



St Gregory the Great Bulletin

Issue 19

Friday 26th January 2018

Head Lines

We have had a very busy week in school with a specific focus upon our Year 11 cohort. On Wednesday staff had the Year 11 post Pre-Public Examinations (PPE) analysis meeting. The information gathered here gives teachers and the students a really clear steer as to where intervention and extra work needs to be put in if the summer results are going to be successful. That is, if everyone takes them seriously. Here at St Gregory's we take them very seriously indeed.

The results look positive for the year group as a whole, but of course among them there are individual stories of disappointment, confusion, upset and of course joy. We now really hone in on these results and what they tell us about every individual student, every subject, every paper and every question. Work now begins on ensuring any issues are tackled, and that every support we can give is directed at these students.

Year 12 and 13 students sat their pre exam papers recently and we keenly look forward to hearing the results of that process next week. Examinations are the sharp end of what we do in school – ultimately it is our key job to ensure as many students as possible gain the qualifications they need to progress to their next level.

Successful students learn that there is more than one way to think about a problem or an issue, the importance of collaboration and teamwork and that what might look like a talent that only a few “special” people have is something that anyone can acquire through practice (all great artists, musicians, sportsmen and women, performers say it is practice and hard work that get them success).

For families of Year 9 students thank you to those that supported their child at last night's Year 9 Parents' Evening and for your support in ensuring that your child is in school every day.

Starting yesterday and through the weekend a group of our Year 11 students are on retreat at Kintbury. They report that they have had a wonderful first morning at Kintbury on Retreat. The sun is shining and the sky is blue. "We are here with five other Catholic secondary schools from across the country. It is a very large retreat with lots of new people to meet! Today we are looking at the theme of awareness and exploring who we are". A wonderful opportunity for our students! There will be a full report in next week's bulletin



This week I visited two of our Catholic primary feeder schools, Our Lady's in Cowley and St John Fisher in Littlemore. Both myself and Mrs Hannah Forder-Ball, head of St. Gregory's primary school, spent time discussing ways forward in the future and how we can foster closer links between our schools. We looked at joint projects during the summer term that involve students from all our schools. Thank you to the two principals, Miss Tara Davies and Ms Dianne Carbon for their time. The future is very bright!

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

Assembly this week

This week we have been reflecting on the Gospel reading from last Sunday where Jesus calls his first disciples who were fishermen - "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men". This is also Christian Unity Week, a week where Christians pray together for peace and understanding between different denominations. In our Assemblies this week students heard different speakers reflecting on this idea that we are all called, just like the fishermen disciples, for a particular purpose: we all have a Vocation, a job that is unique to each of us.



Year 8 Mass

This week 8BKPR and 8BTS had a Special Christian Unity Mass in the Chapel with Fr Naz. They reflected upon Jesus calling his Disciples and asked them to follow him. Fr Naz asked the Students if they were followers or waiters? Are they followers accepting the invitations that have been given to them through their time at School or are they waiters wasting time until they are an adult and they leave!



A special thanks to Josh, Michelle, Bushra and Talitha for leading us in the Liturgy of the word and Andre, Gabriel, Natalia, Matilda, Diontae for our bidding prayers. Next week 8FMN will have their Mass with some of our Primary school Students.

Teacher Profile – Miss Jelfs

Job Title – Faculty Leader for Religious Education

What does this mean? I am responsible for all that is RE. It is my job to make sure the RE department has all the resources and information to teach quality lessons and ensure that students are able to make excellent progress. I am responsible for what is taught in the RE curriculum making sure that it follows the Catholic Education Service (CES) guidelines.

I share a real passion for teaching Religious Studies with other members of the department and together we are a strong team. I make sure that the lessons are fully resourced and that all assessment material is available to the teachers. The exam boards provide me with all their updates and it is my responsibility to implement these into the RE curriculum and support the RE teachers in delivering the course.

I review student progress in RE and help support classroom teachers with strategies and resources to best improve this. My job is essentially to make sure every pupil has what they need to make the progress they should in RE, which is why I am always popping into RE classes.

We have a varied and extensive curriculum within RE including the study of different world faiths. At GCSE the focus is upon the study of Christianity alongside Judaism. We are also supported by the work of the Chaplaincy who deliver discreet lessons to our Year 9 students.

Favourite Subject? Theology but if you ask my classes they will say I claim everything as my favourite.
Hobbies? I go to as many festivals and concerts as I can, and I am very excited that Britney Spears is

touring again.

My favourite TV show is Eastenders, sad but true

Strange but true Cotton Wool makes me feel really ill!

Level 2 BTEC

The Level 2 BTEC students will be holding a cake sale next week on Wednesday and Thursday break time, as part of their coursework, and will be raising money for Gatehouse a local homeless charity which works in both Oxford and Cowley.

The cake Sale will be at break time in the foyer of the Hall, please bring money on both days to support the students and this worthwhile cause.

ROAD CLOSURE

CRICKET ROAD will be CLOSED FOR TWO WEEKS DUE TO THAMES WATER EMERGENCY WORK.

ICT & Computing Notices

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

Year 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.

The BTEC Inspection is Tuesday 30th Jan. Period 3 the inspector is meeting Lead IVs

Business & ICT coursework catch up sessions

Year 10 Business coursework catch up sessions are every Monday after school in Bs1.

Year 11 Business coursework catch up sessions are every Thursday after school in Bs1.

Year 11 ICT coursework catch up sessions are every Thursday after school in CP1.

New Catering Service

As many of you will be aware we recently held a tender for catering services. Following a rigorous process which involved bids, interviews, presentations and tasting sessions attended by pupils from across the DBMAC (including 4 from St Gregory's) we have awarded the 3 year contract to Caterlink. The company has extensive experience of managing catering services in schools. We are very excited that Caterlink will be undertaking significant investment in the canteen which will improve the ambience, and with an outreach 'pod' based in the school hall should also be able to reduce queuing. They offer an interesting range of food options which we anticipate will be appealing for students and staff alike. We plan to hold a session for pupils, parents and staff to meet Caterlink before Easter. If you have any queries please contact Virginia Moffatt, Procurement and Contracts Manager.

Please see the attached flyer for more information about Caterlink.

Careers Fair

Today we hosted a very successful Careers Fair where the engagement among students has been fantastic and we have had a variety of higher education, apprenticeships and employers present. Students were asking many intelligent and searching questions about the different services on offer, and we are sure it has given our students plenty to think about.



EAL & Homework Club

EAL Club runs every Tuesday after school from 3.10 - 4.00 pm and anybody with an EAL background is more than welcome to come along for help with homework. They can pick up a consent letter from EAL.

Important dates:

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.