



# TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (Science & Sports College)

**Headmaster:** Dr P C Doherty OBE, BA (Hons), DPhil (Oxon), FRSA

**Website:** <https://tchs.uk.net>

14th October 2020

Letter [E]

Dear Parents & Students,

## 954<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings

The battle began just after 7.00am. Harold Godwinson arranged his men in three battle groups. His house-carls in the centre under his standard, the Fighting Man of Wessex. On each flank were grouped the fyrd, which is basically the militia from each shire. Harold believed he could withstand Norman attacks until evening as on the morrow fresh reinforcements would arrive. William, however, depended on archers to break up the enemy line followed by a charge of mailed horsemen. Undoubtedly, the Normans tricked the Saxons, or at least the fyrd to leave the top of the hill and expose Harold's centre. The ruse was very successful. The Normans then turned, charging in to break the main shield wall. Just before dusk, they succeeded in doing this. Harold and his two brothers were cut down, the Saxon army literally ceased to exist. Years later William built an abbey on the site, placing the high altar, or so they say, at the very place where Harold was killed. The Battle of Hastings is one of this country's most significant events.

Thank you for reading this.

Kindest regards,

Dr P.C. Doherty OBE  
Headmaster



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