



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Newsletter

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MISSION STATEMENT: "We walk in God's ways where together we live, love, learn and celebrate"

Chaplaincy Reflection

When I was younger I would hand out my birthday party invitations on the last day of the school year; my birthday was mid August! So often my parties had been small and quiet because so many of my friends were on holiday and could not come. Each year I hoped it would be different; I waited patiently for replies to the invitation to see how many people could come, but each year was the same.

In last Sunday's Gospel Jesus tells us The Kingdom of heaven can be compared to a party. A king threw a feast for his son's wedding. Servants went out to call all the invited guests but they would not come, they were asked many times but they still would not come. The King was furious. He said to his servants that the people on the guest list were unworthy for the feast, and to 'Go out and gather whoever you can, rich and poor, good and bad, anyone who will accept the invitation.' (Matthew 22:1-14).



In the midst of fear and anger;
in the midst of mayhem and destruction, God calls us.
With everything else going on, who has time for a feast?
We're busy, we'll get around to eating eventually.
In the midst of our anxiety, our worry;
in the midst of bill-paying and appointments, God invites us.
We are tempted to just grab a bite,
a sandwich between errands,
a snack we can eat while driving, or checking email,
or working on today's big project.
The feast is spread!
All are invited, all are welcome!
We are invited. We are welcome. We are worthy.
How will we respond?
by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

Each day a new we receive an invitation for that party, to be a part of the invited people gathered for Gods eternal party, do we accept or do we reject? Do we fill our lives with busyness or do we make the time to RSVP.

School Awards

School awards are for pupils who have really gone the extra mile this month.

1. Fran Walsh nominates the following students for a School Award for their involvement with Litter Picking for the Open Evening on 11th October: Chanel O'Connell, Travis Washington, Genna Canaku, Isis Minotto, Tiffany Mozzer Guimaraes, Nicole Saldanke and Guilherme Bertolotti.
2. A second nomination from Fran goes to Sophie McDonagh, Cillian Phillips and Duane Souza who were the Chapel Guides for the Open Evening.

3. Rayssa Possatto has been nominated for a School Award by Mrs Hodgkins having observed her helping other students and welcoming new students who are in class, but speak a different language. Her English language skills and confidence have come a long way.
4. Mrs Hodgkins would like to thank the following students who were guides on the Open Evening by nominating them for a School Award: Jodi Jones, Goncalo Silveiro, Alisha Gurdass, Josh Sharpe and Jessica Townsend. They were all very helpful and great ambassadors for the school.
5. An award goes to 9b1/Biology, nominated by Dr Caseby for their careful investigative approach to the heart dissection in a recent biology lesson. Clearly several budding surgeons in the group!
6. Ms McCabe would like to praise the wonderful efforts of the Y11 debate team who 'live' debated for one and a half hours, on the topic of Homework and Creativity in school. The performances were so good that we have now gained many more members and have a full and thriving club. Next topic for debate is 'This house believes the NHS should not fund self-inflicted illnesses'.
7. Finally, coveted **Principal's Awards** go to Carla Danciu, Keisi Lleshaj, Michelle Rodrigues, Lena Lampkovska, Shang Dhanliwal, and Rayssa Possatto for working so hard to help look after our school environment.

Anti-Bullying Week competition

This year, Anti-bullying week begins on Monday 13th November. The theme for 2017 is 'All Different All Equal' and we are again encouraging students to take part in the national competition connected with this theme. To enter, students must:



- Design a **buddy** or **peer support** scheme to run in school.
- Outline their scheme using text, drawings and pictures on a maximum of one A4 side.
- Entries can be fun, serious, colourful, futuristic, or different, but must consist solely of the student's own work.

We are launching the competition now so that students make a start designing their entries over the half-term break, so do encourage your child to design an entry over the holiday. We will collect the entries during anti-bullying week. There will be school prizes for the best entries as well as the chance of winning prizes in the national competition.

Blood & Slime – no thank you!

Fake blood, 'ectoplasm', slime, squishy toys and other revolting things that are around near Halloween are banned in school. They create a mess, stain fabrics and skin, and distract students from learning. Please make sure your child isn't bringing these items into school. Thank you.

Upcoming dates:

Friday 20th October
Mon 23rd Oct – Fri 27th Oct
 Thursday 9th November
 Monday 13th November
 Thursday 23rd November
 Monday 4th December
 Thursday 7th December
 Wednesday 6th December
 Friday 15th December
 Thursday 4th January 2018

INSET Day – School Closed to Students
HALF TERM HOLIDAY
 Year 8 Parent / Tutor Evening
 Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (all week)
 Year 10 Information Evening
 Year 10 Pre-Public Examination
 Sixth Form Parent/Tutor Evening
 Carol Service
 Last Day of Autumn Term
 First Day of Spring Term

An eye on behaviour

We are pleased to report that the vast majority of St Gregory's students are applying themselves admirably to their studies, but during the first two weeks of October we have seen an increase in two types of misbehaviour. The first is being late to school, or late to lessons, particularly after morning break. The second is not handing in homework.



Both these behaviours are key aspects of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe'. Our students have signed this code to agree that:

I am ready by...

- Arriving at school on time.
- Arriving at lessons on time.
- Completing my homework to the highest standard and having it ready to hand in.

Arriving to school on time. Children who arrive late to school miss valuable time with their tutor, in assembly, or even part of their first lesson. Please make sure your child sets off in time to arrive at school by 8.40am. Thank you.

Arriving to lessons on time. We are having to see too many students in detention for lateness. You can help your child improve by showing them that you value punctuality and telling them about how it is important in the world of work. Thank you.

Completing Homework. We find that when students regularly hand their homework in on time, Show My Homework tells us that their parents are also monitoring homework. You can use the Show My Homework website to check your child's homework and each deadline. Many parents find that the free app for phones and tablets is easier to use. It's available for both Android and Apple devices. If you haven't got your parent log in details, please let us know. Even without their PIN, your child can still access homework on the website by searching for our school name and then their classes. You can also show your child that you value their homework by checking their planner regularly and signing it each week. Thank you.



Sports News

St Greg's U13 Boys through to next round of the National Cup after a last minute goal!



St Greg's made the long journey to John Colet School, Aylesbury. We took an early lead through centre back Finley's free kick which was perfectly weighted so David could flick the ball with his head into the net. Cuba had two good chances down the left before half time, but St Greg's couldn't find that all important second goal.

We needed to improve on the first half but gave a silly goal away to allow John Colet to level the score line. St Greg's bounced straight back and regained the lead through David, again heading home from a free kick. With less than 3 minutes remaining St Greg's gave away a free kick in a dangerous position and John Colet again equalised.

St Greg's showed great spirit to once again bounce back and in the dying seconds Cuba finished calmly, to win the game, after a through ball from Benjie. The boys will now face either Desborough College or Ditton Park in the next round.

Team: Ben, Moses, David, Hashem, Abdullah, Alex, Finley, Ethan, Edres, Benjie, Cuba, Leo, Joshua and Luke.

A bad week for St Greg's sees three teams knocked out of the National Cup

On Monday October 9th the **U12 boys** travelled to Royal Wootton Bassett Academy. After taking an early lead through Princewill, the home team bounced straight back to equalise. Princewill scored his 2nd to make it 2-1 to St Greg's but RWBA came back again to make it 2-2 at half time. St Greg's battled against the wind in the 2nd half but unfortunately conceded a goal from a corner with only a few minutes remaining. They pushed for a late equaliser but couldn't find one. The U12s were unlucky to lose in such a close match that could have gone either way.

On Wednesday it was the turn of the **U13 boys** who faced Desborough College. In what has become St Greg's fashion they took an early lead through Luke Hunter, however immediately conceded just before half time. In the second half they had the wind helping them and enjoyed much of the possession and had many good opportunities to regain the lead. Completely against the run of play Desborough scored two goals from quick counter attacks. Ethan Baressi scored a consolation goal in the dying seconds to make it 3-2.

Thursday saw the **U15 boys** travel to King Alfred's as the only St Greg's team left in the National Cup. This team last faced KAs in 2015 and came away 4-1 winners. A poor decision from the referee early on led to a KAs penalty which put them 1-0 up. KAs soon added a 2nd to make it 2-0 at half time. The boys worked hard to try and get back into the game but a number of poor decisions from the officials left the boys extremely frustrated and ended up losing 5-0; An extremely disappointing result.

A disappointing week indeed but the boys need to keep their heads up and hopefully they can enjoy a good run in the upcoming County Cup

INSET Day Friday 20th October – School Closed to students

School will be closed on Friday 20th October because we are having an In-Service Training (INSET) day for teaching staff. This is for the annual appraisal of teachers. The following week is our half term holiday.

And finally...

Remember that school will be closed on Friday 20th October because we are having an In-Service Training (INSET) day for teaching staff. This is for the annual performance management of teachers. The following week is our half term holiday. We hope you enjoy the holiday, and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 30th October.

Dr R Caseby,
Vice Principal



Archdiocese of Birmingham

Diocesan Education Service

Are you looking for a way to live out your faith and serve your local community at the same time?

The Birmingham Diocesan Education Service is currently inviting applications from practicing Catholics who would be interested in being appointed as a Director on the Board of a multi Academy Company or as a Foundation Governor or Foundation Representative at an individual school.

Foundation Directors, Governors and Representatives play an important part in maintaining and developing the Catholic character of Diocesan schools.

If you are over 18, have approximately 10 to 12 hours a month free and a genuine interest in supporting Catholic education, then please consider this important role and what you could offer. In return, you will benefit from knowing that you are helping to secure and improve Catholic education in the Diocese.

Whilst not essential, applications would be particularly welcome from individuals who have knowledge and experience in business, finance, HR or with a legal background. But if you don't have any of these specific skills, you may have other qualities that would be beneficial to one of our schools. Training is provided to help individuals carry out the role.

If you think that becoming a Director, Governor or Representative may be for you, or you would just like further information or an informal discussion, please contact Rebecca Tonks, Admissions and Governance Adviser at the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service.

Tel: 01675 464755 ext110

Email: r.tonks@bdes.org.uk

School Minibus for Sale

LDV Convoy 400 TD LWB Minibus, 55 plate, MOT until 28/04/18, mileage 29433, manual, diesel revenue weight 3850KG, 2400cc, vehicle category M2, 3 previous owners, 14 rear seats, 3 front seats, all seat belted, high roof, side sliding door, rear step, regular vehicle inspections and service carried out by Oxford City Council. Sold as seen.

£1300 Tel: 01865 749933 (8am to 4pm)

