

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Issue 25

### Head Lines

On Tuesday we celebrated the feast of St Gregory the Great, our school patron, with a whole school Mass. Fr. Jonathan Veasey, who is the Director of Education in the Birmingham archdiocese, was the principal celebrant. In his sermon he spoke to students and staff about what it means to be 'Great'. Much like St Gregory we too can aim to be the very best we can be by aspiring to greatness in all that we do. There were a number of representatives from across the school community present from governors, former members of staff and local clergy. In all it was a wonderful occasion that brought the community together in unity and celebration.



In addition we had a DfE visit this week to check on the progress we are making. There were a number of positives, it has been acknowledged that student behaviour has improved as has attendance and I would encourage students to ensure that they are attending school every day to maximise their educational experience here at St Gregory's. Some areas for development have also been identified such as a greater target setting.

It was great to be able to feedback to staff the positive comments made about the school. Our visitors spent part of the day visiting lessons and speaking to students and being taken through all the approaches to supporting students' needs and ensuring behaviour in school continues to improve.

The work done with safeguarding by key members of staff and the development of new behaviour systems led by Mrs Wileman really does deserve a mention: it is of the highest order and will be central to St Gregory's becoming a great school. I'd like to finish this week by congratulating all students, but especially Year 11, 12 and 13s, on how seriously they are taking their revision in preparation for the summer exams. I am very confident that students will reap the reward of their efforts when the results come out in August.

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

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## Assembly this week

Last Sunday was Mothering Sunday when we praise the work and dedication of all mothers. Motherhood has been our theme for assemblies this week with a particular focus on Mary, the Mother of God. In many ways Mary was a wonderful example of what motherhood should be about, she accepted willingly her place as being the Mother of the Son of God and all the inevitable difficulties that this posed for her. Witnessing the ultimate sacrifice of her Son on the cross must have been a real torment. It is this event that we remember during Lent and the build up towards Easter.



## Teacher Profile – Mr Cerioni

**Job Title – Subject Leader for Art**

As Subject Leader for Art I am responsible for making sure the Art Department teach a broad and exciting curriculum that can really engage our students and tap into their creative side. I oversee the projects that we teach, the resources that we use, the artwork on display and the trips and events that we take part in. In my job I get to work with some incredibly talented students and the fantastic staff in my department.

I have been teaching at St Gregs for eleven years now and I never cease to be amazed by the wealth of talent and creativity that our students possess. In the Art Department we believe that everybody can draw and the real challenge is getting students to have a go, experiment and to not worry about making mistakes. This is an attitude that we have tried to instil in our year 7 students over the past few years and we are currently seeing the benefits with our exam groups. Literacy has been another focus for us. We want students to really engage in the art and artists that we study.

I love teaching Art as it gives me the chance to be creative every day. At university I studied Fine Art painting but I'll have a go at anything really – print making, ceramics, photography, sculpture. I enjoy coming up with ideas for artwork myself, playing around with materials and then using my discoveries in lessons. Sometimes students will teach me new techniques that they have used too.

I'm creative in my spare time. I like to write and draw. I enjoy reading almost anything and have a big interest in graphic novels and comic books. Also, I am a bit of an amateur magician. I once had to step in to do a magic show to an audience of six year olds when a party entertainer failed to turn up. It did not go well!

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# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## Parent Information

Please can parents make sure we have up to date contact details. We have had a few incidents this week where students are ill/injured and we have been unable to get hold of anyone. It is also helpful if we have additional contacts in case they are not available. It is essential that if your details have changed you inform the school.

## Student Praise for Maths

I would like to congratulate Sagar Nath for his participation in Y9 assembly. Sagar not only volunteered to demonstrate his knowledge of the 12 times table in front of his whole year group, but also got every question right. Well done and thank you! *Mr Holton*

## 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!!



**SPRING BAZAAR**

<b>GAMES</b>	<b>FOOD AND DRINK STALLS</b>	<b>RAFFLE</b>
➤ Football Challenge <b>£1 a go</b>	➤ FIZZY DRINKS	<b>PRIZES INCLUDE</b> ➤ £10 GIFT CARDS ➤ EASTER EGGS ➤ SWEETS ➤ CHOCOLATE
➤ Basketball Challenge <b>£1 a go</b>	➤ DOUGHNUTS	
➤ Hook-A-Duck <b>50p a go</b>	➤ BROWNIES	
➤ Guess the number of sweets in a jar <b>50p a go</b>	➤ CUPCAKES	
	➤ HOT CHOCOLATE	

**SPORTS HALL**  
**Break and Lunch**  
**TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

Richelle Espino along with other Year 13 Business Studies students have planned a 'Spring Bazaar' to raise money for charity. Please come along and support this event.

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## Year 11 revision day at Oxford Brookes University

Year 11 students are invited to join us for a GCSE revision session delivered by Elevate Education and supported by Oxford Brookes student mentors.

**DATE:** 9th April from 10-12pm including lunch

**VENUE:** Oxford Brookes University room Willow 06 (Headington Hill Campus).

### Session : Memory Techniques

The Memory Techniques & Mnemonics workshop teaches students how to harness their most powerful resource in any exam: effective recall of content. Students learn how the memory works, how to boost attention while studying, as well as effective mnemonic strategies to increase confidence leading into exams. Students will leave this session excited to put the new memory strategies to use.

### Students Learn:

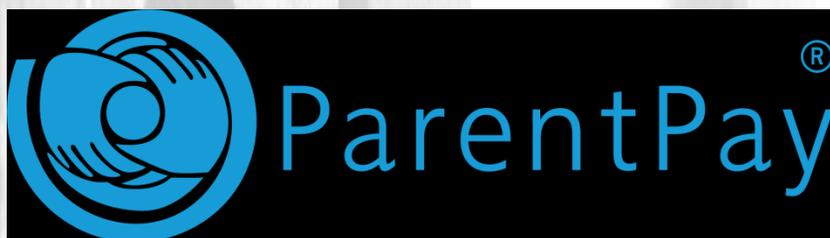
Boosting exam recall

Boosting attention during study

Advanced mnemonic skills

Creating an effective study

Students can book a place by E-mailing: [mentoring@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:mentoring@brookes.ac.uk)



## ParentPay

"Thank you for your continued patience as we move from ParentMail to ParentPay. Letters are being distributed on today Friday 16th and Monday 19th March containing the activation details for ParentPay. We are confident that you will find ParentPay an improvement over ParentMail. We are now processing the catering transactions for the previous 2 weeks so you may notice some adjustments in your new ParentPay account. If you have any queries, please do contact the school."

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## National Citizen Service

The **National Citizen Service (NCS)** Oxfordshire team are currently recruiting Year 11's from across the county to take part in the NCS programme this Summer. Last year we had over 25 participants from St Gregory The Great Catholic School join us for a fantastic experience. NCS is the government's largest youth & community programme enabling young people (aged 15 - 17) to gain skills in leadership, communication, teamwork & overall independence. Completion of the NCS programme is highly valued by universities, colleges & employers.

### Programme Dates & Details:

Programme 1: 16<sup>th</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> August (Fully Booked)

Programme 2: 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 17<sup>th</sup> August (Limited Availability)

Programme 3: 30<sup>th</sup> July – 24<sup>th</sup> August

Programme 4: 6<sup>th</sup> August – 31<sup>st</sup> August

Programme 5: 13<sup>th</sup> August – 31<sup>st</sup> August (3-week programme)

### Phase 1: Adventure Residential

A five-day residential at an outdoor activity centre in either the Brecon Beacons or North Devon, where participants will take part in activities such as abseiling, caving, rock climbing, surfing & canoeing. All transport, accommodation, food & equipment for activities is provided.

### Phase 2: NCS Skills Festival

A five-day NCS Skills Festival residential at our stunning Hill End Centre. (Eynsham Road, Oxford, OX2 9NJ) It is here all participants engage in workshops that have been designed to make them stand out to potential employers, universities & prepare them for Phase 3 of their NCS journey. Past workshops have included: Dame Kelly Holmes Trust Olympic athlete speakers, employability & interview skills, Nando's, St John Ambulance first aid training. In the evenings we have entertainment & there is also plenty of time to chill out next to the camp fires or watch a film in the outdoor cinema.

### Phase 3: Social Action Projects

Participants within their teams will identify a cause or charity they are passionate about, & invent a campaign or fundraising project to aid them. This is a chance to show their initiative, teamwork & leadership skills & come up with an original & ambitious project. Last year NCS Oxfordshire participants raised over £38, 000 for local Charities & organisations.

### Phase 4: Celebration Event

Participants receive a nationally recognised certificate signed by the prime minister & have the chance to celebrate all achievements with friends, family & dignitaries at a prestigious event held in central Oxford.

P.T.O.

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## How to Sign Up...

NCS is valued at £1,500 but because of government funding, we can provide places from just £50 per person! (There are additional bursaries available if further financial assistance is required.) Simply visit our website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ncs](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ncs) & click 'NCS Sign Up Form'

**Sign Up before Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March using the Promo Code; OCCNCS18 it will reduce the cost to just £35!**

We look forward to welcoming your son/daughter onto the NCS Oxfordshire programme. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

NCS Oxfordshire Team  
[ncs@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ncs@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
01865 328200

## A Quote to a Young Carer – Miss Newell (SENCo)

**“As a young carer you are the sunshine in someone’s day. So keep doing what you’re doing, as you will never know how much it means to the person you are helping out.”**

**- Read Miss Newell’s story below -**



Ever thought about the fact that your world can change in the blink of an eye?

I was very close with my Nan, she had always been there for me and my sister right from the moment we were born. She was my rock, the one person other than my parents I knew would always be there for me, to care for me.

She had always suffered from Arthritis and so when I started Secondary school, I would go and do things for her that she could no longer do, such as window cleaning, maintaining her garden, housework and shopping.

As my Nan got older she became ill, and as a result to save her life the doctors had to amputate (remove) half of my Nan's leg. Everything all of a sudden changed over night, having been caring for my Nan doing light duties, all of a sudden we were faced with the reality that my Nan may not have been able to return to her home unless we could all support her as a family.

I then stepped up offering more help than I currently did. I use to pop around to check she was ok as she was a learner driver in a wheelchair. I remember having to help her at bathtime as she couldn't get in and out of the bath on her own as the Arthritis added to the complication of losing a leg as she couldn't support herself. I would go and make my Nan lunch at weekends or on the odd day during the holidays.

It was hard seeing a person who cared for you all your life all of a sudden have a role reversal and need you to care for them. However no matter what we pulled together, I gave up my time when I knew my friends were going out shopping with each other just so I could help my Nan out, and I don't regret it, my friends may not of always understood the fact I would chose helping my Nan over being the 15 year old I should be, but unless your in the situation I guess you never really understand.

Caring for someone who cares for you is one of the most rewarding things you can do. It can be difficult as well but wouldn't you want someone to help you if you found yourself in a similar situation?

As a young carer you are the sunshine in someone’s day. So keep doing what you’re doing, as you will never know how much it means to the person you are helping out.

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## Year 11 GCSE Revision sessions

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.

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

## Year 7 Disco – After Dark



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## 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 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 10 Parent / Teacher Evening (4 - 7pm)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last Day of Spring Term (early closure – midday)
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.

## 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.