
19TH DECEMBER 2019 2ND EDITION

Pro Deo – For God: the Best and the Greatest

The Sixth Form Echo

THE EXPERIENCES OF OUR HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Head Girl: Cyndia Julien

My name is Cyndia Julien and I am currently Head Girl at St. Gregory's Sixth Form. As Head Girl I have a few responsibilities including writing speeches for different events, presenting speeches to different audiences and representing the school and managing and sorting roles for other prefects too. This year, I have had many once in a lifetime opportunities and new experiences which have built my confidence and public speaking skills for example open evening for our school where I have shared my journey to prospective students, Year 6 induction day and recently prize night, where I presented a token of appreciation to the guest speaker and congratulated the students who won awards, teachers and parents. Throughout these 2 years, as a Head Girl I organize prefect meetings alongside Lorcan and help assign duties to senior prefects, for example, this year we have organized a Rota to distribute bagels to students in the morning. Overall I thoroughly enjoy my role as Head Girl and cannot wait for the challenges it brings on as the year progresses.

Head Boy: Lorcan O'Kane

My name is Lorcan O'Kane and I am currently the Head Boy at St Gregory's Sixth Form. The position of Head Boy is an accolade that I had respected and desired to have since I joined the school. Becoming Head Boy was, however, easier said than done, as there were many applicants and only one position. The Sixth Form Leadership also asked this question, "How would you change the role of Head Boy from what it is now?" I answered that, were I Head Boy, I would put emphasis on interaction and co-operation with the other students in the Sixth Form, not just the prefect team. My answer must have been well received because I was called to a final interview with Mr. Prindiville, along with one other candidate for the role.

I have since had the privilege of representing our school to prospective parents, new students and in public speaking competitions. I am proud to walk into school every day to see my name on the wall in the list of all our school's Head Boys.



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OTHER NEWS

ENGLISH 'OTHELLO' TRIP, 25TH NOVEMBER

On the 25th November, a small group of year 12 and 13 English students were selected to attend a series of lectures with Ms Gilling about 'Othello', designed to help strengthen their understanding of the play and prepare them for their A levels. The conference, at the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, consisted of 4 speakers approaching the play with different interpretations and aspects to give the students revision techniques and useful exam strategies to help them with their studies.

These sessions gave students from several schools an insight into different interpretations of the play and were taught by professors and critics, such as Richard Marriott and Dr Pamela Mason who gave their own unique views and beliefs of Othello, and letting other student give their own opinions as well. I believe that this particular conference was a brilliant experience for pupils to understand this play in a new perspective, such as the roles of characters and different, feminist approaches to the overall plot. As it was a lecture, it also would give A Level student the authentic experience of a university lecture. I would definitely recommend this opportunity for any Sixth Form English Literature student who is studying Othello, as well as the current GCSE students who are interested in doing this subject in the future.

- **Thomas Cusack, Year 12**

GRESHAM COLLEGE LECTURE: 'FINDING PURPOSE IN YOUR CAREER', 4TH DECEMBER

Gresham College offers a range of lectures on a variety of subjects to the public; on the 4th of December, we went to one.

It started at 6pm, so we ended up leaving school alongside Ms Woodhouse and Mr Maguire at 16.30. After a short walk, a simple trip along the Metropolitan line took us to central London, specifically the Museum of London where the talk took place. In a fancy lecture hall, down a hallway flanked by an exhibit on The Clash, we took our seats for the lecture. The second in a series on business, hosted by Professor Alex Edmans a professor of Finance at London Business School, and the topic was 'Finding Purpose in your Career'. The talk focussed on finding meaning in careers more than anything else, but still gave useful advice as to how to conduct yourself so as to achieve success in your field without sacrificing your principles or making yourself miserable. Valuable advice for a period in our lives, in which people can begin to struggle with such issues, but the lecture did offer a valuable insight not just into this, but also an understanding of what can help drive us to achieve our goals. It was heartening advice, and a reminder that success and enjoyment are not mutually exclusive! Soon it was time to head back, we had received some rather excellent ideas to discuss on the train ride home.

- **Aidan Stephens, Year 12**



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OTHER NEWS

THE CARNEGIE BOOK CLUB

This term the Carnegie Book Club has been reinstated with the intention to inspire our students to read more and have a space to share their views in response to the books that have been shortlisted for this very prestigious award. Currently, the Carnegie Club members includes Aidan Stephens, James Goonan, Shenaya Frugtniet and Siobhan McConnon who will be inviting students from years 7-10, who enjoy reading and want to engage in discussions together about the books we will read.

The Carnegie Medal is a British literary award that annually recognises one outstanding new English language book for children and young adults. Carnegie has a variety of books from fantasy to mystery, which appeals to many different types of readers.

Some of the books we recommend to read, that have been shortlisted by the Carnegie judges includes: *'Poet X'* by Elizabeth Acevedo, *'A Skinful of Shadows'* by Frances Hardinge, *'The House with Chicken Legs'* by Sophie Anderson, *'The Hate U Give'* Angie Thomas, *'One'* by Sarah Crossan and *'The Lies We Tell Ourselves'* by Robin Talley.

We look forward to inviting new members to this book club, where we will work with Ms Shen, our wonderful librarian.

- **Shenaya Frugtniet and Siobhan McConnon, Year 12**

OUR CITY HALL PRESENTATION'S GOLDEN GRAND SUCCESS

On Friday 6th December, as part of our Year 12 Enrichment Programme a team of 6 Year 12 students, led by Ms Hovey and Mr Bynoth, went to City Hall to pitch for funding of up to £1000. Funding that will be spent on improving the outdoor Sixth Form courtyard by planting evergreen and flowering plants, in hopes of improving the colour, life and air quality of the enclosed space.

We travelled to London Bridge Station and walked to City Hall, and upon arriving there we finalised what we were each going to say. Only five minutes was allocated for our pitch to the four judges of Team London Young Ambassadors, requiring us to efficiently present our goals, our success criteria and plans for sustaining the initiative. This was followed by questions from the judges and feedback from them: one of the judges, feeling that our pitch had already addressed every aspect of the project, felt no need to ask any questions.

Despite feeling initially unsure, we all felt that the presentation went smoothly, and we left City Hall feeling confident that our group had left a good impression on the judges. To our delight we found out this week that we have been awarded the very highest possible grant: £1000!

- **Raphael Taligatos, Year 12**



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HARROW SCHOOL LECTURE ON MAKING A COMPETITIVE OXBRIDGE / RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITY APPLICATION

On Tuesday 19th November, a group of Year 11 and 12 students alongside Ms Woodhouse and Mr Maguire visited Harrow School for a lecture on making a competitive Oxbridge / Russell group university application. The importance of evident personal interest in the subject you were applying for was emphasised, as was writing about your experience of a subject. In addition, we were given useful tips for applying to Oxbridge and Russell group universities in general.

Aidan Stephens, Year 12

BASKETBALL DOMINATION FROM YEAR 11 AND 12

Monday the 2nd of December marked the start of the new season for the Years 11 & 12 basketball team, the game was to be played against Clermont. The game was one of high intensity and physicality, but the lads prospered through the rough nature of the game.

The first quarter was dominated by St Greg's as we quickly established a significant lead, and it was made very clear that Clermont had no answer on how to deal with #7 Darrell Djomo, who would go on to grab 32 rebounds throughout the game!

However, the game was no breeze; in the 3rd quarter our point guard Lorenz received a tough knock whilst going up for a layup, and would have to come out of the game. The hopes of Clermont would be denied though during the 4th and final quarter. Lorenz again entered the game, and began to dominate the tempo of the game, whilst Leandro Garrett-Ferreira emerged out of nowhere and began to score at will when we needed him most. Due to the hard work of all the lads the St Greg's team were able to dominate Clermont 52 – 41, in a game of which many individuals counted them out of.

Team – Darrell Djomo, Lorenz De Silva, Leandro Garrett-Ferreira, J.P Goonan, Donell Claircin, James Doran, Richard Aquino, Farrel Haick and Darius Solovastru. Excellently coached by Mr Cullen.

James P. Goonan, Year 12

THE SIXTH FORM NETBALL TEAM

The Sixth Form netball team has been nothing short of sensational within the school league, winning all matches apart from one, which was a very close game. Our team has amazing chemistry, we have played together since year seven, and this is evident on the court as their tactics enable us to win match after match. We would like to thank Miss Lowdon for continually organising matches for us to take part in.

- Melena Aranos, Year 13, Deputy Head Girl



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