

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 20th April 2018

Issue 27

Head Lines

I would like to start by wishing you all a very happy Easter. Eastertide is the season in the Church's year which continues for several weeks, where we are reminded of hope for the future. This is highly appropriate for us as there is great hope for our school and it's future. I wish all students an enjoyable and fruitful summer term.

This week on their return to school students and staff have noticed that our canteen has been redecorated and that the food menus have changed. We are very pleased with Caterlink, our new providers, for the work that they have put in during the Easter break in preparing the new canteen space.

It was pleasing to see so many students coming into school during the Easter break for their revision sessions. Those attending worked hard and have appreciated the extra work that staff have made in ensuring that they are successful this summer.

At the end of last term we said goodbye to a few members of staff. We thank them all for their dedication and service to the school and wish them well for the future. Our good wishes go to Mrs A Jones (English), Mr Trimboli (Humanities), Ms E Alexander – (Head of Yr 10 / Languages), Miss E Van de Schoot (Languages), Mrs L Newman (Science Technician) and finally Mr B Knevetts who was the Caretaker here for many years, we wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

Assembly this week

During this week we have reflected on the Gospel reading from last Sunday: Luke 24:35-48. Here, Jesus appeared to his friends and said - ***"Peace be with you."*** Special prayers have been shared on the theme of Peace.

Jesus' disciples had seen Him crucified, taken down from the cross and laid in a tomb and the tomb sealed – they dare not hope that this was anything other than the end for them despite what the scriptures said. Gradually they were hearing reports that he had been seen, by the women in the garden, by the disciples on the road to Emmaus and then Jesus himself came and stood with them! You can imagine their surprise, their shock, Was He a ghost? Jesus told them 'Peace be with you' and to see for themselves, 'look at my wounds'. He even ate breakfast with them showing them He was real, He had risen from the dead and all that was written in the scripture was true, He was the Son of God and they were the witnesses of this miracle.



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Teacher Profile – Miss Z Barnes

Job Title – PE Teacher and Director of KS3 Assessment, Achievement and Attainment

I have been a member of staff here at St Greg's now for almost 8 years and still love every minute of it. Having completed my Sports Science degree at Brunel University I needed to make a choice between pursuing a career or continuing to develop as a professional football player – sadly the latter did not pay enough in order to pay the bills so I left my playing days behind me (just as well as I am now recovering from hip surgery due to football) and pursued a career as a PE Teacher (it was this or a marine mammal trainer (working at SeaWorld) – not too much of a difference!

I have never regretted a minute of becoming a PE Teacher – I love all sports and have a real passion for driving all students forward in being the best that they can be and achieving as much as they possibly can. I am competitive by nature as those that I teach will tell you – class v class PE lessons can become a little too competitive at times but all in good spirit. I truly believe that participating in PE develops a number of skills and attributes which students will require and rely upon later in life and may not have a chance to develop elsewhere during their time at school.

In my spare time I enjoy coaching football, spending time with my family and eating – I like to eat as many of my lovely colleagues will tell you. I will always take on a challenge however out there it may be and I would always encourage others to do the same!

Hay Fever

If your child suffers with hay fever, please ensure that they take any medication required at home as we do NOT keep such medicine for general use in school. If you would like to bring in some medication for your child's specific use, please bring it to Reception, clearly marked with your child's name, where you will be given a short form to fill in giving us permission to administer if needed. Many thanks, Mrs Read

Year 13 Leavers Thanksgiving Service, Friday 11th May.

Parents and Carers are warmly invited to the Year 13 Leavers Thanksgiving Service on Friday 11th May in the School Hall. The service will begin at 11.45 am for approximately an hour followed by refreshments until 1.30 pm. We hope you are able to join us for this celebration.

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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!!



Year 12 Biology

Year 12 Biology students were treated to a themed school open day, considering “the life of a cell.” Students met various scientists working at the WIMM Institute at the JR Hospital. They learnt how cells are grown and technology developed to count cells in a given volume. Other highlights included how we can sequence the entire DNA code in our genome within 15 minutes using novel technology, as well as cutting edge computation to investigate the 3D interaction of genes, using virtual reality. Particular thanks to Martin Larke and Catarina Vicente for hosting the day.



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Caterlink

We are pleased to announce that Caterlink have now taken over the canteen at St Greg's specialising in providing our school lunches. The company provides good healthy food options as well as a commitment to sustainable sourcing. During the Easter break there have been improvements to the kitchen and canteen facilities. The new service is part of a wider initiative to improve food standards across the multi academy schools and link healthy eating to the curriculum. At the same time, Oxford based schools have signed up to the Oxford Sugar Smart campaign which aims to educate children about reducing sugar in their diet.



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.



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Bronze Medal for Year 8 Athletics Team in County Finals

Yesterday the U13 Indoor Athletics Team competed at the School Games County Finals after qualifying through the City competition in January.

The team consisted of Josh Kinge, Moses Sadler, Benjie Mugavu, Abdullah Hussain, Ben Bruno, Luke Evans, David Inyang and Zac Strong.

The boys started well by coming 2nd in the team obstacle relay. Josh followed this with a win in the 4 lap individual race and Moses finished 2nd in his race. Josh and Moses picked up more valuable points for the team by putting in strong performances in the standing long jump and vertical jump. The competition ended with the team relays and if it wasn't for a slip of the baton the boys would have pipped the eventual winners, Warriner School, to 1st place.

Overall the team finished 3rd and picked up the bronze medal. Well done to everyone who competed. The outdoor Athletics season is just around the corner and the team will now compete in the City competition at Horspath in May.



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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)
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)

The Summer Exam Timetable is available on the School Website.

Poetry in motion

KS3 students will attend their last Symposium lecture on Monday 23rd, organised by Miss Abbott and Ms McCabe. Kate Clanchy, is an Oxford based teacher and writer in residence. She is currently putting together a poetry anthology written by school pupils, which will be published by Picador in June. On Monday, she will be running a workshop on how to find your poetic voice.

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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 in good condition at home which are no longer used, please would you consider donating them to the school to help our young learners?

Important dates:

Thurs 26th – Sun 29th April

Thursday 3rd May

Monday 7th May

Friday 11th May

Mon 28th May – Fri 1st June

Tuesday 24th July

Year 10 Retreat to Kintbury

Year 8 Parent / Teacher Evening (4 – 7 pm)

Bank Holiday – school closed

Year 13 Leavers Thanksgiving Service (11.45)

May Half term Holiday

Last Day of School Year (early closure - midday)

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. 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.