



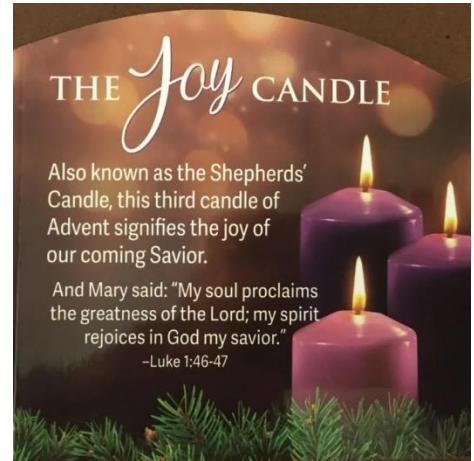
“My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices.” Luke 1:46

Friday, 13 December 2024

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

This will be my last letter of this term and this calendar year; I do hope that 2024 has been a positive year for you and has brought you much joy and that you are filled with hope for the new year ahead.

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, a Latin word that means rejoice and this weekend we light the pink candle on our Advent Wreaths. In 2014 Pope Francis said that on Gaudete Sunday instead of fretting about all we “still haven’t done” to prepare for Christmas we should “think of all the good things life has given you.”



In total:
Year 7 77 pairs of socks 66 hats 23 scarves 72 pairs of gloves 2 sets of hats, gloves and scarves
Year 8 109 packs of toothpaste 219 toothbrushes
Year 9 78 bars of soap 116 bottles of shower gel 3 bottles of shampoo
Year 10 211 bottles of hand sanitizer
Year 11 172 packs of baby wipes
Sixth form 170 packs of sanitary products 764 breakfast/chocolate bars all together

I hope you and all our students can find time this weekend to reflect on, and rejoice in, the gifts we have received this year and perhaps the gifts we have shared too.

This Advent we can rejoice in the generosity of our community. Over 2100 items were donated as part of our Reverse Advent Calendar appeal for the homeless this year, thank you so very much.

All the items were bagged up by our Sixth Form B-Attituders group and delivered across Birmingham City Centre yesterday afternoon. The joy this brought to those on the streets of the city was overwhelming for our staff and students and was once again gratefully received.

Provision for the homeless in the city is at an all time low with fewer and fewer hostels that can offer respite from the cold and damp conditions for those without a roof over their head. Your generosity has gone some very small way to alleviating this.

The Voice

“The Voice” is our student council and this week our new council for 2025 was formed and elections of our new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and I am please to announce that Leo, Fionnuala and Mason (pictured here) were elected by The Voice to these posts.



There were 28 students in Year 7 who put themselves up for election and the elected representatives from our new Year 7 will be announced in their end of term praise assembly next Tuesday morning.

The Voice has already begun mapping their 2025 action plan and intend to focus on:

Teaching and Learning (SLT link Mrs Morris)

- Promoting being a powerful learner, highlighting the importance of being an 'Active not Passive learner'

Behaviour and sanctions (SLT Link Mr Barrett)

- Reviewing our rewards systems.
- Promoting positive behaviours around school

Communication:

- Reviewing school notices

Working with outside Agencies:

- Reviewing the school canteen provision and working alongside Sodexo (school caterers)

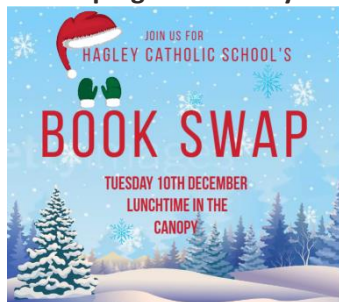
Charity and outreach work: (Link Mrs McCole - Catholic Life)

- Father Hudson Caritas 'Walk the Mile' Year 7
- Key Stage 3 Easter Appeal (Easter Eggs) - Supporting Birmingham Children's Hospital and Brushstrokes (Young refugees)
- Inter-house pancake races on Shrove Tuesday

As a new Voice is established I would like to publically thank Edward and Rosa in Year 11 for their service as Chair and Vice Chair respectively as they step away from these roles to focus on their GCSE exams this summer.

Mrs O'Loughlin (School Voice Lead)

Developing our Literacy Culture at Hagley



The latest Book Swap event enabled students across the school to bring, swap, share and take away a free book.

We are supporting sustainability in 'reusing' unwanted books and promoting reading by encouraging visible reading, conversations about books, our reading likes and dislikes and making sure books are a visible and enjoyable part of Hagley life. There were certainly some 'gems' which got donated and found new homes!



We have other opportunities to purchase new books through our online Book Club selling new books at various points during the year and, at the beginning of March, to help us celebrate World Book Day, we have our Book Fair at Hagley, 6th March 2025 is a date for your diary! However, books can be costly and, as well as actively advocating that Hagley families join their local library and borrow books for free, the termly Book Swap events help to make reading accessible for all.

I still have boxes of books ready to go to new homes, so if you/your child would like to come and browse the books available please send them to me in DG2 and I will help them find something to read they will enjoy!

Thank you to the students who helped run the Book Swap and to all those students, staff and families who donated and/or took a book away to read.

As part of our strategy and focus on literacy everyone who attends Hagley should expect to be able to read at, or above, their chronological age and our form time reading, or DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) is a whole school reading strategy we are using to support students to develop their reading ability and promote reading for pleasure.

Texts have been chosen specifically to introduce key themes which are appropriate to the age of the students in each year group and contain themes which echo the PSHE themes studied in the year.

In addition, the texts offer us a fantastic opportunity to broaden our students' exposure to a diverse range of contexts and representation by carefully selecting our writers and texts to ensure that we have representation from female authors, BAME authors and address themes which enhance our PSHE programme, generating discussion around the texts and the experiences and ideas contained.

Every Tuesday morning the bell rings at 10am and the whole school stops to read and share a text together as a form group. Students follow their own copy of the text but listen to their teacher (a proficient reader) reading aloud to them and modelling expert fluency and expression. The teacher uses additional strategies to develop students' comprehension skills and word knowledge by stopping to talk about the text, explaining key vocabulary and comprehension and through encouraging discussion around the key themes, plot and characters.



Overview of the form readers:

- Year 7 'War Horse' - belonging, friendships, identity, war
- Year 8 'The Boxer' - fear, hope, identity, risks and consequences, prejudice, kindness
- Year 9 'The Outsiders' - conflict, rivalry, violence, poverty, class, moral choices, influence of the group
- Year 10 'Boys Don't Cry' - masculinity, marginalised backgrounds, healthy lifestyles, stereotypes, family, relationships
- Year 11 'My Name is Leon' - belonging, loss and grief, different constructs of family, nature/ nurture, adoption, community/ society
- Year 12/13 Academic reading and private reading choice

Modelling fluency for our students is important in supporting reading ability as evidence suggests that an ability to read with fluency is the bridge between decoding words and comprehension. Supporting students' fluency and expression aids their ability to comprehend and understand texts (at speed) and at secondary level, the texts they are exposed to become increasingly challenging with GCSE texts having a reading age of around 16 years.

There is a significant correlation between student reading ability and performance at GCSE level and, of course, reading ability is a skill which will enhance a person's life well-beyond school exams.

I hope you all find time for a good book this Christmas and into 2025!
Mrs E Lawson (Whole School Literacy Lead)

More Advent Charitable Efforts

During period 1 on Tuesday of this week, 50 year 11 students completed a sponsored walk for Birmingham Children's Hospital Christmas Appeal. They managed to raise a fabulous £320 and walk over 3 miles (not bad in just over an hour).

Thanks to Mr Smith for supporting the walk and Mrs Palmer and Mr Aziz for setting up hot chocolates and refreshments in the gym afterwards. www.bch.org.uk/christmas

Mr S Rich (Head of PE)



Students didn't stop there either with Sixth Formers holding a bake sale this week and raising an additional £300 plus to support their efforts to go on Pilgrimage to Lourdes and then held a Sixth Form vs Year 10 (with a couple of Year 9s too) Basketball fixture at lunch yesterday with the Sixth Form coming out as victors in a closely contested game.



More Interhouse Sport



This week it was the turn of Year 9 to compete in the Interhouse 5 a side Football Competition on Wednesday after school. Another great evening of fun and fierce, yet friendly, competition was rounded off with a resounding win by Chad.

A huge well done to all who participated.

There will be more House competitions in the new year.

Last week and end of term arrangements

As we move into the last week of term a reminder of about some of the things going on this coming week.

On Wednesday it is our annual (optional) Christmas Jumper day when students are very welcome to wear their most festive Christmas sweater instead of their usual school jumper. On Wednesday the canteen will also be serving Christmas lunches for those who want one with other festive fayre available too. Then on Wednesday evening we have our annual Christmas Mass and Carols at 6pm in the school hall, we hope you can join us.

Finally, on Friday we will break up for the holidays and school will end at 13:05 (1:05pm).

As ever, I want to thank you for all your support over the last 12 months (or 4 if you are a new family to Hagley) wish you all every blessing for a wonderful weekend ahead and a happy, Holy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

J Hodgson
Principal

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items

Autumn 2:

17.12.2024 - End of term Celebration Assemblies
18.12.2024 - Christmas Mass and Carols
20.12.2024 - Break up for Christmas

Spring 1:

03.01.2025 - Ski Trip
06.01.2025 - Spring Term begins for all students/Feast of the Epiphany
08.01.2025 - GCSE Resits Results Day
23.01.2025 - St Nicholas Owen Feast Day

24.01.2025 - Y11 Spring Reports issued
30.01.2025 - Y12 online Parents Evening
04.02.2025 - School Production of Grease
05.02.2025 - School Production of Grease
06.02.2025 - School Production of Grease
07.02.2025 - Y7 & 8 Briars Weekend Residential
13.02.2025 - Y7 Online Parents Evening
13.02.2025 - Break up for February half term
14.02.2025 - KS4 Poland Trip
14.02.2025 - Emmaus MAC Teacher Training Day