

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 11th May 2018

Issue 30

Head Lines

They often say that life is a series of goodbyes and in many ways this is true. Today we had our Year 13 Leavers Service where we were saying goodbye to the Class of 2018. They are, however, still with us for another month or so revising and sitting exams. This is the end of their time with us and we very much wish them all well for the future ahead. The Chaplaincy team led a wonderful service drawing upon memories from the past few years as well as imparting some words of wisdom for their future lives. We pray that they may take with them a part of St Gregory's wherever they go on their journey, those precious moments of friendship, study and community. Thank you to all staff and in particular the parents for supporting your sons and daughters throughout their education with us. May they be a great success!



Another area of school life where we are very proud of our success is in attracting external speakers to share their knowledge and experience. This week we were delighted to welcome the amazing author, Frances Hardinge into school to speak with Year 7, half of Year 9, a smattering of Sixth-formers and some very enthusiastic staff members. She spoke about her own professional journey and answered many questions that the students had for her. We are extremely grateful to Frances and the many others who make time in their busy schedules to inspire our students in this way. We know that, for many young people, the career path they will take is far from obvious. Sessions such as this one help students understand what they can achieve, that obstacles can be overcome and that hard work is a fundamental aspect of achieving their professional dreams.

The importance of hard work is continually being promoted through our exam revision classes. Next week we will publish further opportunities for revision sessions through the May half term week. It is the dedication of staff alongside the hard work of students as well as support and encouragement from parents that will ultimately bring success. Thank you to everyone for their efforts.

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

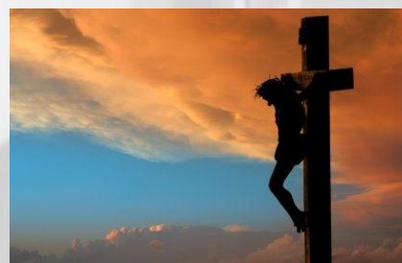
St Gregory the Great Catholic School

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

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Assembly this week

This week's assembly has been focused on making sacrifices in all that we do. This is part of life, often we have to forego things in order to achieve things. Mr Wileman spoke about his personal sacrifices before completing the Iron Man competition. He had to adopt a very disciplined routine for a number of months with exercise and a strict diet. Jesus in his life gave the ultimate sacrifice, his life on a cross, although we are not being called to this in itself, it does show what it means to love your neighbour. We are left with the question, what sacrifices in my life am I prepared to undertake for the benefit of others, no matter how small they might be?



Athletics

On Wednesday we took 30 students over to Horspath Athletics track to compete in the annual city competition. Below are the highlights from the day:

Ibrahim Diallo 2nd in Inter Boys 100m Seb Hernandez 1st in Junior Boys 800m Nulam Kambang 2nd in Year 7 Boys 100m Judith Godfrey 1st the Inter Girls 800m Logan Bryan 2nd in Inter Boys 1500m Nulam Kambang 2nd in Year 7 Boys 200m Elsie Powell 3rd in Year 7 Girls 200m Suneil Sarbon 3rd in Inter Boys 200m Brandon Fraser 3rd in Junior Boys 300m Zac Strong 3rd in Junior Boys 300m Harry Saunders 3rd in Inter Boys 400m Pelumi Maxwell 3rd in Inter Boys 400m Junior Boys Relay Team (Zac, Brandon, Nulam and Ebube) 3rd Inter Boys Relay Team (Pelumi, Ibrahim, Pery, Suneil) 2nd



Dance Club

Every Thursday lunchtime in the dance studio there will be a dance club for Years 7 and 8 girls. Look forward to seeing you there. *Miss Szekely*

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Teacher Profile – Ms. Payne Job Title – English Teacher

Although I was born in Oxford, my family and I moved to California when I was four years old. I have always wanted a career working with young people; I just wasn't sure if I would be doing so as a lawyer or as a teacher. Throughout my childhood, my mother undertook several degrees in English Literature and then became a teacher; consequently, I cannot remember a time when I wasn't reading or watching her read!

After graduating from high school, I went to the University of California at Berkeley and majored in English. Shortly after, I moved back to England and completed my PGCE. My first teaching post was at St. Augustine's, which then became St. Greg's, and I have remained here now for 15 years.

There are many things I love about teaching, particularly working in such a lovely department and working with such fantastic young people. I am very proud that many of my former pupils not only majored in English, but are now teachers themselves. And recently, one of my former pupils became Head of English and Media.

In my spare time, I like to travel, read, spend as much time as possible outdoors, watch sport, play the clarinet and socialise with family and friends. Also, having grown up in the States, I very much like a road trip, but it just isn't quite the same here.

Artists aplenty!

Photographs by the following Year 10 Art students have been shortlisted for the Oxford Festival of the Arts. Rikita Phembo, Karolina Jaksova and Ella Haynes' photographs have all been selected and are in with a chance to win a place at this year's festival. If chosen the winning photographs will be on display at Frideswide Square in Oxford from the 1st June-31st August.

Well done to all the Year 10 students that came along to the after school workshops with wildlife photographer Andrew Walmsley. They learnt lots of practical photography skills and captured some great images!

Mrs Bunch

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Year 10 Trip to St George's Park

On Tuesday 8th May we went up to St George's Park to watch the U17 Euro Championships match between Ireland and Denmark. We arrived an hour before kick off and walked through the park admiring the amazing facilities. We saw the Portuguese team warming up on one of the practice pitches before making our way to the stand where we'd watch the match. With both teams losing their first group game it was a very cagey game as neither team could afford to lose. Ireland got an early goal and managed to hold on for a 1-0 victory!

It was a great day and hopefully some of our Year 10s, who are aspiring footballers, got a good insight as to what it takes to make it at the top level.



Year 12 & 13 Attendance and Examination Requirements

All students are required to attend lessons until they have sat the final exam for that subject, there is no study leave. Students will be given authorised leave from lessons the afternoon prior to a morning exam and the morning off timetable prior to an afternoon exam.

AS students will return to A2 study on Monday 18th June. Attendance from this date is compulsory for all students until Tuesday 24th July.

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Author visit

This Thursday morning we were very lucky to welcome the amazing author, Frances Hardinge in to school to speak with Year 7, half of Year 9, a smattering of Sixth-formers and some very enthusiastic staff members.

Frances regaled us with many eerie tales, including that of a twisted tree of knowledge, which feeds on whispered lies, producing a fruit granting the eater a truth (The Lie Tree). Of ghosts (of all natures) seeking refuge in a small hidden space inside of a young girl during the Civil War (A Skinful of Shadows) and most chillingly, she spoke of a nightmare she once experienced which inspired her novel Cuckoo Song – *whilst having a chat with her sister, the telephone rang, she answered and found it to be her sister on the line... Confused as to what was happening, she turned slowly to look at her sister sitting behind her, when the 'thing' slowly started to smile, widely....* I think everyone experienced goose-bumps with this story!

We were all spellbound by her and her ability to spin a tapestry of words in to truly sinister but entertaining novels. The Library has the full collection (8 titles) that can be borrowed, and we also have a limited supply of books available to buy for the reduced price of £7.

Thank you to everyone who came – staff and students, you were brilliant!

Miss Brooks



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Chaplaincy News

Feast of the Ascension

Thursday was the feast of the Ascension. We had 3 Masses throughout the day with two year groups at a time. A special thanks to all the readers from a variety of year groups who proclaimed the word of the Lord so clearly. Thanks also to our altar servers, those experienced and those new, who worked out a rota together so that all the Masses were covered. Thanks also to the students who wrote and read the bidding prayers, praying for the needs of our world and the concerns of our school community. A special thanks to our priests, Fr Giles, Fr John and Fr Naz who came to celebrate Mass with us on this Feast Day.



Marian Procession

The year 7's who have made their Confirmation were invited by the primary children to come to their Marian Procession last Tuesday. Our students witnessed faith to the young ones and led the procession from the primary school to our Chapel where we had a short service and crowned Mary and then back to the Primary school Mary Garden.

They were fantastic role models to our younger students and we thank the primary school for inviting us to be part of this special occasion



Year 9 Retreat to Soli House 6th - 8th June 2018

Letters have been given out for this Retreat in tutor time. We highly recommend that all year 9 students consider attending this retreat. Spaces are still available.

For more information please contact Fran Walsh f.walsh@dbmac.org.uk

Years 7 & 8 Alton Castle retreat 16th - 18th May

Please may medical forms and final payments be brought into school ASAP.

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!!



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

Jacari are running FREE English language classes for women this Summer term 2018.

Tuesdays 9-10am: New Marston Primary School

Thursdays 9-10am: East Oxford Primary School

All levels and abilities welcome! No need to book, just turn up!

Any questions please email: mothersclasses@jacari.org

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)

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, red, 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

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 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:

Wed - Fri 16 th - 18 th May	Years 7 & 8 Alton Castle retreat
Mon 28 th May – Fri 1 st June	May Half term Holiday
Wed 6 th – Fri - 8 th June	Year 9 Retreat to Soli House
Friday 22 nd June	Year 11 Leavers Service (12 noon)
Friday 22 nd June	Yr 13 Prom
Friday 29 th June	Feast of Ss Peter & Paul (Whole school Mass)
Friday 29 th June	Summer Garden Party (6 – 9pm)
Wednesday 4 th July	Yr 11 Prom
Tuesday 24 th 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.