



St Gregory the Great Bulletin

Issue 20

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Head Lines

Rarely do you hear people talk up the positive encounter that they have with a young person or praise the generosity of young people who spend time helping others. Over the last few weeks I have had countless moments in school when I have been humbled by the actions of St Gregory's students. We have had a number of visitors to the school recently and our students have been extremely polite and welcoming. As many of you know a recent visit was from Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Schools (Ofsted). This was a two day monitoring inspection on 17th and 18th January. The report is very positive with much to celebrate.

The school is praised for being "a safer, happier and more orderly place than at the time of the last inspection." It goes on to acknowledge that "the leaders responsible for safeguarding have had a significant impact in a very short time." With regard to the quality of teaching and learning the report states that "teachers are more confident about insisting upon higher expectations of pupils." Significantly the inspectors noted that "leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures." However, as with all reports there is the challenge for further improvements to be made. Inspectors saw some pupils arriving late to lessons in the secondary school; they were reprimanded and sanctions applied. The report notes that there has not been sufficient time since the section five inspection in March 2017 to see a significant improvement in pupils' progress. There was specific praise for the Sixth Form where results remain strong with better quality teaching, learning and behaviour.

Two specific areas of focus for development are:

- Ensure that the school improvement plan is fit for purpose, sufficiently detailed, based on a thorough review of the actions taken so far and measured by its impact on pupils' behaviour, attendance and outcomes.
- Provide a thorough and convincing account of the impact of the pupil premium and other funding.

I would like to express my thanks to the whole St Gregory's community for its continued drive for success and improvement. To parents for ensuring that your sons and daughters arrive to school on time, smartly dressed and ready to learn. To governors for their unwavering support and challenge. To staff for their insistence on maintaining high standards of behaviour and to our students for developing more of a collegiate responsibility for the school environment.

The full report will be published on the school website within the next few days.

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

Assembly this week

During the week students have reflected on the Gospel reading from last Sunday: Mark 1:21-28 where Jesus casts out an unclean Spirit – "What is this? A new teaching - and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him."

The theme for this week has been authority. As Jesus begins his ministry people were amazed at his Authority. The people who came to listen to



him preaching and teaching, knew there was something different, real and authentic to his message. Students have been encouraged to think about the need for authority in our lives and the different places where we encounter and experience authority. True authority comes with a mark of respect.

Harry Potter Day

Thursday 1st February saw the country celebrate Harry Potter Day and our school was no different. Students secured their tickets eagerly in the week before and arrived to a Library full of different activities. A huge amount of butterbeer was imbibed, chocolate cake guzzled and treats won! Students enjoyed a Blue Cornish Pixie hunt, with over 40 scattered around the school and they took part in the ultimate Harry Potter quiz (which was well hotly fought). Wands were made, students were sorted in to houses and origami creations constructed. Well done and thank you to all students who took part – it was a fantastic day! Now to plan World Book Day... Miss Brooks

Sporting Success

Year 8 Boys win City School Games Sportshall Athletics and progress through to the County Finals! The boys dominated the track events winning 7 out of 8 of the races. Well done to everyone involved. Good luck in the final.



Design & Technology

An exchange of experiences

The Design Technology Department hosted 15 Chinese students on an exchange programme which started last year. The students came from Anshun Shitan Middle School. Students engaged with a range of projects and activities with the most admirable desire to achieve and please. They were a pleasure and joy to have in the department. Andy, one of the students, spoke of his delight about a different experience compared to his school. "We have 8 lessons a day with all bookwork". Lotus said she was happier than ever. "I made something useful. In school we don't do DT. It's a new experience. We sit and listen to the teacher, we don't use our hands. We don't do group work or work in teams"

The students each completed several projects each including magic belt balances, desk lights and pencil holders with logos surprising both staff and A level students alike.

Over the last week the Chinese students have visited many different departments around the school. They have experienced and taken part in a number of Maths and Art lessons. Together with experiencing their first ever Food Technology lesson, in which they had the opportunity to prepare and bake cup cakes and apple crumble, this went down a treat.

At the end of their visit the students were presented with a plaque for their school to remember their experience.



Head of DT Mr Humphreys presenting the students with their plaque



Students actively engaged with their projects



Students' attention to detail was remarkable

Final photo as students leave St Gregs

Year 13 Geography Fieldtrip

Due to changes to the Geography A-level we were lucky enough to go to London for two days to complete our fieldwork. Our students chose their own questions meaning that one group went to Canary Wharf and Stratford to look at regeneration and the other group went to Brick Lane and Victoria Park to look at gentrification. The students undertook questionnaires, environmental quality surveys, land use surveys and took lots of photos ready to be annotated back at school. They looked at these areas of London and saw how they have improved in recent years but also how they have changed for the original local people who lived there and the new comers who now call it their home. Signs of change were very different in Canary Wharf where the Apprentice is set and buildings show how rich the city now is compared to Brick Lane where graffiti is political and new trendy cafés and food vans dominate the streets. Two students had their lunch in the very controversial Cereal Killers café which is seen as the flagship of all that is good and bad with gentrification. The students worked extremely hard and have collected lots of excellent data which will help in getting great grades in the summer. A big thank you to all the teachers who took time out of their busy days to assist on the trip. Miss West

Teacher Profile - Mrs Pallier

Job Title - Acting Deputy Head of School

As well as supporting Mr Tucker and the Senior Leadership Team in leading the school, I am responsible for progress in St Gregory's. It is my job to make sure that all departments are ensuring that students are making good progress in their subjects. Before that I was Head of Sixth Form and in that role ensured that progress and added value were the best in the city. Last year's sixth form results showed that in our sixth form we added more value than neighbouring sixth forms. I teach A level English Literature, Sociology and Classics. I also work with Mrs Conway our Exams Officer on exam entries and the smooth running of exams. I review student progress in all subjects and help support department leaders with strategies and resources to best improve this. My job is essentially to make sure every student has what they need to make the progress they should in school, which is why I will often be seen in classes..

Favourite Subject? Classics partly because it is new to me and I love the fact we are still studying Greek plays written in Athens in the fifth century BC .

Hobbies? I enjoy going to the cinema. My favourite TV show is BBC 2 A House Through Time

Design and Technology's Williams F1 Trip

Over the past two weeks fifteen students have been creating a gravity racer within a Design & Technology lunchtime club. Students were able to race their creation against each other with great success.

On Monday 29th January 2018 the group journeyed after school to the Williams F1 factory. Here they were treated to a very special tour of the Conference Centre. On display was the largest private collection of Formula One cars in the world. Housing more than 40 of the team's seminal racecars, the collection charts the teams 40 years of motor racing history. The tour was given by a member of the F1 Team and allowed the students to have exclusive behind the scenes access to all areas including the trophy room and even get the chance to sit in one of their racecars.

"I've always loved cars and now I know what I want to do when I'm older and how to do it". "I want to work in F1" Guilherme Bertolotti – Year 7

Congratulations to Laiba Azam, Guilherme Bertolotti, Alfie Broster, Logan Bryan, Jossie Edwards, Niall Gibbons, Niruta Jabegu, Isreal Lukwiya, Matthew Mawejje, Kauan Passos, Cillian Phillips, Alan Renny, Karima Samad, Afrina Shamsul Anuar and Ot Hang Sireng for your efforts throughout the club and how you represented the school in style. Many thanks to the Williams F1 Team, Mr Thornhill and Mr Johnson.

Logan Bryan (Year 10) pictured in a Williams F1 car.



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.

Celebrating 10 Years of the Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar

Come along to celebrate our 10th year.

Location: John Henry Brookes Building, Headington Campus

Details: Saturday, 24 February 2018, 10:30 to 16:00

This **free event** will be packed with exciting activities offering something for everyone, from fitness to healthy foods, building the highest spaghetti marshmallow tower, and learning about your genes.

Examples of our activities are:

- Operation! Try some fun interactive activities with our Operating Department Practice team. Fake blood included!
- Looking through the eyes of a modern paramedic: A practical hands-on experience exploring the world of modern paramedics. Learn basic life support and other useful life-saving skills.
- Augmented Reality: The Performance Augmentation Lab (PAL) demonstrates how past experience can be made visible again today.
- Oxford Brookes Racing Simulator: Race the OBR 2014 car around different tracks and set the fastest lap.
- What coffee is in your cup? Find out about different types of coffee and how ethical choices around this everyday drink can help save wild animals and places.
- The Outbreak: Use glitter to see how viruses can spread from your hands.
- The Psych Booth: Come along to learn about your brain, and have fun with mirror tracing and optical illusions!

Brookes Science Bazaar is organised and run by staff and students at Oxford Brookes University and the Oxford Academic Health Science Centre (a network which coordinates clinical and academic excellence within Oxford Brookes University, the University of Oxford and two local NHS Trusts)

Our researchers are looking forward to meeting you and talking about their work. The activities will be engaging and hands-on, and while everyone is welcome to participate, they will be aimed at children aged 5-12 years old.

Important dates:

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)

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.

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