

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 9th March 2018

Issue 24

Head Lines

Each week students focus on a specific virtue during Tutor time and next week's virtue is 'discerning', making choices and decisions in life. This is part of the Jesuit pupil profile where students are encouraged to lead their daily lives by exercising specific virtues through their daily interactions with others. The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle once said " Excellence is won by practising the virtues, it is not an act, but a habit". We are therefore the sum total of what we habitually do, we should strive to be people who lead and live by example. Discernment is about choosing the better over the good. At a recent World Youth event Pope Francis expressed how keen he was to know and understand the challenges young people face today when making choices.

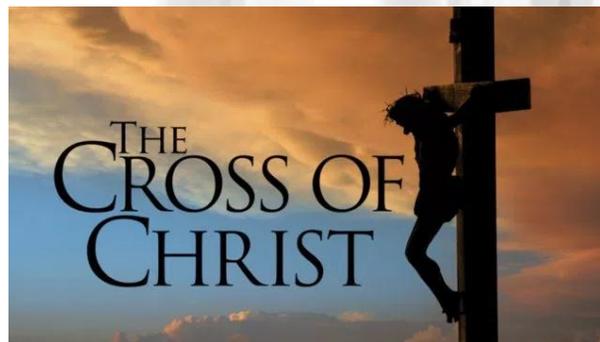
Yesterday evening our Year 9 students had their GCSE Options evening and it was pleasing to see so many parents supporting those important choices that their son or daughter has to make. This is another key milestone on their journey through the school and one which will help to carve a path for their future. It truly is a time for discernment. We are fortunate here at St Gregory's in having so many dedicated and committed staff and I would like to thank them for their enthusiasm with the presentations made about their subject.

Next week we have a visit from the Department for Education and they will be keen to see that we as a school are making the right choices for our young people. Quality time is spent on discerning the right path for the school, and this is taking place at all levels, from the Governors, Staff and the Diocese. We pray that our school continues on a journey of prosperity and fruitfulness in all that we do.

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

Assembly this week

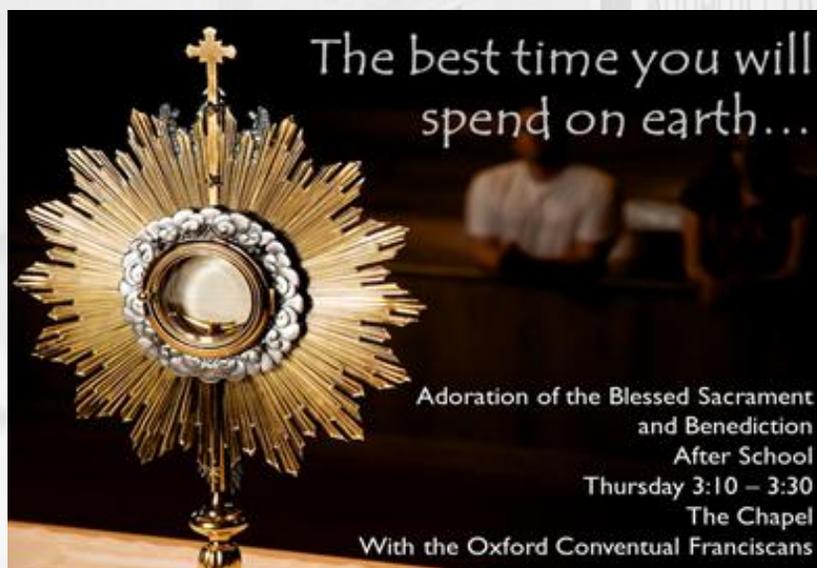
Last Sunday's Gospel was the event where Jesus overturned the money changers tables in the temple. It is the only recorded event in the gospels where Jesus showed his anger. This might well be righteous anger as they were mistreating God's house. We all express our feelings and sometimes not in the right way, during Lent we have been praying together the Stations of the Cross which remind us of the feeling of pain that Jesus endured as he was crucified on the cross. Lent is a penitential season where we seek forgiveness for those times when things don't work out for the best. Students have been encouraged to consider how we all shoulder the cross of Christ in our lives.



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

 01865 749933  www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk  stgregory@dbmac.org.uk

St Gregory the Great Catholic School



Teacher Profile – Mr Henwood

Job Title – Cover Manager, Geography, D&T teacher

I initially started my teaching career back in 2001, however, before that I lived in Japan which is where I studied at university and then went on to work with an engineering company called Bridgestone. It was in Japan that I developed a passion for the work of the novelist, Soseki Natsume, and his book 'I am a cat'. I loved it and was inspired by his work so much that I moved to the same island - Shikoku, but it wasn't literature that initially lured me to Japan, but Karate. I still have Soseki's novel on my bookshelf, but these days my inspiration comes from the work of our students at St Gregory the Great. They inspire me every day with their passion about what they do and who they are and what they want to be.

As life has gone on, I have discovered that I have a keen interest in other sports and due to injury I have substituted karate for rowing. Both are similar in many ways – they require the discipline of movement and balance. My goal this year is to train hard and enter the Oxford Royal Regatta later this year.

I will forever be an engineer. I always look to improve or modify a product or lesson to further inspire my students to become better versions of themselves, and further develop the learning they are acquiring. It's wonderful when you can actually see a student use the design process to solve a problem and then form opinions on how to better a design. Often these moments are special because they cannot be recorded, marked or assessed, but will later help them form opinions and beliefs that help guide us for the rest of our lives.

Favourite food: bread pudding

Favourite movie: Chariots of fire

Favourite song: Poems prayers and promises by John Denver

Favourite book: I am a cat

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

☎ 01865 749933 🖥 www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk ✉ stgregory@dbmac.org.uk

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Sophia Antognazza Hotson (31 May 1999 – 7 March 2018)

Our precious and beautiful daughter, Sophia, died peacefully at home today, surrounded by the love of her family. Sophia's capacity to stimulate and reward affection was extraordinary, touching many lives with joy and love. She was born with Down's Syndrome and a severe cardiac condition which we always knew would worsen incrementally until it eventually proved fatal. She bore her difficulties with amazing courage and astonishing resilience far longer than anyone thought possible, until her condition suddenly took a turn for the worse last Monday. Anticipating this loss for the past 16 years does not make her parting any less heart-breaking for us, her extended family, and her many friends.

Her funeral and burial will take place in Italy, as soon as can be arranged. Meanwhile in Oxford, a funeral mass will be held for her in her home parish at Holy Rood Church (Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4LD) at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, 10 March 2018. Everyone welcome.

Maria Rosa Antognazza and Howard Hotson with John and Francesca



Eyes Down for our Annual

ST GREGS
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

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

☎ 01865 749933 🌐 www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk ✉ stgregory@dbmac.org.uk

St Gregory the Great Catholic 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!!



School Award

Dr Jakoby would like to give a school award to Rossie Lay (Year 10) for her exceptional effort in her Physics lessons, and also for her hard work during the Isaacs Physics sessions with Dr Jenny Barnes from Oxford University. Well done!

Dyslex.io is a project funded by the DfE and led by the British Dyslexia Association. It provides students, parents/carers, teachers and employers with information and resources that are dyslexia-friendly.

See information leaflet attached.

GCSE Art Students

On Wednesday 47 of our Year 11 GCSE Art students braved the traffic to visit the Tate Modern Art gallery in London. They got to see, draw and photograph a wide range of artwork and the sights of London as they gathered research for their final GCSE project. They finished the day with a sit on the swings which were part of the interactive installation, 'One, Two, Swing!' by Danish art group Superflex. Well done to all who attended, they were a credit to the school.



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Year 11 Geographers

On Monday 5th March our GCSE year 11 geographers travelled to Studland Bay. We spent the day measuring sand dunes for our fieldwork. Although the weather was wet and windy, it did not stop us geographers from collecting the data we needed. We also managed to do some coastal revision on the beach. Throughout the day we also saved clams and crabs who had been washed ashore during the recent storm Emma. This was an incredible experience indeed, which further contributed to the enjoyable events of the trip.

On Tuesday 6th March our geographers carried out the second section of the fieldtrip which was visiting the Westgate Centre. Our method was based on sustainability and how features present inside the Westgate help to make the overall centre beneficial towards the environment while also meeting the needs of the citizens within Oxford. We gained many interesting facts about the Westgate including how the food from the restaurants is composited and used to make electricity. The events of the trip were great fun!

Thank you to all the staff who contributed to help make these trips happen and providing the year 11 students with a very geographical experience!

Written by Heidi Bough Year 11.



Pegasus Theatre

A photo from the Pegasus Theatre songwriting workshop with Ms Rebecca Reed. This took place on Monday 5th of March with 9LN in Music.



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



SPRING BAZAAR

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

SPORTS HALL
Break and Lunch
TUESDAY 20th 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

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: 16th July – 10th August (Fully Booked)

Programme 2: 23rd July – 17th August (Limited Availability)

Programme 3: 30th July – 24th August

Programme 4: 6th August – 31st August

Programme 5: 13th August – 31st 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 & click 'NCS Sign Up Form'

Sign Up before Friday 23rd 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
01865 328200

St Gregory the Great Catholic School Young Carers

Do you think that you might be a young carer – or know someone who is?

At St Gregory's, we offer a lot of support to Young Carers. If you think that you might be a young carer, then speak to your pastoral manager, or see Fran in the chaplaincy office. You will be able to do a Young Carers assessment in-house, and then you can have a chat about all the support options available to you.

Alternatively, you can e-mail us using the e-mail address below, and then one of our young carers ambassadors for the school will get in touch.

youngcarers@dbmac.org.uk

We are in partnership with [Oxfordshire County Council Young Carers Services](#), and we have achieved a Silver rating for Young Carers support in our most recent standards inspection.

A Quote to a Young Carer – Mr Turner (Head of Science)
"Getting over a painful experience is much like crossing monkey bars.
You have to let go at some point in order to move forward"
- A Quote by CS Lewis

'Making Informed Decisions Workshop'

This morning Future First came into school to work with some of our Year 9 students. 35 students attended and the aim was to aid them in making the right decisions when choosing their optional subjects this week.



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

 01865 749933  www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk  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) |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| 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) |

Year 7 Disco – After Dark



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

☎ 01865 749933 🖥 www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk ✉ stgregory@dbmac.org.uk

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:

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday 8 th March | Year 9 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.

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

 01865 749933  www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk  stgregory@dbmac.org.uk