

THE NET

'One Family, Inspired to Learn'



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Thursday 20th July**
End of School Year
- Thursday 24th August**
GCSE results Day
- Wednesday 6th September**
First day of Autumn half term

STAFFING

Farewell to:

- Mr McLeod** - Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs Caldwell** - Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs Sherrington** - Head of Religious Education
- Mrs Hoey** - Y10 Pupil Progress Manager and RE Teacher
- Mr B Johnson** - Science Teacher
- Ms Bland** - Finance Officer
- Mrs Kaye** - RE Teacher
- Miss Bond** - Art Teacher
- Miss Sadie** - History Teacher
- Mr Glover** - Maths Teacher

Welcome to:

- Mrs Reed** - Science Technician
- Mr Hill** - Cover Supervisor and Extra Curriculum Support
- Miss Crawford** - Family Support and Pastoral Outreach Co-ordinator

THIS TERMS NEWSLETTER

Literacy News	2
LRC News.....	2
Author Visit.....	2
Short Story Competition	3
Matthew Pennington Interview...4	
Fiction Addiction.....	4
Prom.....	4
Meet the Teacher—Miss Krusinskyte.....	5
The time I showed resilience through music.....	5
Art.....	5
Maths—Junior Kangaroo.....	6
Alton Towers.....	6
Chaplaincy News.....	6
Aviation	6
FP & Nutrition.....	6
Safeguarding.....	7
Ebook Platform.....	7
Dance Fitness.....	7
Ambition For All.....	8
Drama.....	8
Back of the Net.....	8

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It has been a very busy but successful school year for the community of St. Gregory's. For me, what has been particularly pleasing is that we have been able to build upon the very high standards we set ourselves over the years and take the school further forwards.

I am very proud that we are the best attended school in Warrington. This speaks volumes, as outstanding attendance is a reflection that our pupils feel safe and happy at school and enjoy very positive and respectful relationships with each other and the staff.

The summer term is a very busy period, however it is also the time of the year when we celebrate the achievements of the children. Last week I had the pleasure of attending a brilliant prom night for our Y11's. It was amazing to see how they have become young adults ready for their next stage at college and apprenticeships. Our ambition for all awards evening also saw 100 young people pick up awards for a whole host of achievements.

Pupils have also been learning more about the 'charisms' of St. Gregory's. Charisms are 'gifts' (characteristics) that we believe every child has within them and part of our school mission is that our young people let these gifts shine every day.

This year we will see two retirements of long serving and

committed staff, Mr McLeod (27 years service) and Mrs Kaye (32 years service). Their footprint and long lasting impression has forever been left in our school and with all those who they have taught over the years. Whilst it is always sad to say goodbye to such special colleagues and friends, it is also the start of an exciting chapter for new colleagues coming into the school. I am very happy with the great appointments we have made for the school and we look forward to welcoming talented staff in September. In September St. Gregory's will see several building projects and developments completed to improve the school experience for pupils and visitors. These include a new reception & parent meeting area, new learning resource centre and new screens in every classroom.

Finally, I want to thank you for your continued and unwavering support this year, including your feedback through our surveys or during parent engage evenings. I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very happy restful Summer holiday period and I look forward to an exciting 2023-24 academic year commencing in September.



Mr McGlinchey
Head Teacher

GOODBYE TO OUR YEAR 11'S



It was sad to say goodbye our Y11s in June. Students had a brilliant send off from Mr Getty and Mrs Lee. Year 11, you have been great and we wish you all the best for the future!



LITERACY NEWS

Word of the Week

Pungent	Homage
Impenetrable	Negotiable
Melancholy	Entreaty
Solitude	

I am, as always, hugely proud of our team of paired readers this academic year. Both our mentors and mentees have shown such great progress in terms of skill and knowledge and it has been wonderful to see this come to fruition through Accelerated Reader reporting. Some of our most consistent attenders have made enormous gains to their reading levels and their dedication to developing their literacy has been a joy to see.

Here are just a few quotes from pupils on how paired reading has benefited them.

Holly (Y8)

Paired Reading is a group involving a variety of year groups and we all work to help improve reading skills throughout our school community. Each week, a member of an older year group (a mentor) gets paired with a younger reader. The reader has a

paired reading booklet and a book of their choice that they are reading. The reader and mentor each read alternate pages out loud to each other - the mentor can help with tough vocabulary, fluency, and confidence while reading. Through being a paired reading mentor, you gain confidence in reading and helping others. You are additionally spreading the enjoyment of reading throughout our school.

Dylan (Y9)

As a paired reading mentor, I have been able to improve my patience from the sessions. I enjoy listening to the others and helping them with words they may not understand. I have also learnt a few words that I did not know before these sessions. Every session I attend helps me to expand my vocabulary.

Jenith (Y9)

Paired reading benefits the student and the mentor in many ways. Firstly, the student improves their English and reading skills with the help of the older mentor. Also, this can improve the student's communication skills and it lets them speak more confidently which is very is a very important skill for anything you do. The student and mentor gain a good friendship through

paired reading. The mentor also listens to the student and strives to improve the performance of the student. These qualities are very important and useful if you want to become a young leader in Y10 or a head pupil in Y11. Overall paired reading is a great opportunity to meet new people and develop their knowledge through you.

Daniel (Y7)

I am more confident and have developed my communication skills and vocabulary. I now know more words that I can use in both my speech and writing.

George (Y9)

Through mentoring at paired reading, I have developed patience and shown kindness to others while developing my reading skills and serving my school community.

Monday's Paired Readers

We have developed friendships that would never have happened without paired reading. We are building bridges across the year groups and it's great to recognise each other and say 'hello' when we see each other around school.

Dr McCooley-Heap



LRC NEWS

Short Story Competition

Our LRC short story competition received nearly 100 entries, covering many genres including horror, science fiction, historical and fantasy, to name a few. Our students certainly possess vivid imaginations and their stories provided a great read for the judges with the top, twelve entries making it into a booklet which can be read in the LRC. The winning entry was from Alice in Y8, well done to all who entered!



June is Pride month

Pride month is about acceptance and equality, celebrating the work of LGBTQ+ people and raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. The LRC supported this with a display of LGBTQ+ books suitable for teens and young adults.

Discovery Days

The LRC welcomed year 5 students from local primary schools to experience school life at high school. The students were able to take part in a treasure hunt and a quiz, and discover the many ways they can get involved in St. Gregory's LRC. It was lovely to meet so many of them. Mrs Huckleby



AUTHOR VISIT

On 5th July we were fortunate to have a visit from Annabel Pitcher. Annabel has written many books for children and young people including 'My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece', 'Ketchup Clouds' and 'The Last Days of Archie Maxwell'. Annabel delivered two sessions to our pupils from Y7 to Y10 which included a writing workshop that will have inspired our budding authors!

Author visit quotes -

"I loved how the author got everyone involved" - year 7 pupil

"It was exciting to learn about the process of writing" - year 7 pupil

"I loved hearing the author talk about her travels and how it led to her first book" - year 8 pupil

"It was great to get feedback from her on my writing and tips on how to improve it" - Y10 pupil

"I felt inspired to develop and adapt my own creative writing and she gave me ideas on how to improve it." Year 8 pupil

SHORT STORY COMPETITION - WINNER



The forest was damp and grey, with a clearing that was being closely examined by a cunning squirrel called Red. He was perched on a sheer branch, determined to find a single acorn among the foliage.

There it was! Red was prepared to dive, but the rustling of another squirrel unnerved him. She also stared intently towards the nut, poised to run. But Red would not let the opportunity pass – it had been days since he'd had the luxury of an acorn!

A faint 'squawk' up in the canopy gave Red the perfect idea to remove the threat of his rival, who had just spotted him. She gave him a pleading look as if she knew something he didn't, Red impulsively threw a stone towards her; the squeak was enough to send the buzzard soaring down into the trees after her. They both sped off, once again leaving the area clear.

Feeling very pleased with himself, but slightly guilty that the other squirrel couldn't also have an acorn, Red jumped down from his tree and scuttled to the spot in the clearing where he had seen the nut. He brushed the leaves away, and rather than finding just one acorn, he found two!!





MATTHEW PENNINGTON INTERVIEW

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

I loved science and maths at school because I felt like they had definitive answers so you knew if it was right or wrong and I enjoyed learning about how the world worked in Science. It was probably because I was naturally pretty good at them.

Funnily enough I probably enjoy other subjects more now since I have left school, so maybe that's a lesson to stay open minded in your likes and dislikes. I love reading and I love to explore the world so we'll say English and Geography as well!

Did you have a favourite teacher?

I did have a favourite teacher, my favourite teacher was Mr McLeod..

Hopefully he has aged like a fine wine and still delivers the same interesting lessons and holds brilliant discussions with the class along with a good old story or two!



What player did you idolise growing up?

Despite being a defender I loved watching Thierry Henry growing up, he was a joy to watch in the premier league for Arsenal. When I started playing in defence I loved watching John Terry, he was a natural leader, great defender and also really good with the ball at his feet.

What team did you support growing up?

My parents didn't follow football until I came along so I wasn't born into a team per say. I supported Liverpool when I was very young as a lot of my school mates did, however now I support Everton after spending 15 years of my life there, so that is my football club.

How did it feel when you first played football professionally?

Looking back it was very nerve wracking along with a bit of excitement. Because I had never done it before there is a fear of the unknown. Naturally you do question yourself - Am I ready to play? Am I good enough? But once the game started and I touched the ball for the first time I loved it and played well. The feeling after the game with my family after a successful debut game was amazing.

What was your favourite moment playing for Everton?

Now the easy answer would be scoring against Liverpool at the Kop end in the Merseyside Derby. But I have a different favourite moment. To give you my favourite



moment I will have to put it into some context. For years I had been at the academy and we used to get a ticket for the Everton games so we could watch. My best mate and his Dad used to have season tickets in the Gwladys street end so I used to swap

tickets with his Dad so I could watch the game with my best mate in the Gwladys. We made friends with all the people around our seats.

So when I made my Premier League debut, at the end of the game after playing well and winning the game, I walked over to clap the Gwladys street end Everton fans. I looked to where I used to sit and to see the joy and pride on the faces of my mate and his dad and all of the people around them who I knew, was an absolutely magical moment that I will never forget.

What was your favourite moment playing for Shrewsbury?

Scoring the winner at home against Sheffield Wednesday on New Year's Day, I had about 20 family and friends in the crowd. What a day!



If you could play for any club in the world, which one would you pick?

I would love to play for Barcelona, a huge football club and a cool city to live in too. Maybe I would learn Spanish there too.

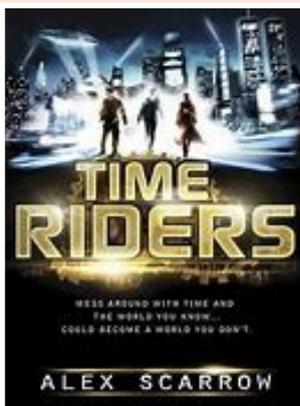
What advice do you have for anyone who is looking to become a professional footballer?

Work hard. In my experience it is not the most talented individuals who succeed but the people who want it the most and are willing to act upon that.

Interviewed by Quinn, Y10.

FICTION ADDICTION

This terms book review has been written by one of our Y8 pupils.



Time Riders

Whether dinosaurs rule or the world is in an eternal war, the Time Riders will save the day. Three enterprising teenagers use their skills to save the world and stop it ending in disaster. Based in New York, living in a two day cycle, there is always a job to be done.

This series is full of tension, excitement, cliff-hangers and it is a must read today!

PROM

Y11 had a wonderful time dancing the night away at the Prom. Thank you to all involved but especially Mrs Lee for organising such a special event.





MEET THE TEACHER

MISS KRUSINSKYTE



Interviewed by
Mason Y10 &
Quinn Y10

If you had to pick only one, what would be your favourite genre of music?

Wow that's a tricky question! I listen to so many different genres but if I had to pick one, it would be somewhere in between 'indie' and 'rock'.

Who is your favourite current music artist?

Sam Fender would be at the top of my most listened current artists. I also recently discovered a band called 'Far from saints' – they have some great songs as well!

What type of music do you like to write?

I mostly write lyrical songs and music that includes the piano as piano is my main instrument; but I would also write a section for guitars and drums and of course some catchy lyrics to finish off the song!

What year group is your favourite to teach and why?

Every year group is fun and interesting to teach for many different reasons, however GCSE Music in Y10 and Y11 is just amazing. That's when we get to create original compositions, record various performances in the recording studio, listen to, analyse and talk about different musical styles from rock to musical theatre, from gaming music to traditional and more!

Who inspired you to become a teacher?

I would have to say my music teachers back in Lithuania – piano, singing, guitar and my high school music teacher too! I was inspired by them so much that I joined the school's rock band as a lead singer back in high school!

THE TIME I SHOWED RESILIENCE THROUGH MUSIC

Imagine you could play any composition, piece or song, whatever you could possibly think of. Imagine you could create a work of art that touches people in the most amazing, hypnotic, heart-warming way possible.

This is my story of how resilience, trusting the process and a positive mindset can get you through any difficulty.

About 2 weeks ago, I started learning a classical piece called The First Movement Of Sonata No.1 In G. I looked at this incredible, fascinating, tough piece, note after note, bar after bar, line after line. It was daunting and stumped me, but my motivation and determination was more powerful than anything I have ever experienced. My happiness grew and grew even though overwhelming thoughts sat in my head not wanting to let go, wanting to hold me back.

This piece was given to me to push myself, as a challenge to reach something I've never accomplished, and now it was the time to achieve this. My time to shine. My time to push boundaries I thought I would never overcome.

I was filled with ecstasy, bliss and determination to pursue my passion through music. This has the power to show that anything is possible by expressing ourselves and doing what we love, not just to please others, but to please ourselves as musicians.

My music teacher, Miss K, helped me express myself through the pieces I played; helped me to express emotion to touch the hearts of



music lovers. This brought an enormous smile to my face and to the faces of others too. She motivated me to carry on and dream big to achieve things I know I want to and let me communicate my thoughts and ideas through music.

I carried on not wanting to let my music teacher down. She inspired me and taught me many great things. She showed me that anything you put your mind to is possible. My feeling for this piece was unimaginable and inexplicable.

Consequently, I have learnt through time and most importantly dedication, you can achieve things you thought could not be achieved. Music boosts your mood and energy and brings out your true creativity.

In my opinion, music can change everything and should definitely be attempted and not given up on.

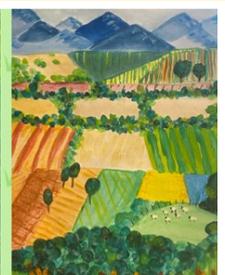
Written by- Alexandra Y7

ART

Contemporary Portraiture - Y9



Y7 Project work



David Hockney landscapes - Y8

MATHS – JUNIOR KANGAROO

A big congratulations to four of our pupils for their results in Junior Kangaroo. All four students performed exceptionally well but a special mentioned to Kathy in Y8 who achieved a merit!
We are all extremely proud of all four pupils and all you have achieved!
Mr Kennedy



AVIATION

St. Gregory's pupils Jenith (Y9), Jerin (Y11) and Dion (Y11) have successfully taken part in the Fantasy Wings Programme sponsored by British Airways this year. Two of our pupils won trial flights at the conference



held in London and had the opportunity to meet and talk to the founder of Fantasy Wings, the session host and the worlds youngest Flight examiner.



Miss Craig and Mr Kennedy



ALTON TOWERS



CHAPLAINCY NEWS

Confirmations

On 1st and 2nd July, over 50 pupils from St. Gregory's were confirmed. It was a true celebration attended by family and friends and our students made us really proud!



Walking Day

On 30th June, St. Gregory's took over 50 students to take part in Warrington Walking Day. They walked with pride throughout the town centre and lots also volunteered to carry banners and statues the whole way too.



Vegetable Planting

On 20th June, a few Y7 pupils got to visit their primary school St. Paul of the Cross, Burtonwood and help them complete some vegetable planting. This was a great contribution towards theirs and our @livesimply award with @cafod.



First Holy Communion

Also on 30th June, one of our Y8 students, Freya, made her First Holy Communion here in our school chapel. A huge congratulations to Freya and big thank you to Canon Dave Heywood for celebrating mass with us.

Mrs Whitlow



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Here are just a few examples of the amazing work our pupils have been creating this term!



Mrs Cross

SAFEGUARDING

Staying Home Alone

Learning to be independent is an important part of growing up. Between work, appointments and other family commitments – every parent may



need to leave their child home alone at some point so it's good

to have a plan in place.

You might wonder at what age you can leave your child alone at home. But there's no 'one-size-fits all' answer. Every child is different, so build up their independence at their pace – and check in with them to make sure they feel safe.

It is important that you speak to your child about how they would feel if they were left alone and what they would do in an emergency.

The NSPCC advise that a child younger than 12 should never be left home alone.

Below are links to an NSPCC guide about leaving children home alone as well as their website which has a quiz that you can complete to determine if your child is ready to be left alone.

[Home or out alone guide \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/guides/leaving-your-child-home-alone/)

[Leaving Your Child Home Alone - Advice | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/guides/leaving-your-child-home-alone/)

Stay Safe in the Sun

Hopefully we will see the sun during the summer holidays and whilst we all enjoy the nicer weather, it is important that we 'stay safe in the sun':

- Wear sunscreen – at least factor 30 with a four star UVB rating.
- Check for heat exhaustion – ensure that you move into the shade.
- Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water.



Water Safety

As the temperature increases it is perfectly natural to want to cool off. However, there are many dangers when it comes to swimming in unsuitable rivers, canals and quarries and this does not take into account the hazards of freezing cold water and currents. Teenagers especially are drawn in by their peers and a



keenness for risky behaviours.

Please take time to speak to your child

about the dangers of swimming in open water.

For more information on swimming in open water please go to the Canal & River Trust website or follow the link <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the>

[-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/summer-water-safety](https://www.waterways.gov.uk/safety-on-our-waterways/summer-water-safety)

Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

HAF is a scheme, funded by the Department for Education, giving children in England who are eligible for free school meals the opportunity to take part in fun, enriching, school holiday activities.

Places on the holiday schemes are available free of charge to children aged 5 to 16 who receive free school meals, but children and young people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to attend. Each local programme will provide delicious, healthy meals, allow kids to get active, help them learn new things, make friends and have fun.

To find out more or book and event please follow the link [Find and book HAF sessions in your area.](#)

What to do in the holidays with your teen

Finally, if you're looking for ideas of what to do to get your teenager off their technology and outside during the summer holiday, please click the link for some ideas (some even include chores).

<https://lindastade.com/what-to-do-in-holidays-teenager/>

Have a happy and safe summer holiday.

Mrs McKenna

E-BOOK PLATFORM

Would you like your child to have access to books 24/7?

Try our e-platform! How do I access it?

Click here or login to RM Unify and click on the eplatform tile from the launch pad.

How do I read them?

On a computer, laptop, or through the free App for tablets or smartphones.

To download the App

Search "eplatform" in the App store and download.

Search for St. Gregory's Catholic

High School library.

Click the 3 little lines in the top left corner and select sign in. Enter the username and password sename: Student email Password: password (once signed in change the password)

Once downloaded the book can be read on all devices without the need for internet connection.

Any problems?

Please contact Mrs

Huckerby



DANCE FITNESS

Pupils have been working hard and enjoying their 'Dance Fitness' this term. I am so proud of your dedication and hard work!



Mrs McCabe

SAFEGUARDING

DSL
Mrs McKenna (Deputy Head Teacher)

Safeguarding Governor
Mr Roger Harrison.

Safeguarding Advice: 01925 444140

Cheshire Constabulary:101

Social Work Teams: 01925 446257

Out of Hours: 01925 443322

ChildLine: 0800 1111

AMBITION FOR ALL AWARDS

It was a privilege to recognise and award so many students for their contributions to the school and wider community, demonstrating their talents and providing service to others.
Mr Hill



DRAMA

GCSE Drama

I would like to say a big well done and congratulations to those that have performed as part of their GCSE exam in last week. What a wonderful opportunity it was to invite your family and friends into school to watch your work. Your performances were highly creative and thought provoking, and you have made us both very proud. Ms Chappel & Miss O'Connor



Drama Club 2023



This has been a resounding success this term and we now have more than 70 pupils who are busy building their drama skills in preparation for a performance evening next term. Congratulations to all who have given up their time after school to take part. You make it happen!

BACK OF THE NET



Well done to the 63 St. Gregory's pupils that took part in the Athletics Town Sports. The girls finished 3rd and the boys finished 2nd meaning that as a school we finished 2nd overall! Excellent effort team!



Rugby Y9/10
Resilient and skilful performance from our mixed Y9/10 Rugby League team in their North West Counties cup final this term.

We unfortunately stumbled at the final hurdle, but each player gave their all and represented our school admirably!

Rugby Y7

Excellent effort from our Y7 rugby league team on their final fixtures of the school year! They have improved with every game, and we look forward to seeing what they can achieve with St. Gregory's over the next 4 years!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Well done to the 38 Y10 pupils who completed their expedition for their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award this term! Two days of tough navigating, walking, cooking and camping. Well done to all!



Produced by St. Gregory's Media Team