

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

Issue 22

### Head Lines

Today Susan Kambalu, a representative from CAFOD (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development), came into school to help support our Lenten fundraising where great generosity has been shown by many in the school community. The theme for the charitable giving is 'Hunger for Change' which tied in wonderfully with the values session on Compassion that students have been exploring this week in tutor time. We are all reminded how the virtue of compassion can be shown in our everyday lives, in particular through the outstretched hand that we extend to the poor.

One of the key areas of development in the school is that of music for all. We are keen to increase the size of the choir as well as provide opportunities for students to participate in musical events both within and outside the school. A key event in the life of our school is the forthcoming celebration of our school feast day on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. This is when we celebrate the life of our school patron, St Gregory the Great. He was a great man of inspiration in numerous ways, one of which was his contribution to church music and what became known as 'Gregorian Chant'. Our choir will be leading the worship at this important celebration for the whole school.

Music is an essential part of life, we all have a favourite tune or band and simply listening to music puts people in a certain mood. Music can have a positive effect on the way we feel and go about our daily lives. We would very much like to encourage students during assemblies to listen, appreciate and be inspired by others who play an instrument. There will be a special meeting on Monday next week for those instrumentalists in our school to see how we can best celebrate, serve and inspire others.

We remember our Year 11 students in our prayers as they are preparing for their second set of PPEs. May the Spirit of Wisdom give them encouragement in their daily toil. Please see the last page for the PPE timetable for next week.

*Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)*

### Assembly this week

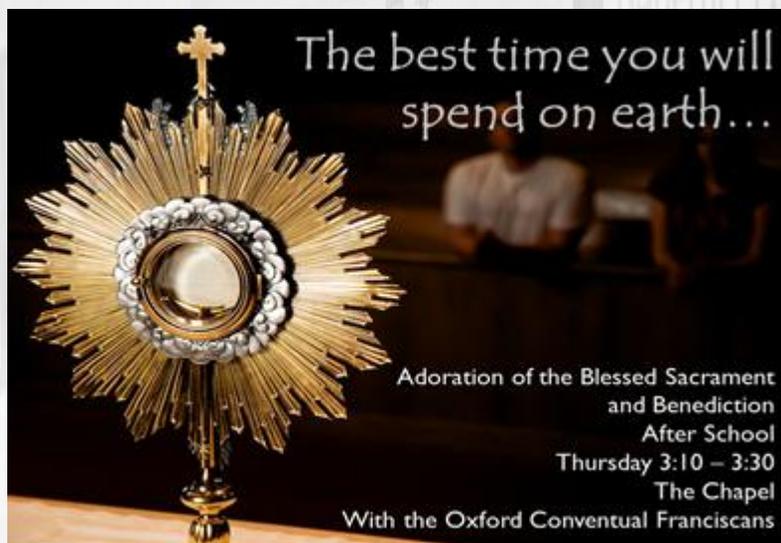
During half term we had Ash Wednesday which marked the beginning of Lent. This week students have been reflecting on the Gospel reading from last Sunday (Mark 1:12-15) where Jesus was tempted in the desert but the angels protected him – ***"Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him"*** Jesus was in the desert for 40 days and nights. During Lent many of us will give up something we enjoy in solidarity with Christ, often as alms giving or an act of charity. Part of the fundraising activities in school this Lent is for CAFOD (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development).



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## Teacher Profile – Miss Manns

Job Title – Teacher of Sociology and RE

I've had the privilege and enjoyment of teaching at St Gregory's for the past 14 months. Currently, you can find me around the school teaching mainly Sociology and RE as well as being a tutor to a wonderful group of Year 11s. Besides delivering subject content, I believe my most important role as a teacher is to inspire my students to be the best versions of themselves and to find a true passion for learning. My greatest aspiration is that for each student that arrives in my classroom, leaves having discovered his or her own unique gifts and talents and a desire for knowledge.

My career at St Gregory's began in January 2017 when I moved to Oxford from a small town in Canada – now when I say small town, I mean roughly 6000 people. It is thanks to the teachers I had growing up in my small hometown that I have achieved all that I have today. They encouraged me to set limitless goals and motivated me to work hard to achieve them. As a result, they inspired me to pass on those same skills to the youth of today.

I absolutely love to teach; however, my hobbies and interests stretch farther than just my classroom. History is my favourite subject; therefore, I quite enjoy documentaries, museums and historical landmarks. I am also a big fan of sport – both watching and playing. My favourite sport to play is volleyball but, in true Canadian fashion, my favourite sport to watch is *ice* hockey. When I am back home in Canada I enjoy camping, fishing, and playing in the snow; however, in the UK I enjoy the history and all the wonderful new experiences it has to offer.

In closing, I would like to leave you with my favourite quote: *"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."* – BB King

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## Symposium - Arts Workshops for KS3

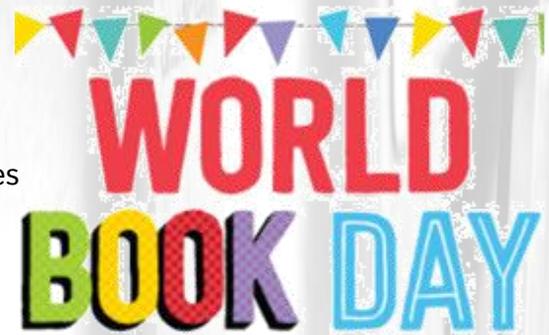
On Monday, Ms McCabe and Miss Abbott took a group of 10 KS3 students to The Oxford Academy. The students are part of a joint project between the two schools in which they experience talks on a range of different topics. The 5 week programme began with the History of Poetry and will move on to set design, gender studies, and Greek myths and legends. The students enjoyed working with another school, and all responded fantastically to challenging and thought provoking content.

## World Book Day creative writing competition

As part of our World Book Day celebrations (next week!), the library is launching a creative writing competition.

Tommy Donbavand (author) has crafted some amazing story starters which students will use to inspire their own work of no more than 350 words. I will have plenty of copies available in the Library for their use and I'll introduce it to year 7 and 8 during library lessons.

There is a £15 Blackwells voucher for the winner and the closing date is Friday 2nd March.



  
*Eyes Down for our Annual*

**ST GREGGS**  
**bingo**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**Doors open 6.30 for 7.00 start**

**Full bar available plus Irish coffee**

**Snacks provided by Year 11 Prom Committee**

**Come and support the school and win great prizes**

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## Map Reading Club

On Wednesday lunchtime next week I will be launching a map reading club in DT6. This club is primarily for those year 9 students who are in the Air Cadets. This shouldn't be confused with the school's DofE award which will have a separate training programme coming soon. The club will take place every Wednesday lunchtime. Mr Henwood.

## Homework Club

JOIN US IN INCLUSION, EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY AT 3.15 TO 4PM FOR HOMEWORK CLUB.

You will receive support and guidance, plus help with access to relevant online resources. All welcome – see you there!!



## Year 11 Geographers

Year 11 Geographers are off on two days fieldwork on Monday 5th March and Tuesday 6th March. On Monday we are hoping for lovely weather as we head to the south coast to look at sand dunes and do

some on site coastal revision. On Tuesday we are closer to home as we look at the new Westgate shopping centre and how sustainable it is for Oxford.

A reminder to all year 11 geographers that your slips need to be handed in on Monday 26th February.

If any parents/carers have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Miss West. We are looking forward to what should be a really fun and successful learning experience.

## UKMT intermediate maths challenge

Students from maths classes 9a1, 10a1, and 11a1 took part in the individual maths challenge on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. This consists of a paper of very challenging maths and logic questions. Shouaib Aziz, Amina Ali, Amnah Shah, Chiara Iorio, Lewis Patrick, Harrison Bayliss, Stella Da Silva Rocha, Halimah Hussain, Elly Ochiela, Fabio Pereira, Raemon Evio, Shubdeep Singh, Pawel Fiszer, Rahul Gill, Marija Besevic, Dijan Peci, Ebube Nwabueze and Samina Samad all received a bronze award. Eva Zhang, Maxwell Lay, George Storey, Karolina Jaksova, Jamil Abdelhamid, Matheus Florencio, Klodian Pepa and Joe Powell received a silver award. Liam Read, Jayden Gallagher and Jakub Starnacki all gained a silver award and qualified for the next round. This is the most qualifications we have had in one year! We wish them luck in the next challenge and congratulations to all those who took part.

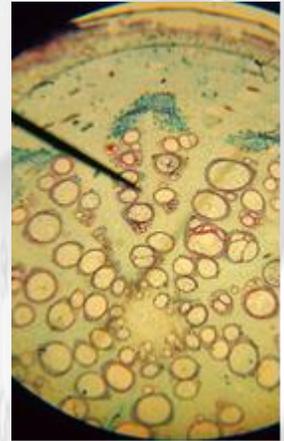
Years 7 and 8 will participate in the junior sections of this competition later in the year.



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## Art & Science – Fragments

Students in 11W developed methods to draw and record with microscopes whilst exploring the GCSE art exam theme – Fragments. Excellent work was produced by the entire group as they responded to the work of artist and scientist, Rob Kessler, by observing, drawing and painting scientific cells. The cells ranged from frog skin to sections of a bee! The images created were fantastic! .... Just make sure these pages are now completed for homework 11W!



Digital photograph produced by GCSE art student Sedra Kako

## 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.

If anyone has any good used foreign language dictionaries at home which are no longer used, would they consider donating them to the school to help our young learners?

## Important dates:

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 Options Evening
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	St Gregory the Great Feast Day
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 10 Parent / Teacher Evening
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last Day of Spring Term (early closure)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Summer Term
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 8 Parent / Teacher Evening
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> June	May Half term Holiday
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of School Year (early closure)

## Attendance

Please note that St Gregory the Great Catholic School does not give permission for leave of absence. Please arrange any holidays outside of school term time. Likewise where possible please ensure dentist and doctor appointments are made outside of the school day. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Every day lost in education has a negative impact on student achievement and we want to do the very best for all of our students.

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## Year 11 PPE Timetable

	Period.1	Period.2	Period.3	Period.4	Period.5
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb Sports Hall	English Literature (2hr 15 min)		RE (1hr 45mins)		Physics (1hr)
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb Sports Hall	Geography (1Hr 50 min) Food and nutrition (time tbc)		English Language (1hr 45mins)		Sociology (1hr)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb Sports hall	Maths (1hr 30)		Media (1hr 45 min)		Law (1hr)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar Sports Hall	Biology (1hr) Chemistry (1hr)		Maths (1hr 30)		German ( 1hr) French ( 1 hr)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar Sports Hall	History (2Hours) Product Design (2 hours)		Maths (1hr 30)		IT (1Hour) Sociology (1hr) Performing arts (1hr)

## 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.