

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

WEEKLY BULLETIN



Friday 4th May 2018

Issue 29

Head Lines

Our assembly theme this week has been very much about pruning things back and moving forward on a journey together where we can bear much fruit. In all that we do we should strive to be the best we possibly can be and to do the best that we can.

One way of showing this is through our charity fundraising. This term we will be raising money for the Father Hudson's Society the main social care agency for our Diocese. This Charity works with some of the most vulnerable members of society: the elderly, people with disabilities, children and families. They are a foster care agency as well ensuring that children have a safe and lovely family. There will be many fundraising opportunities over the coming weeks as we aim to raise £1000. We would like to thank you all in advance for your generous support in reaching out to the needy.

Thank you to all the parents of Year 8 students who attended the Parents Evening on Thursday. It was lovely to see the support that you give to your sons and daughters at this most precious time in their lives. We are always looking at ways to improve our provision for students, if you have any feedback then please contact the Head of Year 8.

Finally, the Year 11 exam season is well underway now and I would like to encourage all students to approach their exam preparation with due diligence and care. We pray especially for all those taking exams at this time that the Lord fills them with the spirit of courage and perseverance.

Mr. S. Tucker (Acting Head of School)

Assembly this week

We are in the 5th Week of Easter in the Church's liturgical calendar and we have been reflecting on the Gospel reading from last Sunday: John 15:1-8 '*I am the vine, you are the branches*'. Here, Jesus uses another parable to illustrate more deep theological concepts... He says to his disciples that He is the vine and God the Father is the Vinedresser (gardener) he prunes the vine so it bears more fruit. By listening to the word of God it is like we are being pruned so our lives will be more fruitful, we will 'be more' – students having been thinking about ways in which they can 'be more' in their lives...



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Teacher Profile - Mr Hoskin

Job Title - Head of Physical Education

I grew up in a very sporty and competitive family. My Dad and Grandad were both talented sportsmen and my two younger brothers were always eager to challenge me in whatever sport we could get our hands on. I always knew I wanted a career in sport but hadn't exactly decided what it was going to be. I took a gap year to work as a sports assistant in my local school before deciding to go to the University of Gloucestershire to study Sport Education. After completing my degree I went on to the University of Exeter to undertake my PGCE and it was in 2014 that I accepted my first teaching job, here at St Greg's.

It has been a great journey so far having been promoted to Head of Boys PE and now to Head of PE. There are many things I love about my job, however, the best part for me is running the sports teams and providing the students with opportunities to compete in competitions around the County. Last year provided me with the highlight of my time at St Greg's so far which was winning the U16 and U19 County Cups with a superb group of Footballers.

In my spare time I have previously played both Football and Cricket competitively, and still play a little bit of 5-a-side in a team with Mr Reidy. Although, these days you will mainly find me on the Golf course, striving to make it as a top amateur.



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Author visit next week!!

We are happy to announce that the prize winning author, Frances Hardinge will be visiting St Gregory's on Thursday 10th May to talk about writing her books and especially her latest title, A Skinful of Shadows.

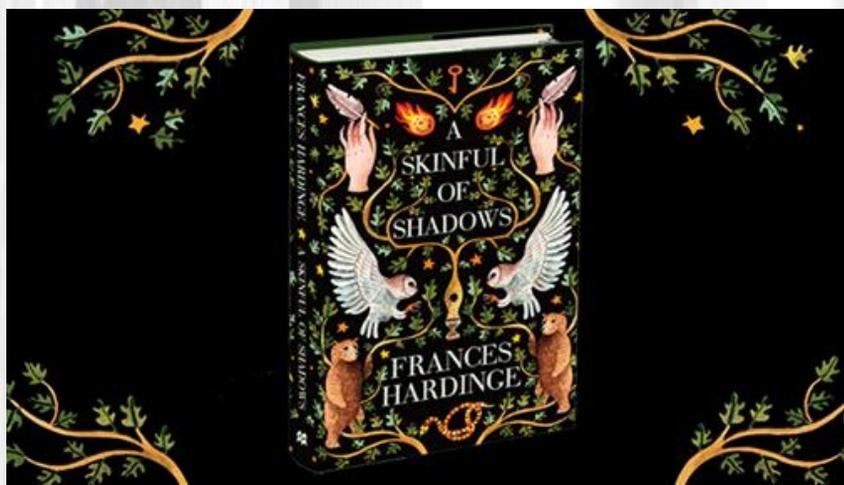
Frances is a unique author and we are particularly thrilled to have her come to school. Notorious for wearing her floppy black hat everywhere, Frances grew up in an old house in rural Kent, where the wind wuthered. She has always liked dark stories – when she was six, she wrote a short story that included an attempted poisoning, a faked death and a villain being thrown off a cliff – all in just one page! Later she read English at Oxford University amid medieval towers and gargoyle-strung chapels.

Frances is the winner of the Costa Book Award in 2015, which she won for her novel The Lie Tree. She has been short listed for 4 other awards including the Branford Boase Award. All of her books will be available to purchase after the event (for £7 each), where there will also be the chance for your child to meet the author and take home a signed copy. If you wish, you can pre-purchase a book by paying money in to student reception for the chosen title/s, your child will be handed a voucher that they can then swap for the book/s on the day.

Frances will be talking to year 7 and a few other classes, however, if your child is particularly interested in attending then please ask them to see me in the Library.

We hope that you join us in our enthusiasm for this exciting opportunity for your child to meet a very special author!

Miss Brooks
Librarian



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Chaplaincy News

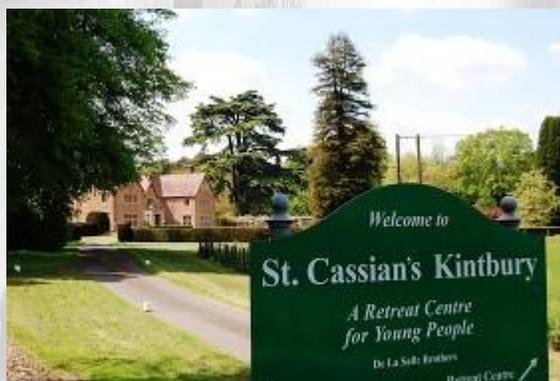
Y9 Retreat to Soli House 6th - 8th June 2018

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

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

Year 10 Kintbury Retreat

Mr Monks and Fran Walsh had the privilege of accompanying 15 of our year 10 students to St Cassians Centre Kintbury last weekend. Our students met young people from 3 other Catholic schools across the country and shared 4 days together where they explored the theme of awareness, reconciliation and good news. Many students were struck by the sense of community that so quickly formed and enjoyed the beautiful setting as well as the inspirational input of the team. All came away wanting to develop further the welcoming and inclusive environment in our school, free of judgment where people feel able to be themselves.



We look forward to the forthcoming Y9 Retreat to Soli house in June. Spaces are still available for the Y9 Retreat to Soli House 6th - 8th June. Please pick up a letter from the chaplaincy office.

Year 7&8 Alton Castle retreat 16th - 18th May - please may medical forms and final payments be brought into school ASAP.

Feast of the Ascension - Thursday 10th May

We will be celebrating this important Feast day and Holy Day of Obligation in school this year. The school community will have the opportunity to attend one of the 3 Masses happening throughout the day.

Calling all y7 students who have made their Confirmation.

These students have been invited to join our primary school in their May Procession from our School Chapel to the Marian garden in our primary next Tuesday 8th May.

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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

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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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.



GARDEN
— PARTY —

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:

Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Thursday 10 th May	Feast of the Ascension
Friday 11 th May	Year 13 Leavers Thanksgiving Service (11.45)
Mon 28 th May – Fri 1 st June	May Half term Holiday
Friday 22 nd June	Yr 13 Prom
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.