

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 2nd March 2018

Issue 23

Head Lines

As I write for this week's bulletin I realise that we are now well into the second half of the year. The weeks after the February half term always contrast markedly with those immediately before when we still seem to be in the depths of winter. The last few days, however, have seemed to turn this on its head with a wintry blast of snow which has meant that we have had to close the school today. I am looking out of my window at home to see my daughters having great fun playing in the snow. Now, the longer days are evident and, although it remains cold, there are definite hints that spring is on the way.

For students in Year 11 and above Spring, of course, means exams, stress and pressure, revision and last -minute cramming and the hours spent alone either in the exam hall or revising. This week the Year 11 students have been doing their second set of PPE exams. They will need to finish these next week due to the school closure.

During this Lenten season we are reminded to be enthusiastic participants in the Christian journey towards Easter. This has been keenly felt through our charitable giving. We don't know the exact total yet for last week's fundraising for CAFOD, however, it is certainly more than £800. A huge thank you to all those in our community who supported this very worthy cause.

Mr S Tucker (Acting Head of School)

Assembly this week

Students have been reflecting on the theme for the Second week of Lent using last Sunday's Gospel reading: Mark 9:2-10 The Transfiguration - "This is my Son the beloved, listen to him" Jesus takes his three best friends up to a mountain to understand more of who He was. Just before this story Jesus had asked them "who do people say I am?" He wanted to show them... Elijah and Moses, two of the most important people of the Old Testament. They were there to tell the disciples that Jesus really is the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies.

This glimpse at the 'end of the story' gives the disciples what they need to journey with Him through His pain and suffering – **faith** that Jesus's crucifixion will not be in vain. It is the same for us; in the midst of Lent, with our focus on Christ's death and resurrection, his service and sacrifice, we are reminded of the glimpse of **hope** that the suffering is not in vain and it is all part of God's redeeming plan for His people, and that includes all of us at St Greg's. In Lent we are invited to join with His service and sacrifice.



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Teacher Profile – Mr Price

Job title-Head of Biology and Science Teacher

I have been teaching for nearly 4 years, in both Nottinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Before teaching my first job was working as a sales consultant for an educational technology company. This was my first graduate job, after leaving the University of Sheffield. Meeting other passionate, enthusiastic educators, as well as remembering my own dedicated teachers from school lit the flame of wanting to teach and I haven't regretted it for a second. It's the most important (and best) job in the world!

As a science teacher I feel compelled to say something witty about science, so here's a related joke. *Did you hear Oxygen and Potassium went on a date? Turns out it went OK.*

Truly for me the greatest draw in teaching is being able to work with our amazing young people, speak to their potential and further instil confidence! I love that as teachers we get to be the first people in society to see our student's skills used, that will go on to be used by students perhaps in careers and for their later life.

When not marking books or in the classroom, I am most often running. Currently my wife and I are training for our first Marathon, in Brighton at Easter! I definitely have a new found respect for people of all experiences and abilities associated with running, as it's certainly not as easy as it looks. Aside from running, I love sports, am a Chelsea FC member and also greatly enjoy cooking. Both my parents are retired chefs and though I haven't fully inherited their culinary skills, I do make a mean Sunday roast. My favourite film.....Shawshank redemption or Blood Diamond.




Eyes Down for our Annual

ST GREGGS
bingo

Friday 9th 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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Year 9 option choices evening

Parents and carers of Year 9 students are warmly invited to attend the Year 9 GCSE options evening in the Conference Centre on Thursday 8th March (6-8pm).

Geography Fieldwork

We are really looking forward to the Geography fieldwork on Monday to Studland Bay, please can all students make sure they bring enough warm clothes and water proofs as sadly we cannot guarantee a beautiful spring day. However, poor weather is what builds the best geographers! Students should wear school uniform on Tuesday for our trip into Oxford.

Due to year 11 geography field trips year 11 Geography revision will happen on Wednesday 7th March at 8am. This will be for one week only.

If you have any last minute questions or queries please contact *Miss West*.

Cross Country Training

At the City School Games Cross Country competition four St Greg's teams got through to the County Finals. These finals will take place on Tuesday 27th March at Tilsley Park in Abingdon. On Mondays after school there will be Cross-Country training for the teams below. All students are welcome to attend even if you didn't compete in the initial City competition.

- Year 7 Girls
- Year 8 & 9 Girls
- Year 10 & 11 Boys
- Year 12 & 13 Boys



Attendance to the club on a Monday is important if we are to enter these teams into the County Finals.

Mr Hoskin

Indoor Athletics Training

The year 8 Boys team comfortably won the City School Games Indoor Athletics competition. They will compete at the County Finals on Thursday 19th April at Leys Leisure Centre. Training will take place in the Sports Hall on Wednesdays after school. All year 8 boys are invited to attend whether you competed in the City competition previously or not.

Mr Hoskin

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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!!



Tennis Ambassadors

As you may or may not be aware we are officially a 'Tennis School' and receive £5,000 per year from the LTA to promote and deliver Tennis within school. Through the scheme we are required to appoint Tennis Ambassadors to help support and run the programme.

To become a Tennis ambassador you don't necessarily have to play Tennis. We are looking for 3 or 4 boys and girls from years 8 and 9 who are passionate about sport and would like to help out with clubs and competitions, whether it is advertising, organising or running events.

You might ask what the benefits are of being a Tennis Ambassador... All ambassadors will receive a free t-shirt that they can wear in PE or when fulfilling their ambassador duties. We also do an annual trip to Wimbledon (if successful in the ballot) and ambassadors are given first priority on tickets. Lastly, when applying to 6th form or college, in the future, this is something that would look good on your application forms!

If this is of interest to you or you would like to know more about the role please see *Mr Hoskin*.



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Liam Read (Yr 11), Jayden Gallagher (Yr 10) and Jakub Starnacki (Yr 9) were congratulated for receiving a silver award in last week's bulletin. However, they have actually all achieved a gold award! A massive well done to them all. *Miss Pratt*.

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Important dates:

Thursday 8th March

Tuesday 13th March

Thursday 22nd March

Thursday 29th March

Monday 16th April

Thursday 3rd May

Monday 7th May

Mon 28th May – Fri 1st June

Tuesday 24th July

Year 9 GCSE options evening 6 – 8pm

St Gregory the Great Feast Day

Year 10 Parent / Teacher Evening

Last Day of Spring Term (early closure)

First Day of Summer Term

Year 8 Parent / Teacher Evening

Bank Holiday – school closed

May Half term Holiday

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 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.