



St Gregory the Great Bulletin

Issue 21

Friday 9th February 2018

Head Lines

The clock is ticking for those students sitting public exams this year. There are only eight school weeks until the first GCSE exam so the pressure is really building for students and staff. Every Year 11 student will be involved in revision sessions and intervention groups at lunchtimes and after school. Staff are really working hard to make sure the students get the best possible preparation for their exams. I spend a lot of time checking in on Year 11 and it is really pleasing to see how well they are responding to the pressure of looming exams and also to see how expert the staff are when it comes to coaching the students for the best approaches for the exam.

This morning we had a special assembly for our Year 11 students where we introduced the revision programme. Each student has a folder with different booklets and documents to support their revision. The revision planner must be brought to school every day. We would really appreciate the support of parents in making sure that your son or daughter has a dedicated study space at home, a place where they can work quietly without distraction.

Students have been given a memory skills booklet to assist them in remembering key facts and course content. There are a range of suggested strategies to choose from and students will know themselves what works best for them. Memorisation is becoming increasingly important as most of the GCSEs are now terminal exams without coursework or controlled assessments.

A number of Year 11 students have been assigned a mentor and parents will be informed of this after half term. The aim is to provide one to one coaching / mentoring for those students who might be struggling in one or more subjects. This is meant to be positive input and support from the teacher who is working alongside the student and parents.

Let us pray for the success of all our Year 11 students as they strive to achieve and aim high!

Please see below the revision timetable, don't be surprised if your son or daughter is a little late home after attending our tailored revision sessions.

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

Year 11 – Revision Sessions

The sessions begin after February half term (week beginning 19th February)

Each student should attend at least three revision sessions per week. At the end of your revision session make sure you get your revision booklet signed.

See next page for revision sessions...

| | Before school (8.00 – 8.45) | Lunchtime (1.40 – 2.05) | After school (3.15-4.15) |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | | Art | Maths Sport BTEC |
| Tuesday | Geography English intervention | Art | Science Sociology |
| Wednesday | Art | Art | D & T – Product Design / Food Technology Sport BTEC Business Studies Art (Mr Strongitharm) Performing Arts German |
| Thursday | English intervention Science – 6+ only (8.10 – 8.35 Mr Price) | Art | English History IT Art (Mrs Bunch) Performing Arts |
| Friday | | Art | RE French Art (Mr Cerioni) |

Assembly this week

During the week students have reflected on the Gospel reading from last Sunday: Mark 1:29-39 - Jesus healing and caring for his disciples family and going out into the surrounding area preaching and healing people - ***“Let’s go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I’ve come.”***



The theme for this week has been keeping safe. As Jesus began his ministry, he went about caring for people’s needs, He first healed a relative of one of his friends, Simon, and then went out into the community preaching and healing. Those around Jesus at this time saw him as someone who would keep them safe, safe from illness, from evil spirits, someone who would guide them and keep them on the right path. This ties in well with our school code: Ready, Respectful and Safe.

CAFOD Hunger lunch Friday 23rd February

After the half term all our students will be learning about the place of fasting and alms-giving during Lent. The School Charity Council are inviting the school body to choose the hunger lunch soup option in the school canteen on Friday 23rd Feb. This simple meal will be priced as a normal main meal £2.10 and a percentage of this will go to CAFOD (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development) as a donation to help those who go hungry in our world. This year the UK Government have pledged to double our money £1 = £2! We hope the whole school community will get behind this important cause and show how we can all love of our neighbour.



Year 8 Mass

A huge thank you to all those students involved in our year 8 Mass on Thursday.

Thanks to Catarini Lay, Rayez Webster-Daidoe, and Natalia Thomas for leading us in the liturgy of the word. Thanks to Holly Kilduff, Chanel O'Connor, Jas Lahori and Orinta Venckute for leading us so beautifully in our music.

Thanks to Jessie Ferreire, Eve Grey, Lina Martins and Talitha Rusk for leading us in our bidding prayers.

Able Charuvila for working our power Point and Gabriel Esber for serving on the Altar.

And thank you to Fr Naz who reminded us of the importance of prayer and that our good actions need to be rooted in prayer.

Year 9 Tutor Masses will begin after half term.

U14 Girls 3 - 0 Wallingford School

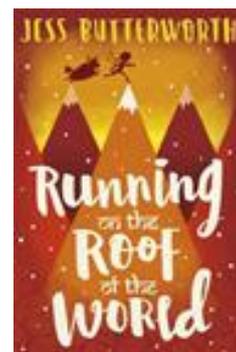
The girls played their first cup game of the season last Thursday night and run out 3-0 winners. The girls played some lovely football for their first time together and dominated the midfield with Zoe Lemoncito and Shannon Ghee. St Gregs went 1 - 0 up after 12 minutes with an in-swinging shot from Shannon. Tiara Francis quickly followed up to make it 2-0 at half time. The second half saw many more shots from St Gregs but only one, and a second for Shannon finding the back of the net from long range. All of the girls played superbly and we now take on Didcot Girls in the second round, date TBC. Well done one and all!



Book club – Library – lunch break

Our inaugural book club was celebrated this week and after a few jovial squabbles, a book was decided upon: Running on the roof of the world by Jess Butterworth.

All students are welcome to join us and we have a few extra copies in the Library should you wish to read it! Our next meeting is Tuesday 20th February, lunchtime in the Library - bring your lunch with you! Please see Miss Brooks for more information.



Teacher Profile – Miss Brooks

Job Title – Independent Learning Centre Manager (AKA School Librarian)

What does this mean?

I am the resident bibliophile (alongside Mrs English) and it is my job to manage the Library and its learning resources for the school. We stock thousands of books, both fiction and fact and we also have a pretty large online journal library which our older students have access to!

It is my goal to ensure that all students have the opportunity to build a lasting positive relationship with books – this is done through Library lessons in KS3 and extra-curricular activities throughout the year. Most recently we had a very successful Potter day and previously we have had Roald Dahl celebrations and Where's Wally Hunts (to name but a few!). We offer many clubs, including a board-game, book, chess, quiz, film and manga club!

My role extends out of the Library in many ways, most recently I have taken lead on This Girl Can, raising the profile of sport for girls and starting from next term, I will be managing the Duke of Edinburgh Award!

Hobbies: Although I'm very slow, I love long distance running, especially in my native North Wales – I can often be spotted running to school in the mornings. Unsurprisingly, I love reading and have a serious addiction to buying books!

Favourite subject: Too many to list...

Under the Skin

On Monday 5th February 2018 both Year 12 and 13 Product Design groups travelled to London with Mr Humphreys and Mr Johnson. The Sixth Form students had unique access to the Ferrari: UNDER THE SKIN Exhibition at the Design Museum. The group was lucky enough to view the major exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of Ferrari. The exhibition depicts 70 years of passion, glamour and design innovation, with unique behind-the-scenes access to one of the most iconic car brands.

They were also able to view a very special exhibition: DESIGNER, MAKER, USER. This was so beneficial for the students Product Design coursework and allowed them to see all factor impacting on the creation of a new product.



Exciting news from Design and Technology - Year 9 Project

Mr Johnson has developed his Year 9 project to link closely with the GCSE and A-Level course. This has successfully seen students build on their knowledge and application whilst engaging staff from around the school. At the end of each project the students present their can opener design to the group with just one student being selected as winner (10 groups in total throughout the school year).

We can confirm that the project has now officially been linked with the famous design company ALESSI. They are happy to give the finalists a rather special tour and talk at their store in London. They will also be producing a prize for best overall presentation that will be given to their London manager in June/July time.

Exciting times in Design and Technology with successful trips to Williams F1, Design Museum, and upcoming trips to the British Grand Prix and many more to come.



Year 12 Biology Conference



On Wednesday 7th February, Year 12 Biology students attended a Biology future careers and research conference. We learnt the science behind different types of laughter, the 100% certainty that we are all related to Richard III and societal considerations, such as reducing antibiotic resistance and tackling species extinction. Students were thoughtful, linked ideas to their AS content and also had seminars to review their exam technique.

Medics Day

On Thursday 8th February St Gregory the Great Catholic school hosted the 'Introduction to Medicine day'. Students from our sixth form as well as from other Oxfordshire schools who had to change into scrubs to feel that real life experience took part in a variety of workshops and practical tasks learning from experienced university and professional medical volunteers. Juliana who is in year 12 at St Gregs said "*The Introduction to Medicine Day was a great way for me to learn more about what medicine actually is and what it encompasses. It provided a great insight of what career you could take in the medical field as well as the routes you could take to get there. It was overall an interesting and fun day*"



Homework Club

After half there will be a homework club open to ALL students on a Monday and a Wednesday 3.15-4pm. It will begin from Monday 19th Feb in the Inclusion room, students can have access to computers and two members of staff will be there to help guide them with homework.

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:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Mon 12 th Feb – Fri 16 th Feb | February Half Term Holiday |
| Thursday 22 nd February | Year 7 Parent / Teacher Evening |
| Thursday 8 th March | Year 10 Options Evening |
| Tuesday 13 th March | St Gregory the Great Feast Day |
| 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.

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