



St Gregory the Great Bulletin

Issue 18

Friday 19th January 2018

Head Lines

I'm looking forward to 2018 and working with all St Gregory the Great families as we continue together on our school improvement journey. If 2017 was a year of challenges I am seeing 2018 as a year of transformation. Last year required a number of issues to be addressed and was marked by significant changes. This year is when we will really see the benefits of the changes we have made as our new approaches embed and start to really have an impact on the students' outcomes. You will have seen the impact already of the changes that we have made to the behaviour of students and the level of care they enjoy at school.

This week we had our first monitoring visit from Her Majesty's Inspectorate (Ofsted). Although I am limited by what we can say until the report is officially published, I would like to say that there are a good number of positives that we can take forward as well as there being areas identified for improvement. We are on the right path and improvements are being made. Thank you to everyone for working hard and showing that we can make a real difference to our young people's lives.

The coming term is short but very busy. I'd like to thank all families in advance for the support I know they will give as we work together to ensure every student here at St. Gregory's achieves their potential. We all should be immensely proud of our school and have much to celebrate.

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

Assembly this week

The theme this week has been New Year Resolutions. As we begin a new year we reflect on the Gospel reading from last Sunday: Jesus calling his first disciples, for them it was a new beginning and chapter in their lives. Here Jesus is setting out on his public ministry, a new beginning in his life of service. Students have reflected upon the new commitments they made at the start of the year. This is a time to renew our efforts at school as well as a time to embrace our faith more fully.



Year 8 Mass

This week 8 DNH and 8DVMC had Mass in the Chapel with Fr Naz. They reflected upon the idea of time and how we should measure and spend our time, counting the passing of minutes and days or paying attention to the experiences we have. A special thanks to Phoebe Holifield, Alan Renny and Catarini Lay for leading us in the Liturgy of the Word - the Call of Samuel and Carla Danicy and Tiffany Mozzer Guimaraes for our bidding prayers which the whole of their form prepared. Well done to all!

Retreats

Every Child in our school is given the opportunity to go on a residential retreat each year. Retreats offer our young people the opportunity to stop and reflect on the important aspects of life and take time to consider choices and decisions carefully. Students have fun and meet new people from within our own school and other schools. For many this is a trip they count down the day for.

Here is advance notice of the upcoming Residential Retreats in 2018. Letters are available from the Chaplaincy Office.

Y11 Kintbury - 25th - 28th January

Y10 Kintbury - 26th - 29th April

Y7 & Y8 Alton Castle - 16th - 18th May

Y9 Soli House 6-8th June

Y11 and Sixth Form Taize (France) - 7th - 16th July

Teacher Profile - Mr Wileman

Job Title - Assistant Principal - Teaching and Learning

What does this mean? It is my job in school to help the teachers have all the resources and information they need to teach quality lessons and ensure that students are able to make excellent progress. It is also my role to help the students to be able to develop into confident and independent learners.

To improve the standards of teaching and learning this year we have introduced several new initiatives. The first of these is the Walkabout. This is where Senior Leaders in the school visit lessons to ensure that standards of teachers & learning are remaining high. We are very fortunate that we have a very dedicated and talented staff to work with.

Another initiative has been the Good Start Audit. This is where staff across KS3 assess pupils in 4 main areas. The scores from these areas were then added. We have now begun interventions with students who scored highly via a new report card system. We are going to be revisiting these scores and updating them twice more throughout the year.

Most recently we have worked hard on improving the environment within classrooms. This has seen a transformation in the 'look' and 'feel' of the classrooms and the students have responded with improved attitudes to learning.

Finally we have also been scrutinising the work of the students by looking in their books. Based on this I have adapted the school marking policy to help staff to mark against the learning objectives and attainment targets set. It is also designed so that students are given the opportunity to reflect and then improve their own work.

Favourite Subject? I shouldn't have a favourite but.... PE!

Hobbies? I regularly compete in Triathlons in Ironman distance races. I am also a keen runner. Away from sport I also enjoy Films, TV and Music. My favourite film of last year was Star Wars, The Last Jedi. My favourite TV show is Game of Thrones. My current favourite artist is Frank Turner.

Physics Revision

A Physics revision resource has been added to Doodle for all Y11 students to practise the equations they need to memorise for the exam. Students should see Dr Jakoby if they have any questions.



Geography Revision

Year 11 Geography Revision continues every Tuesday Morning 8-8.45am. We are finishing off coasts and then moving on to rivers. Students that attend all improved in their PPE so it is very worth coming. I look forward to seeing you in HU3. Miss West



Chemistry Success

I would like to give a school award to Hamza Choudhary in year 9 for his brilliant answers in Chemistry. Mrs Fatima



ICT & Computing Notices

Monday's Year 7 Code Club - 3.10 - 4pm in CP1 with Mr Taggart. There are only 15 places available (due to Code Club rules). Please see Mr Taggart if you are interested in developing your programming skills.

Years 10 - 13. Are you interested in developing your knowledge of Cyber Security. There is a FREE Cyber Security Course available and is sponsored by HM Government, if you are interested in developing your skills please see Mr Taggart in CP1

Year 11 - ICT Coursework Catch - up sessions every Thursday in CP1 3.10 - 4pm with Mr Taggart.

Could you be a school Governor?

We are looking for a new parent* to join the governors on the Local Academy Committee at St Gregory the Great Catholic School. The governors' role is to support and drive forward the improvement of the school from Special Measures through Good to Outstanding.

We need people who are committed and can spare time to attend approximately 12 meetings a year. We would particularly welcome anyone with experience in Finance or Human Resources, but the position is open to anyone with the drive and commitment to help the school.

Don't worry if you don't have experience because you will receive an induction and ongoing training. Parent governors do not have to be Catholic, though they do need to support the ethos and values of the school. If you want to learn more, please email Dr Robert Bennett, Chair of Governors: rpbennett3@gmail.com by 24th January 2018.

* A 'parent' means all natural or adoptive parents, any person with parental responsibility as defined in the Children's Act, or any person who has care of a child or young person who is a registered pupil in the primary or secondary phases at St Gregory the Great Catholic School.

Important dates:

Thursday 18 th January	Sixth Form Options Evening (for Year 11 students)
Thursday 25 th January	Year 9 Parent / Teacher Evening (4pm – 7pm)
Thursday 1 st February	Sixth Form Parent / Teacher Evening
Mon 12 th Feb – Fri 16 th Feb	February Half Term Holiday

Thursday 22 nd February	Year 7 Parent / Teacher Evening
Thursday 22 nd March	Year 10 Parent / Teacher Evening
Thursday 29 th March	Last Day of Spring Term (early closure)
Monday 16 th April	First Day of Summer Term
Thursday 3 rd May	Year 8 Parent / Teacher Evening
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Mon 28 th May – Fri 1 st June	May Half term Holiday
Tuesday 24 th July	Last Day of School Year (early closure)

Uniform

It's great to see students arriving each day looking smart and ready for school in their navy blue St Gregory's uniform. Thanks to parents and carers for supporting our new uniform. As the colder weather is now with us for a number of months, can I please ask that all students wear appropriate coats to school. Hoodies are not part of the school uniform and if an extra layer is needed under blazers only the official school jumpers are allowed to be worn.

If you are thinking of purchasing new footwear for school, please buy black leather school shoes *not trainers*. Trainers are only worn for PE lessons.

Remember that students not in correct uniform will be sent home to change, or will work in isolation from other students. We also have a ready supply of second hand uniform which we can provide on a temporary basis if necessary. If your child arrives out of uniform, her/his Head of Year will follow this up with you.

stgregory@dbmac.org.uk

www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk

01865 749933