a clarity of vision of how they can develop this area. They would be expected to drive the Literacy Policy and reading culture, lead on interventions for the lowest 20% of readers, track and monitor reading progress and develop new opportunities to take literacy development further.

We welcome applications from both Catholics and non-Catholics but expect all employees to support the Catholic ethos and values of the school. If you meet the requirements of the job description and person specification and feel that you make a positive difference to our school, then we can't wait to receive your application.


Emmaus Catholic MAC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

All applicants must be able to provide documentation to prove their right to work in the UK.

Effective from September 2022, KS26 states as part of the shortlisting process schools and colleges should consider

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### We are recruiting for a Second in Department for Religious Education

Required for September 2025  
Salary Range: Main Scale/Upper with a TLR 2b  
Hours: Full time/permanent

Hagley Catholic High School is looking to recruit a fulltime teacher of RE. It is essential that the candidate can teach across KS3 and KS4, while teaching at KS5 teaching is desirable but not essential. The RE Department is very well regarded. It has an experienced and established team; schemes of learning are well sequenced, and students make excellent progress.

Students secure very good GCSE results, 82.8% achieving 9-4 grades in 2024 and 42.5% of students achieving 9-7 grades. The department also secured an excellent progress score of +0.09 in 2024 and an average grade 6, placing it well above the national average. Students achieve well in Religious Education at A level and are consistently above national averages. Average grade at A level in 2024 was a B-. Recruitment to A level RE is also very good with 10 students in current Year 13 and 12 students in the current Year 12.

The department has seven specialist teachers currently. The appointed candidate would be expected to provide a secure specialist knowledge of the RE curriculum, as well as being responsible for the continued promotion of the department and its success. RE is taught to all pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4, plus core RE at KS5. The appointed person would be responsible for leading Key Stage 3 and implementing the new Catholic RE Curriculum Directory. The appointed candidate would teach both KS3 and KS4, with opportunities to teach A level for the right candidate. The school is looking to appoint a committed and conscientious practitioner, with a passion for Religious Education and a desire to add to add further value to the subject and department as second in charge.



The school welcomes applications from candidates of all faiths and backgrounds. The successful candidate would be expected to contribute to teaching and developments across the whole department. A commitment to promoting the ethos of the school is also very important.

Emmaus Catholic MAC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

All applicants must be able to provide documentation to prove their right to work in the UK.

Effective from September 2022, KS26 states as part of the shortlisting process school and colleges should consider carrying out online searches, as part of the due diligence on shortlisted candidates. This is to determine suitability to work with children and keep them safe. All shortlisted candidates are now subject to an online check and if there is anything concerning, then the shortlisted candidate will be asked to comment on it at interview.

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There are also vacancies currently to work for the Archdiocese. The following vacancies are currently being advertised:

- Operations Director
- IT Manager
- Finance Manager
- Gift Aid Officer

Full details and closing dates can be found at [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs). If you know of anyone suitable, please do pass on the details and encourage them to apply!

As always, this letter is sent with every good wish, prayer and blessing for a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

*J Hodgson*  
Principal

**Forthcoming Events and Calendared items - Spring Term 2:**

- 03.03.25 - Y9 Reporting window opens
- 03.03.25 - Y11 Languages Speaking PPEs begin
- 04.03.25 - Shrove Tuesday
- 05.03.25 - Ash Wednesday
- 05.03.25 - Inspector Calls Trip
- 06.03.25 - World Book Day
- 11.03.25 - Y11 Food NEA Day
- 12.03.25 - Y11 Food NEA Day
- 12.03.25 - Y7 War Horse Trip
- 19.03.25 - Y11 Food NEA Day
- 20.03.25 - Y9 Parents Evening
- 24.03.25 - Y9 Pathways Deadline
- 26.03.25 - Music concert rehearsals and performance
- 28.03.25 - Y11 NEA Food Day
- 31.03.25 - Y12 A level Geography Trip
- 02.04.25 - Performing Arts Danced Showcase
- 03.04.25 - Y12 A level Geography Trip
- 08.04.25 - Y8 HPV Vaccinations
- 10.04.25 - Y8 Parents Evening
- 11.04.25 - Break up for Easter