

# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Issue 28

### Head Lines

The prayer theme this week has centred around Jesus the Good Shepherd. We are reminded that as leaders we all have a responsibility to care for others in our daily lives, whether this be parents, teachers or students. We are called to lead and live our lives as an inspiration to others. Just as a shepherd tends and cares for his flock, we too as teachers undertake to nurture and develop our students and guide them along the right path.

The days are ticking by as we lead up to the exam season and it is wonderful to see so many students hard at work with their preparation. Exams really start in earnest the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May. Not long! Can I please remind all students in Years 11 – 13 that they should be making the best use of their time, attending tailored revision classes in school as well as dedicating specific time to revision at home. We wish all our students well in their studies and exam prep.

School life often continues beyond the school day and this is the case for some of our Year 10 students who are away this weekend at Kintbury on retreat with Fran and the team of youth leaders. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time together reflecting upon the theme of growing in faith as well as exploring life issues within the beautiful setting of the Berkshire countryside.

We do have a range of extra-curricular activities on offer at school and this is an area of school life we are keen to develop further. I would like to encourage students to think about activities and clubs they would like to see on offer both inside and outside of school. As staff we are looking at the current provision and exploring ways in which we can improve. One area for development is offering a wider variety of school trips. Next Easter we will be running a trip to Rome to explore the delights of the 'eternal city'.

Thank you to all our parents for the continued support you give to your sons and daughters and to the school.

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

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### Year 10 Mock Interviews

Year 10 have been preparing for their mock interviews this week ready for Friday. GI Group brought 14 interviewers to school for this occasion. Students prepared their CVs and then conducted a 10-20 minute interview. This is all in preparation for applying for jobs, Sixth Form, college and university. The students have been fantastic and the feedback great. We have been told that our students have been amazing, professional, have great attitudes and some performed better than people that they have interviewed for real jobs - well done to all Year 10's that took part today and we hope that this has supported you in preparing for your next career steps!



### Assembly this week

This week we have been focusing upon Jesus as the Good Shepherd. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus laid down his life not just for his friends, but for the whole of creation. He does this because he loves us, just as a shepherd loves his flock. Jesus is telling those who are listening that just like the shepherd he knows his flock and they know him, and when he calls they will know his voice and will follow him. Students have been asked to reflect on the Question: Who am I a shepherd to? Just as we follow others we also lead others.



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# St Gregory the Great Catholic School

## Teacher Profile – Mrs Merralls

Job Title – Personal Assistant/ Admissions Coordinator

I joined St Gregory's in September 2008 having decided that being a lady of leisure that could do lunch, was not as much fun after 8 months, as everyone else I would want to lunch with was actually working. I had previously been working for Oxford University at the Bodleian Library and after 26 years opted to take voluntary redundancy.

I began working here part time in Reprographics but after 3 months increased to full time hours and then alongside photocopying provided administrative support to Work Related Learning (College, Careers and the Work Experience Programme). In January 2010 I moved away from Reprographics and began working with Nick Rose, and found myself based in the Newman Building in what was then known as OB2L or in later years Don Bosco which saw the beginning of my long association with behaviour and introduction to the ever increasing paperwork involved with Governor Discipline Committee's, IYFAP referrals and Independent Review Panels (which with the added distraction of the two-way radio system for Patrol and Isolation) can at times prove challenging to complete.

Another huge part of my role is co-ordinating admissions whereby I act as the initial go to person for parents, staff, governors, students, other schools and the LEA for all admissions to St Gregory's. This can be both rewarding in introducing new students and their families and challenging for me at the same time, with the increase in arrivals from overseas and the introduction of alterations to our uniform and our suppliers.

The above, along with the many other aspects of my job I haven't listed, are very different to my previous employment as a photographer where I had been lucky enough to handle many of the wonderful treasures held within the Bodleian and other College Libraries within Oxford. The only link between the two being that they both focus on education.

In my time away from work I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, cooking and walking with my ever faithful hound, Quaver.

## UKMT junior maths challenge

Students from maths classes 7a1 and 8a1 took part in the individual maths challenge on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. This consists of a paper of very challenging maths and logic questions. This was the first time of participating for many of the students and their attitude and behaviour were exemplary. A massive well done to them all and fingers crossed for many awards to come in the next few weeks.

# 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!!



If you would like a place to catch up with homework, read a book or receive help in any area where you need extra support, then please come along to: **Homework Hangout**.  
Monday and Thursday Morning before school 8.15-8.45 in the Canteen

## 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.

## KS3 Maths club

Maths club for all pupils in year 7, 8 and 9 started this week. Come and join us on Thursday at 3:10 in Ma2 for a chance to improve your problem solving skills, tackle mind bending puzzles and just have fun with maths. You may even be chosen to join our competition team and represent the school!

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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)

The Summer Exam Timetable is available on the School Website.



The logo features the word "GARDEN" in large, green, textured letters that look like grass or foliage. Below it, the word "PARTY" is written in a smaller, pink, serif font, flanked by two horizontal lines.

## Summer Garden Party

The PTA are pleased to announce the St Greg's 'Summer Garden Party' on

Friday 29th June from 6 to 9pm.

50p entry or £2 per family.

There will be Cake Stalls, Strawberries and Cream, Pizza and BBQ, Prosecco Tent and Full Bar., Face painting, Go/Karts! Live Music and Open Mike Session! As well as Welly Wanging.

Please come and support this annual extravaganza

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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 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 10 Retreat to Kintbury
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 8 Parent / Teacher Evening (4 – 7 pm)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 13 Leavers Thanksgiving Service (11.45)
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> June	May Half term Holiday
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Garden Party (6 – 9pm)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	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.