

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 18th May 2018

Issue 31

Head Lines

It is wonderful and very encouraging to see students achieving success, no matter how large or small they may be. A number of students have received certificates of achievement and have been recognised for their exceptional effort at the Horspath Athletics track when competing in the annual city competition. Well done to all who took part.

May is traditionally considered to be a month set aside for Marian devotion, focusing upon the person of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Last week we had our May procession which involved students from the primary and secondary parts of the school. The role of Mary has been a central theme for our assemblies this week where Fran has explored the importance of Mary as the perfect disciple. Students have been reflecting upon the question: what does it mean to be a true disciple? Discipleship involves being there for others and doing what we can to support the needy in society, whether that be at home with our family, here at school or in the wider community.

Shortly, students and staff will be involved with fundraising for Fr. Hudson's Society, the main social care agency for our Diocese. This will be an excellent example of how we can all show what it means to be a true disciple. There are already some fundraising activities underway, such as, the sweep-stake for the World Cup. Please encourage your sons and daughters to support this very worthwhile cause.

This morning some representatives from CAFOD came into school to share something of their work. Recently groups of students have been working on projects to explore issues surrounding unfair trade and what life is like for a refugee. Having outside speakers in the school is an amazing opportunity to get a flavour of what lies beyond our school gates and this is something that each department provides during the course of the year.

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

CAFOD
Just one world


Father Hudson's
SOCIETY

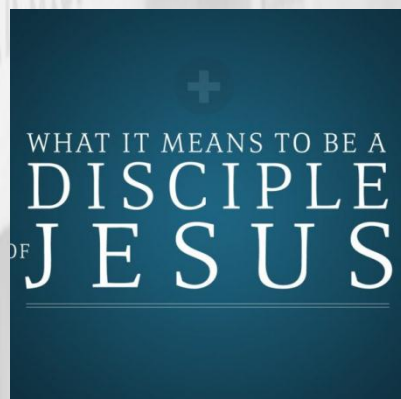
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Assembly this week

Last week we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension, the day when Jesus returned to be with His Father in heaven, the readings from last Sunday follow on from this event. Here, Jesus is asking God the father to keep his disciples faithful. Whilst Jesus was on earth he could teach and guide them, reminding them of what the scriptures said, but now he is not on earth any more, He is asking God the father to keep them safe. Jesus sent out His disciples to preach the good news just as God the Father sent Him, He understands the difficulties that they will experience; people rejecting them, the devil tempting them, Jesus wants them to be protected. Many of us in our school community consider ourselves to be disciples and just as we believe Jesus wanted this protection for His first disciples we also believe He wants this for us, his disciples in Oxford in 2018.



Half term revision sessions

There will be Maths Revision on the Wednesday in half term (30th May at 10.00 am). Students will have the opportunity to sit a maths paper 2 in exam conditions, have a short break and then go over the paper to see how to guide their final days of revision. We will require pupils to sign up for this - details for this will be given out in tutor time.

Monday 28 th May	BANK HOLIDAY	
Tuesday 29 th May	GCSE ENGLISH	9.00 – 3.00pm
Wednesday 30 th May	GCSE MATHS	10.00 – 2.00pm
Thursday 31 st May		
Friday 1 st June	GCSE HISTORY A Level MEDIA	9.00 – 2.30pm 10.00 – 12.00

Year 11 English revision support

Y11 should make sure they check www.stgregseng.com this weekend. We will share annotated copies of each of the Love and Relationship poems for any students that have missed a poem over the two year course. The Love and Relationship poems are in the Paper 2 exam on Friday 25th May.

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Teacher Profile – Dr Kay

Job title – Teacher of Religious Education

This is my first year as a school teacher, although I come from an academic background. The son of university lecturers based here in Oxford, I took my first degree in Divinity from Edinburgh University, and went on to study for a Masters, followed by a PhD, in Medieval History from the University of St Andrews.

Having enjoyed tutoring undergraduates, I listened to my heart, and set out to pass on to young people the spirit of inquiry and critical thinking that was an inspiration to me among the many educators from whom I have had the opportunity to learn.

From the first point of contact, I knew St Greg's was the right place for me to do this. Every day I am taken back by the support and encouragement of colleagues in my department, and the care and commitment of others throughout the school. As a teacher of Religious Education it is heartening to be part of a community that takes spiritual growth seriously, and I know this is a source of hope for our future. In sometimes trying circumstances, the school has a wealth of assets: talented staff, exceptional facilities, a strong ethos, and, most importantly, students who are full to overflowing with passion, curiosity and potential.

This year has not always been plain sailing. As I watch students entering the exam hall this week, I think about ways I could have improved my lessons with them, but I also feel privileged to be part of this community, which is doing all it can to help them give a good account of themselves.

When I take a break, you can usually find my tending the allotment. Its peace and parsnips!

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 years 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

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Marriage Care

Please see below a service provided by the Catholic Church for families who may be going through a difficult time.



Marriage Care is a faith-based charity which draws on its Catholic tradition and contemporary research to help couples in both good times and bad. We provide relationship counselling services to thousands of people across England and Wales each year and have local counselling centres in Oxford (Cowley and Headington) and Abingdon.

If you are facing a stressful time in your relationship, we can help. Whether you are feeling things just aren't quite right or whether you are encountering serious difficulties, our professionally trained volunteer relationship counsellors are here to listen and to support you towards a positive outcome.

You will never be turned away because you cannot afford to give very much but we do ask all our clients to make a donation at the start of each session and pay an initial registration fee of £10 to secure a place on the waiting list.

Call us on 0800 389 3801 or for more information visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk

Catholic Marriage Care Ltd– registered charity number **218159**

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.

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*

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Summer Garden Party



Chaplaincy News

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

Our year 7 & 8 will be back to Oxford this evening, we look forward to a full report with pictures from them in next week's Bulletin - they have had glorious weather!

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Homework Club

JOIN US IN INCLUSION, EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY AT 3.15 TO 4PM FOR HOMEWORK HANGOUT!

You will receive support and guidance, plus help with access to relevant online resources. All welcome, refreshments provided.

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

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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.



St Gregs are delighted to announce the Year 11 Prom tickets are now on Sale. You can either purchase them through the school Parentpay £25 or can pay cash to Ms Pauline Read or Miss Jewell (we are happy to take instalments) Please email any questions or concerns to: d.jewell@dbmac.org.uk

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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:

Wed 23 rd May	Good Shepherd Mass – Corpus Christi Church
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.