



The Net

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

Issue: 121

May, 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Friday 24th May
End of Term
- Monday 3rd June
Start of Term
- Monday 3rd June
Y11 GCSE's continued
- Monday 10th June
Y10 Mock exams start
- Thursday 20th June
Dance Workshop
- Thursday 27th June
Y11 Prom
- Friday 28th June
Walking Day– Normal school day
- Friday 5th July
Y10 Cronton College trip
- Friday 5th July
Culture Day
- Tuesday 16th July
Sports Day
- Friday 19th July
End of school year

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

The fifth half term of the school year has not been a long one, but it has been full of achievements.

Y11 have begun their busy GCSE schedule, and I could not be more impressed at the way they have approached their exams. It is clear that Y11 are working hard at home and are arriving for each exam well prepared. I am grateful for our staff body as they go above and beyond to care for them during this time.

To wish them the best of success with their exams, Y11 pupils also attended a special mass led by Canon Dave Heywood, which was as always, a special occasion.

Pupils have enjoyed many trips and experiences this term. I am not sure how we have squeezed them in! Visits include, visiting a French cafe, taking part in a Geography traffic survey, STEM challenges at colleges, the Cheshire Book Awards, DofE weekends, and Y9 visiting Arthog in Wales for an adventure weekend.

Our STEM events and activities have provided our pupils with a window into future careers in STEM industries, such as Robotics and Conservationism.

The online talks for parents led by

Detective Constable Andrew Kevan were very powerful, and gave advice on how to support our children online.

In recent weeks, we also celebrated Pentecost, the birth of the church and it was a privilege to be part of the celebrations in the parish. As a community, we were able to come together and hear bidding prayers from all of the nationalities that form our parish and school communities.

Our prayer and charism wall displays, designed with the input from our very own pupils, have been now been unveiled. They are a very special feature of our school.

In the next half term, we look forward to a special culture day in school which was suggested by our very own pupil leaders during one of the headteacher breakfast meetings.

As always, I wish our community a very restful and safe half term holiday, and I once again take the opportunity to thank my incredible pupils and staff for all they have done this half term.



Mr McGlinchey
Headteacher

LITERACY NEWS

Word of the Week	
Meticulous	Ludicrous
Extraneous	Atmospheric
Doused	Referendum

Word of the Week

Have you noticed our brand new 'Word of the Week' posters? You will now have a visual reminder of this key vocabulary in every classroom. And remember: achievement points will be awarded to

anyone who uses it in lessons!

Read Smart

You may also have noticed our new 'Read Smart' posters. These posters feature steps that you can take to improve your reading in all lessons: TRACK the text with a ruler; LISTEN to those reading aloud; THINK about what you want to learn from the text; MARK any unfamiliar vocabulary or key information with your

highlighter.

We can all be better readers!

Lexia Trial

When we return after half-term, we will be trialing an exciting computer programme called Lexia, which is designed to identify pupils' specific reading needs and offer bespoke support. Pupils, parents and carers should keep an eye out for communication via Class Charts. **Miss Mannion**



LRC NEWS

Book Club and Cheshire Book Awards

A highlight of this half term has been our older Book Club attending the Cheshire Book Awards. Throughout the year, we have been reading the 10 shortlisted books and we voted



for our favourite books. We voted for 'Happy Head' by Josh Silver in the Older Reader category and 'I See Blue' by Lily Bailey in the Younger Reader category. During the event we met the various authors, asked them questions, had books signed and watched the award ceremony. It was very exciting



to be part of the event - the process has enabled us to

develop keen interests in new authors and we are eagerly anticipating their next books!

Competitions and Events

To celebrate Shakespeare's birthday, we held a quiz in the LRC and lots of children took part. Well done to our 5 winners who showed off their knowledge about Shakespeare to gain top marks!

We have also had a Book Swap in the LRC. Children have been bringing in the books that they have enjoyed at home to swap at our Book Swap station. The children have enjoyed recommending reads and watching which new books are arriving each week. We will carry this on until the end of the school year so if you want to join in, bring your book into the LRC.



EBook Platform

Our EBook Platform is being updated all the time and we are adding recommendation lists from staff and children to help children choose a relevant book. Prizes will be awarded at the end of

next half term for the children who have read the most books! If you want to find out how to log in, ask Mrs Andrews in the LRC.

Mrs Andrews

E-BOOK PLATFORM

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

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

Log in 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

username: 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 the LRC

Manager

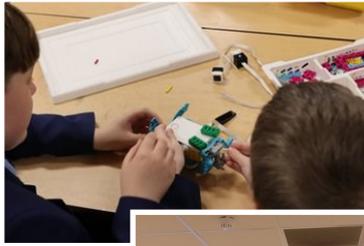
Mrs Andrews



ARMY EVENT

Pupils from Y7, Y8 & Y9 have taken part in an army STEM workshop on disaster relief this term. Those that took part, designed and built a robot with the purpose of helping those effected when a disaster occurs.

Mr Poland



WELL DONE!

Well done to Juliusz, one of St. Gregory's Y8 pupils, who participated in the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino.

The Cassino 80 Remembrance event took place from May 15th to May 20th. Juliusz was honoured to represent his scouting group at this significant commemoration, which holds

great importance for the Polish community.

Juliusz was also eager to share his experience with his classmates upon his return and engaged them in discussions about the historical significance of the Battle of Monte Cassino.

Such a fantastic achievement Juliusz, well done!

UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE WINNERS

In April, pupils in Y7 and Y8 took part in the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge. The challenge is a national competition aimed to stimulate mathematical problem solving. The department are pleased to announce the winners below! Congratulations to all pupils from the Maths Department!

Gold Winners

William Y8, Gavin Y8, Holly Y7, Ailsa Y8, Joey Y8.

Silver Winners:

Lottie Y8, Princess Y8, Juliusz Y8, Kieran Y8, Isla Y7, Jacob Y8, Charlie Y8,

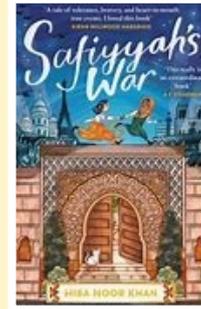
Faith Y8, Rafael Y8, Ruby Y8, Nico Y7, Max Y7, Damian Y7, Daniel Y8, Abel Y8.

Bronze Winners:

Liam Y7, Ryan Y7, Aston Y7, Troy Y7, Harry Y7, Olivier Y8, Ellen Y7, Luiza Y7, Max Y8, Emily Y8, Etain Y8, Lydia Y7, Patrycja Y8, Elizabeth Y8, Ioana Y7, Oliver Y8, Jack Y8, Ethan Y8, Lucas Y7, Dominic Y7, Georgia Y8, Sophia Y8, Anji Y8, Anna Y7, Xander Y8, Harry Y8, Freyah Y8, Xaelani Y7, Bareera Y7, Lucas Y7, Ava Y7, Max Y7, Elijah Y7, Norbert Y8, Joel Y8, Ruby Y8, Zofia Y7, Eleanor Y7, Noah Y7, Mysha Y8, Megan Y8, Zuzanna Y7, Oscar Y7.

FICTION ADDICTION

Safiyyah's War



'Safiyyah's War' is a book with lots of adventure. It describes the life of a Muslim girl, living in France which

was safe....until the Germans reached their country. Everyone fled, (including Safiyyah's best friend, Isabelle). All that remained was the closed down stores, the Jews and her family. Ever since, her father has been doing mysterious activities, such as sneaking out of the mosque after midnight. Safiyyah grew curious wondering what her father is doing at such a dark time. As the book advances, secrets begin to unfold and mysteries come to light...What will become of Safiyyah?..

Written by a Y7 pupil



MEM Maths Challenge:

In February, Mathematical Education on Merseyside organised their annual February Half Term Challenge. The Mathematics department would like to congratulate Elizabeth Y7 and Daniel Y9 who achieved certificates of Merit for their solutions. Both pupils were invited to the prize-giving event held at Liverpool University. Well done! Mr Johnson





YEAR 11 MEDIA TEAM INTERVIEW

A Year 11 interview, photographed by Dylan, Y10.

What subjects have you enjoyed the most while at St. Gregory's?

"Geography, Drama, History and English."

Is there anything you would change about your time in school?

"Not really change, but we really miss some of our teachers that have left or retired, it would be great if they came back!"

What will you miss the most when you leave St. Gregory's?

"Can we say teacher's lessons? Mr Getty, Mr McMorine and Ms Chappel's lessons!"

So, what is your fondest memory from your time at St. Gregory's?

"We have had loads of really nice trips but the best one has to have been the drama trip to Menai with Ms Chappel, Miss O'Connor and Mr Hill."

"We have had lots of fun memories in lessons as well, Mr Johnson's science lessons were always really memorable, especially the practical lessons!"

What will you be doing to celebrate the end of your exams?

"We are all looking forward to prom."

What is your advice to the new Y7's joining us in September?

"Revise!"
"Don't focus on what people think of you and popularity."

"High school isn't Primary school. You can get involved in lots of different activities, try as many as you can!"

What is the best food in the canteen?

"Definitely the pizza"

This is a question that you asked a teacher in one of your interviews. Is a Jaffa cake a cake or biscuit?

"It's a cake!"



Our Y10 French class enjoyed a 'taste' of France earlier this month with a trip to 'Gourmand!' café in Warrington town centre. The pupils were hosted at the cafe by the French couple who opened 'Gourmand!' a few years ago who wanted to share their passion and talent for offering authentic French food and ensuring that their amazing croissants are enjoyed the French way - no butter or jam! The pupils put their French skills and knowledge into action as they ordered their breakfast and held short conversations with both Julien and Olivia to find out more about their lives in France and in Warrington. Croissant, Pain au chocolat, les chouquettes were all savoured and washed

MFL FRENCH CAFÉ EXPERIENCE

down with a café au lait or a jus d'orange with some pupils even ordering more to take away! With full stomachs and a fantastic culinary experience under their belts, the pupils returned to school with pastries to share. What an excellent way to enjoy breakfast!



"I decided to take part in the French Cafe trip because I could have a fun time with my friends, aswell as seeing what it would be like to speak in French to someone I have never met before. I also wanted to see what real French food would be

like. It was good to practice my French to someone that I hadn't met before. I ate a croissant and I drank a CocaCola. It was amazing and it was the best croissant I have ever had. It has helped with my French because I am now more familiar with some vocabulary to do with food/drink and common vocabulary that you would use when you are out like "I would like to take this away please" instead of sitting in and having it at the place. " **Niamh in Y10**

"I went to the cafe because I wanted to try French food and it was great. I tasted a cake, a cookie and a pain au chocolat and had 2 cups of tea. It was easy practising my French there and it was overall one of the best moments in year 10 so far." **Matthew in Y10**

Mrs Baldwin



Young Artists' Summer Show 2024

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–19 years and studying in the UK.

Students can submit one artwork for consideration which will be judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals. Selected artworks will be displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. Prizes will be awarded to inspiring artworks across each key stage.

How to enter

From 8 January 2024, teachers will be able to register their school. Next, students, their parents/guardians or their teachers can submit artworks via the RA website until 27 March 2024.

Important dates

8 January – 27 March 2024
Registration and submission open

May 2024
Judging

16 July 2024
Online exhibition opens

16 July – 11 August 2024
Display at the RA open

Sign up and find out more
roy.ac/youngartists
#RAYoungArtists

Made possible by Robin Hambro

RA Royal Academy of Arts

Art Competition!

Year 7 and 8 students have worked hard over the last few weeks to enter work for the *Young Artists' Summer Show 2024*.

They have now submitted their pieces after working solidly in Art club, and we are excited for the judging in May!

All students who submitted their work were enthusiastic to compete and to talk about their work with other year groups.

It has been a pleasure working with all of the students on this extra project. Helping the Y8 students to develop their confidence enough to support younger students with their Art work, has been a delight! *Mrs Crudgington-Hall*

Drama Club is back!

Drama club will take place on Mondays, 3pm to 4pm, in the Drama Theatre until the end of the Summer term.

**VISIT THE
ST.
GREGORY'S
WEBSITE
AND LISTEN
TO OUR
PODCAST**



CHAPLAINCY

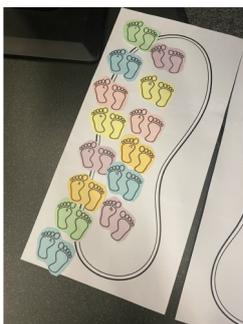
The Big Lent Walk



Over 700 pupils walked for CAFOD Big Lent Walk in the sunshine at the end of last term. We have raised well over £1100 for our two Lenten charities; CAFOD and The Children of Gaza and the Holy Land. Thank you to everyone involved!

Collective Worship

9 Teresa delivered an emotive collective worship when they



discussed peace, and how it relates to the Gospel. During the collective worship, a student placed feet

down to represent a life lost every 30 seconds due to war around the world.

Y11 Mass for Exam Success



Canon Dave Heywood came to celebrate mass with Y11 ahead of their GCSEs beginning. We listened to the Canon Dave's words of advice for Y11's and we are thankful to him for giving up time in his busy schedule!

Celebration Mass

Before Easter holidays, we welcomed Fr Raymond into school to say mass for all our school volunteers. Around 100 students participated in mass to give thanks for all their hard work.

Mrs Whitlow

CHAPTER ONE

“Run!” Mamma cried.

And so she did.

She bolted out of their hut, darting around the strange men with their weapons and their helmets and their war cries.

She ran through the village, her peaceful little village that now crackled and smouldered, the air alive with screams and shouts.

She pelted into the woods, her legs screaming, her lungs burning.

And still she ran. She ran until she couldn't feel her face, until her sight dimmed, until her legs collapsed beneath her.

Until it all went away.

“Opal. Opal! Come on, we need to get to the lakes!” Elena shook her. Opal groaned. “Five more minutes,” she mumbled to her younger sister.

“Opal, we need to wash off! Come on!” Elena was bounding with energy, as usual.

“Fine,” Opal swung her legs out of her hammock-like bed. The bed had been hers for four years now, ever since they had found her, smouldering, and carried her into it. They being Elena's mother and father. She climbed out, missing the warmth and security of the bed already.

“I got all of our stuff out. Come on!” Elena tugged her out of the room.

Opal stumbled down the stairs, went to the wooden table, then grabbed a handful of berries. For the road, she thought. She stuffed them in her night-trouser pocket.

“Morning, Opal,” Daz ruffled her ginger hair. Opal didn't really know what ‘Daz’ was short for, or if it was short for anything at all.

“Morning, Daz,” she replied, heading to the front door — where all of the shoes were kept.

She put on her leather boots. They were worn, but they were comfy as hell.

“Hey, Opal!” Em cried. Emeline's tousled blonde hair was framing her fair face. She grinned. Opal grinned back. “Hey, Em. Are we going to the lakes this morning?”

Em nodded. “We're taking a new route today,” she said, smiling enthusiastically.

“When are we setting off?”

“Soon as everyone has their shoes on.”

Elena came bounding towards them.

“Hi! Where are my boots?” Her eyes — blue, like her mother's — sparkled in the natural light.

“Here,” Em handed them to her.

“Thanks, mum!” Elena put them on.

“Daz! Come and get your shoes on!” Em called to her husband.

Daz strode in from the kitchen. He bent down and tied his laces.

“Right. Everyone ready?” They all nodded. “Then let's go!” Em opened the door.

The autumn air chilled Opal, but didn't stop her from seeing the beauty the season had brought — the trees were shades of yellow, rust and deepest crimson.

They started walking, chatting as they went, at first keeping to the familiarity that was their usual route, but then leaving them behind for new, different trees that hadn't quite caught up with autumn yet.

Something else Opal noticed was that those trees were gradually showing scorch marks - then they came across a gnarled, charred and bare tree that creaked in the wind instead of rustling. And then—

Opal was half-way through saying something. She couldn't remember what it was. It didn't matter. Her

pulse raced.

They were going past a ruined, blackened settlement of tents.

Opal's settlement. She stopped in her tracks. “No...” she sprinted in. Someone was calling her name. Didn't matter. She made for what she knew was her tent.

There was a charred skeleton in there. Opal dropped to her knees. She let out a broken sob.

She'd always had a hope, a silly, clinging hope that Mamma had survived, that she was looking for Opal. Here was her proof that she wasn't.

She...

She was dead.

Her mother was dead.

Gone.

“NO!” She screamed as loud as she could.

It wasn't fair. She had survived. But her mother hadn't.

She had a home. She had safety. She was clean.

Her mother had been left to rot.

“Opal!” Em cried. She came into the tent and saw Opal trembling. She wrapped her arms around her. “I'm so sorry, Opal. I'm so sorry,” she murmured. Opal barely heard her. She felt ill.

Opal got up shakily. “I-I'm ok,” she had always known that there was a chance Mamma hadn't made it. But knowing for certain that she wasn't out there, living her life... it made her feel hollow inside. Empty. She rubbed her face. She was freezing in the cold, unforgiving air. “We should get going.”

Em looked concerned, but nodded.

The next chapter coming soon....

SAFEGUARDING

Online Safety



This term we welcomed Detective Constable Andrew Kevan to speak to pupils in Y7 – Y10 about their behaviour online.

During the session he explained to pupils how everything that they do online is traceable. He shared with them the story of a young man, aged 15, who had been requesting indecent images from other children. He explained that initially his dad had been arrested and charged as he owned the phone. He went on to tell them that the young man had received a 2 year custodial sentence and was placed on the sex offenders register for life. Pupils reported that they had found the session very useful and were shocked by what he had shared with them.

Following this he delivered a parental session covering the topics outlined below.

- 'Digital Footprint' how it is generated, the impact on my family, who can see my information?
- How does my device connect to the internet, and how does Social Media link into this?
- Stats: Children using the internet and their cognitive understanding between 3yrs – 16yrs
- How does the internet sexualise my child?
- The truth about internet/Social Media Content
- Online sites to be aware of!
- Stats in relation to 'Self-Generated Indecent images of Children'
- New legislation designed to protect your child.
- Apps / tips to secure your child's online experience.
- How 'AI' is now exploiting 20yrs of Facebook use.

We were delighted with the number of parents who attended and reported that the session had been very useful and informative. An app he advised parents to share with their children is ReThink [ReThink - Before the Damage is Done \(rethinkwords.com\)](https://rethinkwords.com). This app asks people to think about what they're posting/sending if they have typed something offensive – its purpose is to stop online hate and raise responsible digital citizens. For more support in keeping your child safe online please sign up to National Online Safety where you will find a wealth of guides covering

topics from 'What parents need to know about scam emails', 'How to set up parental controls to limit age-inappropriate content' to 'What parents need to know about snapchat' as well as many more. There are also parental courses, webinars, explainer videos as well as monthly updates. In addition to this, once you have logged in you will be able to download the app to your smart phone.

To sign up please follow the link and follow the instructions to sign in as a parent. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-gregory-s-high-school>



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK
13-19 MAY 2024

Mental Health Awareness Week

'Movement: Moving more for our mental health' was the theme for this year's mental health awareness week which ran from 13th – 19th May.

Research shows that physical activity improves mental health, quality of life and wellbeing. It also prevents diseases such as diabetes, heart disease. If you or your child is struggling with mental health there are many services that offer support:

- ChatHealth - Text support service for parents, carers and teens (11-19 years)

Is a service that provides a new line of communication. The service does not aim to replace face to face contacts, rather increase choice for service users about how they access advice from a health professional.

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's secure text messaging service has 3 text numbers:

11 - 19 Young People's Service – 07507 330101

0 - 5 Parents Service – 07507 327981

5 - 19 Parents Service – 07480 635994

The service operates Monday-Friday from 9am until 5pm. Messages will be responded to within 24 hours during this period. Outside these hours, service users will receive a 'bounce back' text message indicating that they will receive a response when the line re-opens.

ChatHealth is not an emergency service, and accordingly parents will be instructed to follow usual advice in seeking urgent medical attention. For more information visit the website ChatHealth Warrington – [Are you aged 11-19 and need to chat? – Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](https://www.bridgewatercommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk)

- **The Samaritans** - The Samaritans is a charitable organisation that is there to listen to anyone who is struggling at any time of the day. In July they are running their 'Talk to Us' annual awareness campaign for 2022. Samaritans' awareness day is 24th July, and their social media will be promoting awareness. <https://www.samaritans.org/support-us/campaign/talk-us/>

- **Kooth**: offers free online support and counselling to young people aged 11 – 18 in Warrington. All pupils at St Gregory's have been given log in details for Kooth and have access to the service. [Home - Kooth](https://www.kooth.com/)

- **PAPYRUS**: is for young people who are having thoughts of suicide and anyone who is worried about a young person who may be at risk of suicide. POPYRUS' website has a page with free [resources](https://www.papyrus.org.uk/resources) which can be downloaded. The downloads include flyers and posters promoting the service, as well as leaflets on "Coping with Exams" and "Being Yourself During Change".

Further Safeguarding Information

If you need further advice and guidance, please go to the safeguarding page on our website where you will find a wealth of information and useful links. <https://www.stgregoryshigh.com/pastoral/safeguarding>

Water Safety

Sadly, at the weekend we heard of a young boy who had drowned whilst playing in a river. At this time of year as the weather gets hotter it is tempting for young people to go into water to cool off but there are many dangers. An average of 304 UK and Irish citizens lose their life to drowning every year and there are many more non-fatal experiences. 49% of accidental drowning occur between May – August. Please speak to your child about



SAFEGUARDING CONTINUED

staying safe on or around water and follow the advice below:

- When visiting new places, take time to review safety notices.
- Find out what local signs and flags mean.
- Always look out for potential hazards and warn members of your group to avoid possible risks.
- Never use inflatables in open water - although they look fun, inflatable water toys can quickly get caught in the wind

and be blown out to sea.

- Always choose to visit a lifeguarded venue.
- Swim with others. It's safer to swim in pairs or groups who can help should anyone get into trouble in the water.
- Be sure everyone in your group knows who to call in the event of an emergency.
- If you get stuck in quicksand or mud, do not stand up. Lie down, spread your weight, shout for help and move slowly

in a breaststroke action towards the shore.

Further advice and guidance can be found on the following web pages: [Water Safety Advice \(rlss.org.uk\)](http://www.rlss.org.uk)

[Water Safety Advice And Tips - Know The Risks \(rnli.org\)](http://www.rnli.org)

Mrs McKenna

BACK OF THE NET

Our Y10 pupils took part in their training walk for their Duke Of Edinburgh Award in recent weeks. The whole group enjoyed navigating their way around in the sunshine!



Mr Dean

ART

We are so proud of our Year 7's complementary colour homework! Pupils have demonstrated imagination and high levels of skill. Well Done Year 7! Mrs Wynn



Contact Details— Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for you. You can update your contact details in the SIMS parent app. If you do not have the SIMS parent app please contact school enquiry for further information schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com



Produced by the St. Gregory's Media Team
Edited by George Y10 and Daniel Y9

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