

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

Issue 26

### Head Lines

This is the last news bulletin of the term as we approach the Easter break. This Sunday in the Catholic Church is known as Palm Sunday when we recall that moment when Jesus triumphantly entered into Jerusalem. It is the beginning of Holy Week, a time when we reflect upon the final moments in Jesus' life and the humility and suffering he endured. Yet Easter lies only a week away, a time when we look towards hope, hope for the future, hope that through their studies our students will be a great success.

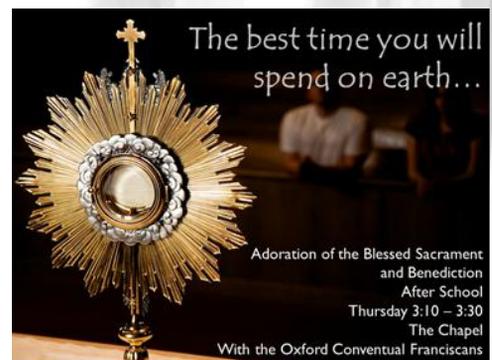
During springtime there is a great sense of hope that springs forth. The early seeds of the plant have germinated and given rise to shoots which then go on to bear fruit. In school we are preparing the seedbed for our young people to be responsible citizens in society and to bear much fruit in their future lives. We hope that through the dedication and commitment of our staff that our students are well prepared for their forthcoming exams. We hope that all students will embrace the challenges in education and take as many opportunities as possible to learn and develop. We hope that the message of Easter will help to bring about a re-birth in us all as we move forward together on our journey of school improvement.

I wish you all a joyful and happy Easter holiday when it arrives.

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

### Assembly this week

As we enter Holy Week we continue our prayer focus taking a station of the cross a day reflecting on the death of Christ in joyful hope of His redirection. Our students will have the opportunity to attend our foot washing service, a re-enactment of the last supper where Jesus knelt and washed the feet of his disciples. Mr Tucker will be washing the feet of staff and students in a symbolic act reflecting, in humility, what Jesus did.



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

 01865 749933  [www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk)  [stgregory@dbmac.org.uk](mailto:stgregory@dbmac.org.uk)

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## School Award

Congratulations to Rossie Lay who has won 1st prize with the Anti-Bullying Week poster competition and has received £30 of high street gift vouchers. This is an initiative sponsored by Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board. The judges were very impressed with the high standard of all the entries and the creative and imaginative work that young people had done to promote Anti-Bullying. Well done Rossie!

## Teacher Profile – Mr Osborne

### Job Title – Teacher of Religious Education

As one of the newest employees at St Greg's it has been fantastic getting to know all of the students and staff at the school. As an RE teacher it is my privilege to promote our shared value of respect while my classes explore the beliefs of world religions and develop their own personal understanding of the world they live in. The wider experience of our students is always a fantastic strength for the community and in RE we really see the benefits of this when we engage in thought provoking conversations with individuals.

At university I studied Theology and Religious Studies. I had the advantage of completing my degree in London, which gave me the range of London universities to attend extra classes in. So I'm almost always thrilled to discuss art history, classical civilisations, ancient to modern history, law and pretty much anything in which a discussion (calm argument) can occur. Besides that I also played Rugby and started climbing, kick boxing, rowing, running and pretty much joining any sports team I could. I had to start a group to play Quidditch (the broomsticks were fairly affordable from Amazon but we could never figure out how to make them fly).

Besides working with young people, which I have always been involved in since turning sixteen with everything from teaching and activity weekends to supporting pilgrimages to Lourdes with HCPT, I have also had a fairly varied career in a number of other sectors. I have run comedy shows across London (this does not mean I know lots of jokes!), I have worked for an oil company selling performance fuels (this does not mean I enjoy Top Gear, not since Clarkson left anyway) and I have worked with the Department of Work and Pensions (this does mean I can design CV's until the cows come home).

In my spare time I alternate between writing, climbing, kayaking and recovering in front of Netflix. As a result at break times I can occasionally be found discussing the latest episode of Black Lightning with my year nine class, after they have finished discussing their homework of course.

# 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 recently where students have been ill 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.

## 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!!



## Foreign Link visitors

The anticipation is over, our Foreign link students finally arrived this week and will be with us for the next five days. The foreign students are going to be shadowing our students to their lessons experiencing what it is like to be in a British school. They have been budded with year 7,8 and 9 students and have been going into a variety of lessons ranging from Design Technology to French. We hope that our buddy students who have been involved have enjoyed the experience of working, and sharing their school with the foreign students. The school is very proud of the buddy students as they have been true ambassadors for the school. This is a list of the students who are involved.

*We would like to thank the following students:*

Nulam Hang Kambang, Keisi Lleshaj, Keira Ghee, Elsie Powell, Yograj Limbu, Ethan Woodley, Lucas Sousa, Karim Samad, Laiba Azam, Catarini Lay, Camilla Marticio, Ivo Sousa, Ana Cristea, Pam Menor

*And visitors:*

Semen, Aleksandra, Elizaveta, Irina, Miroslav, Fedor, Alexandr, Ekaterina, Olga, Daria, Veronika, Polina, Mariya, Anastasia



# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## Year 11 - GCSE Revision Workshops

On Monday 26th March St Gregory the Great welcomes Year 11 parents to a revision workshop where parents will be advised on how best to support their child's revision for their forthcoming GCSE examinations. This session will be in the Conference Room and starts at 5pm and ending at 6pm, after a brief welcome and talk by the Head of Year. Parents will be encouraged to talk to Head of Department about how best to support their child in that particular subject. Please come along and find out how you can best support your son / daughter in the build up to their GCSE exams.

## ParentPay

Thank you for your continued patience as we move from ParentMail to ParentPay. Letters have been distributed containing the activation details for ParentPay. We are confident that you will find ParentPay an improvement over ParentMail. If you have any queries, please do contact the 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)

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## Science Trip to Reading University

On Friday March 16th, seven of our year nine students competed against six other schools in the Science Quiz Challenge at Reading University. The quiz, organised as part of the national science week celebrations, was organised using the "University Challenge" format. Our teams were very quick on the buzzer and performed admirably, both winning two games out of four, but narrowly missed out on a final place. The day concluded with an "Astronomical" show, with the audience being taken to the very edge of the galaxy. A spectacular finish to an exciting day.



## Year 10 Retreat To Kintbury

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April

For more info please ask a member of the chaplaincy team or RE staff.

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

☎ 01865 749933 🌐 [www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk) ✉ [stgregory@dbmac.org.uk](mailto:stgregory@dbmac.org.uk)

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## 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)

The Summer Exam Timetable will be on the School Website next week.

## Easter Revision Sessions

Year 11	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	English	9 am – 3pm
Year 11	5 <sup>th</sup> April	R.E.	10 am – 3pm
Year 11	11 <sup>th</sup> April	French	9 am
Year 12	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Psychology	9 am – 3.30 pm
Year 12/13	12 <sup>th</sup> April	History	10 am – 2 pm
Year 11,12,13	10 <sup>th</sup> April	Art	10 am – 3 pm
Year 13	12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Geography	9am-2pm
Year 11	12 <sup>th</sup> April	Geography	9am-2pm

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## 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:

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 GCSE Revision Workshop for parents (5 – 6pm)
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 (4 – 7 pm)
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.