



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 3
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MISSION STATEMENT: "We walk in God's ways where together we live, love, learn and celebrate"

Chaplaincy Reflection



As Advent approaches we turn our attention to preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ at Christmas. One of the ways in which we, as a community prepare is through our Advent Reconciliation Day. This is a special service, prepared and led by our Sixth Form, where our community prayerfully focusses on acknowledging some of the areas of our lives we find difficult; lack of forgiveness of a friend, times we have let others down, and have done the wrong thing. We know

that all these things weigh us down and rob us of our Joy and cause us to feel bad about ourselves.

Our community comes together to pray for all these areas with the support of our local Priests who come in to administer the sacrament of reconciliation and be a listening ear offering wisdom and guidance. Each one of us receives the invitation for a fresh start, the invitation to receive God's forgiveness and to move forward.

School Awards

School awards are given following nominations by staff members for pupils who have really gone the extra mile.

1. Mr Fourie and the Year 7 Tutors would like to nominate the following students from within Year 7 for a School Award having made an excellent start to secondary school: Hanifa Ahmed, Anifa Begum, KT Louise Crowther, Humza Islam, Ervis Rosel, Sam Florencio (7AT), Sophia Sosthenes, Callum Crown, Blake Flanagan, Hevdeli Abdelhamid, Chris De Souza (7NU), Zoe Lemoncito, Augusta Truskauskas, Lucas Sousa, Maria Aloisi (7SA), Sharon Igwe, Israel Lukwiya, Akanaksha Kaith, Ebony Thompson, David Siwela (7DH), Guilherme Bertolotti, Taniya Lal, Joshua Lovette, Elsie Powell, Michelle Rodrigues (7DJ), Lydia Phillips, Kieron Carter, Keira Ghee, Rosie Edwards and Nulam Hang Kambang (7ATH)
2. Mr Berry, ICT has nominated Aoife Conway-Mayer, Jamina Hadlow, Athina Herrera and Mollie Huntington for a School Award for their charitable work for the South Oxford Adventure Playground as part of their project for NCS
3. Mrs Mold would like to nominate Olivia Page (8VMA) for a School Award having achieved a Yellow belt in Karate after only six weeks of training, skipping the Red stepping stone belt completely. Well done!

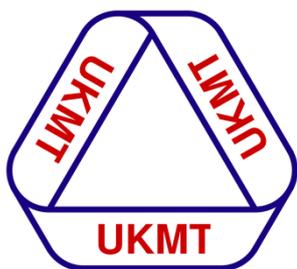
4. Dr Jakoby would like to congratulate the following Y11 students on their impeccable behaviour and great engagement during the Physics education visit at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. They were a credit to the school and received lots of praise from the staff at RAL. Please do ask them what they know about up and down quarks now...there were some interesting discussions going on! Erin Allen (11VSC), Shouaib Aziz (11VSC), Harrison Bayliss (11GP), Heidi Bough (11VSC), Sophie Fox (11SJK), Joe Ingledew (11LVS), Chiara Iorio (11VSC), Dorian Leszczewski (11VSC), Lila Maria (11SJK), Bryanee Moss (11SJK), Jessica Palmer (11VSC), Adie Parker (11SJK), Lewis Patrick (11LVS), Katrina Randall (11VSC), Kudzayi Tutisani (11GP), Jamie Ullah (11GP), Amina Ali (11JEM), Jasmine Aris (11NF), Trasor Cyubahiro (11JEM), Stella Da Silva Rocha (11GP), Halimah Hussain (11NF), Hamza Hussain (11JEM), Sedra Kako (11JC), Rida Kamran (11JC), Joseph Oates (11JEM), Liam Read (11JEM), Andrea Reyes (11JC), Bart Soroka (11NF), George Storey (11JEM) and Jessica Walter (11LVS)
5. Mrs Akeh nominated the following students for a School Award having done the school proud by acting as buddies to a group of French students who were with us for 3 days. On leaving, the French students were full of praise for the school after what had been a cultural enhancing experience for all : Ibrahim Diallo, Jamil Abdelhamid, Aman Kaith, Oliwia Kazmierczak, Pooja Kajoo, Rayane Canaku, Simona Mjwauzi, Holly Poudy, Max Cartwright, Marija Besevic, Millie Scragg-Godfrey, Joe Powell, Melanie Karim, Nadir El-Hosny, Keon Matthew, Prunelle Krasso, Eshylei Franca, Anita Begu, Jade Dollamore, Precious Blackstock Renee Mason, Euan Ingledew, Leonardo DaCosta and Brandon Fraser. Well done!

Application for a Primary School Place

Children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 will be starting in Reception Class from September 2018. The deadline for applications to Primary School is 15 January 2018. **If your child attends the Nursery, you must still make an application for Primary School.**

If you would like to visit the Primary before making your application then please come along to our second Primary Open Morning on Wednesday 6th December from 9.30am

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge



Four year 12 and 13 students went to Wheatley Park School for the regional final of the senior team maths challenge. They did very well amongst some tough competition! Well done to Kacper Liskiewicz, Libby Clark, Stan Majewski and Carmen Powell.

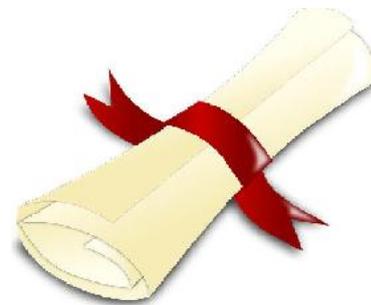
Year 12 and 13 maths students also took part in the individual maths challenge. This consists of a paper of very challenging maths and logic questions. Sabrina Hussain, Kamil Nicholson, Ian Gebana, Naomi Singh, Kacper Liskiewicz and Libby Clark all received a bronze award. Naseer El-Hosny and Richelle Espino both gained a silver award, with Richelle only 2 marks away from qualifying for the next round. Congratulations to all those who took part.

Younger years will get their chance to enter the intermediate and junior sections of these competitions later in the year.

Exam Certificates

Exam certificates are now available from the main reception for students who have left the school, but have not collected their certificates. You will need these for your future and the exam boards charge for duplicates.

Students who are still attending school are able to get their certificates from the 6th form office.



Christmas Dinner



Christmas Dinner will be served on Wednesday 6th December at the usual 'meal deal' price of £2.60 (no charge to parents for pupils who receive free school meals). A veggie option is available. Cooking hundreds of Christmas dinners is quite a feat, so please note that while sandwiches will also be available there will be no hot snacks or jacket potatoes on this day.

Christmas Menu – Roast Turkey or Quorn Fillet, Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing, Carrots, sprouts, Roast Potatoes and Gravy. Dessert is Mince Pie served with Cream.

Big Sing Event at Oxford Town Hall



Our Primary and Secondary school Choirs joined forces this week to take part in the 'Big Sing' at Oxford Town Hall.

Fourteen Secondary singers and nine Primary singers participated, performing in front of the other choirs as well as joining in the Big Sing together.

Well done everyone – School Awards go to all those who represented our school. We're all looking forward to hearing the choir sing at our Advent Carol Service on Wednesday 6th December (see page 7)

St. Josephine Bakhita Award Winners

As you may have seen in the last school Bulletin, we are very proud of Angel Wanjiru and Adam Berry, who are joint winners of the national St. Josephine Bakhita Award for young people who have enabled others to live a life of dignity, organised by millionminutes.org.

Angel and Adam received the award for their work for Oxfordshire Young Carers, working not just here at St Gregory's, but across the county to help schools improve their provision for young carers.



Dear Ruth – Answers from our new School Nurse

Cold symptoms come on gradually and can include:



A blocked or runny nose, sore throat, headaches, muscle aches, coughs, sneezing, a high temperature, pressure in your ears and face, loss of taste and smell.

Dear Ruth, My class mates are sneezing and coughing.....how can I prevent catching a cold?

You can speed your recovery from a cold by:

- **Getting plenty of rest and sleep;**
- **Keeping warm;**
- **Drinking plenty of water and fluid;**
- **Gargling salt water to soothe your sore throat**

How can I avoid spreading a cold?

Colds are caused by viruses and easily spread to other people. You're infectious until all your symptoms have gone. This usually takes a week or two.

Colds are spread by germs from coughs and sneezes which can live on hands and surfaces for 24 hours!

So to reduce the risk of spreading a cold:

- Wash your hands often with warm water and soap;
- Use tissues to trap germs when you cough or sneeze;
- Bin used tissues as quickly as possible

How can I avoid catching a cold?

A person with a cold can start spreading it from a few days before their symptoms begin until the symptoms have finished. The best ways to avoid catching a cold are:

- washing your hands with warm water and soap
- not sharing towels or household items (like cups) with someone who has a cold
- not touching your eyes or nose in case you've come into contact with the virus - it can infect the body this way
- staying fit and healthy

Sports News

School Games Cross Country

St Greg's were represented superbly at the recent school games cross country qualifier. A total of 52 students competed across all age groups. Well done to everyone that braved the rain and wind to compete in this event and a special well done to those who qualified for the County Finals.

The following teams made it through to the County Finals:

- U12 Girls A Team
- U14 Girls A Team
- U16 Girls A Team
- U18 Girls A Team
- U18 Boys A Team

As you can see, St Greg's girls smashed it!! #GirlPower #StGregsGirlsCan



St Greg's U12s unlucky to miss out on 5-a-side Final

St Greg's U12s football team took part in the annual National 5-a-side qualifier at Oxford Academy. St Greg's faced a very strong Cherwell team in the first game and after taking an early lead went on to lose 3-1. The boys knew they needed to win their next 2 games in order to advance to the final. They played Cheney School in the 2nd game and after being 2-1 down Princewill turned the game on its head with a superb quick fire double and the boys led 3-2. However, they conceded a last minute goal and a draw was all they could manage. It was still mathematically possible for the team to make the final as other results went their way. They needed to beat Oxford Academy by 2 or more goals. Princewill was on form again and put St Greg's 2-0 up within minutes. TOA got themselves level before Princewill scored another 2 goals. The score was 4-2 and the boys were on their way to the final! However, in the last minute of the game disaster struck and TOA scored again to make it 4-3.

The boys were obviously gutted not to make the final, especially as they came so close. They scored 9 goals in 3 games but unfortunately conceded 1 goal too many. Team: Michael Third, Yograj Limbu, Jamie Sibanda, Kafui Afanu, Princewill Ehibhathiomhan.

School Games Badminton

Last week we took two U14 teams and two U16 teams to the school games



badminton qualifier at Cheney School. The boys competed in a mixture of singles and doubles matches against Cheney, Cherwell, Magdalen College and Oxford Academy. They faced some very good players who play at County level and one boy who even had his own Badminton court in his house!! I'm sure they learnt a great deal about how to play tactical, attacking badminton. Well done to all that took part.

Liam Read, George Storey, Joseph Oates, Trasar Cyubahiro, Joe Powell, Bartosz Dlubak, Keon Matthews, George Arnold, Raemon Evio, Ronas Iwaram, Orgito Neli, James Fitzgerald, Seb Hernandez, Mikolaj Thompson, Umar Khan, Max Trinder, James Lusanta, Awais Razzaq.



'For more sports news check out the December Sports Newsletter

Out on December 15th

INSET Days Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December – School Closed to Students

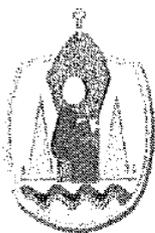
School will be closed on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December, so the last day of term for students is Friday 15th December.

And finally...

It certainly turned decidedly wintry during November and we even had a flurry of snow on the last day of the month. As you can see, that didn't stop our intrepid cross-country runners, our 'Big Sing' choir, or our other award winners. If you do need warming up our cafeteria will be serving Christmas dinner on Wednesday 6th December.

We're also hoping to see you all at our Advent Carol service on Wednesday, 5pm-6pm.

Dr R Caseby,
Vice Principal



An invitation to join our Primary and
Secondary School, for our

Advent Carol Service

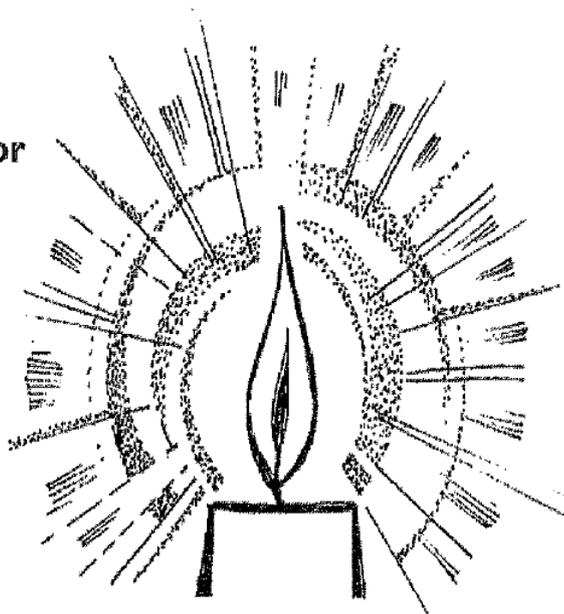
An evening of
Scripture Readings, Carols,
Poems and Prose to prepare for
the coming of Christ this
Christmas.

Location: St Gregory the Great
secondary School

Date: Wednesday 6th December

Time: 5:00 – 6:00pm

Refreshments available after the
Service.



**The people that walk in darkness
have seen a great Light**

OXFORD CITY HOOPS BASKETBALL CLUB

Est. 1995



Do you want to play basketball?

Why not come and play at Oxford Hoops? This friendly and inclusive club is currently recruiting players of all ages and abilities - boys and girls welcome. Children from age 9 are welcome to join the U12 session.

Come for a trial session on Saturday at St Gregory the Great School, Cricket Road, Oxford, OX4 3DR

U12	9-10.30am
U14	10.30-12pm
U16	12-1.30pm
Over 16s	1.30-3pm

Enquiries: sales.oxhoops@gmail.com



Please come and join us for the



St Greg's

Christmas

Annual "Pub" Quiz

Friday 8th December 2017 in the Conference room

Doors Open 7pm

Quiz starts 7.30pm

Teams, families and individual entries welcome

Adults £3 Children £1

**Pizza, Pannetone
& Festive
Refreshments**



**CASH
PRIZE**