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Science College Newsletter

Issue 46

Summer 2023

St Gregory's Young Musicians Perform on London Stage

Twenty of our most talented young musicians recently had the opportunity to perform at Cadogan Hall in London with professionals from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO).

This was the culmination of a project delivered by the RPO's educational team (RPO Resound) to engage young people in listening to and performing orchestral music.

Following a series of workshops led by composer, Charlotte Harding, St Gregory's pupils collaborated with the RPO and Isata Kanneh-Mason (pianist and Artist in Residence) to compose a brand new piece of music themed around stars. The inspiration for this new work was a book written by Isata's sister.

Under Charlotte's guidance, pupils developed rhythms, melodies, harmonies, motifs and lyrics which Charlotte stitched together seamlessly into a new work, called Celeste. The piece was then orchestrated and on 3rd May, St Gregory's young musicians joined Isata and the full Orchestra onstage at Cadogan Hall to give an outstanding world premiere performance.

I would like to congratulate all pupils involved for engaging with passion and enthusiasm in this amazing project. I would also like to thank Mr Eccles-Cannon, Head of Performing Arts, and his team who worked hard to secure this opportunity and to support our pupils through what has been an incredible experience. *Andrew Prindiville, Headteacher*



Some of St Gregory's musicians standing to receive applause after their performance with the RPO.

Eco Committee Update

Active Travel Week

This term, the Eco Committee has embraced the TfL STARS Challenge—Transport for London’s accreditation scheme for schools.

Sustainable **T**ravel, **A**ctive, **R**esponsible, **S**afe.

The STARS Challenge empowers young people to make a positive impact on travel in their school and local community, inspiring them to think differently about travel and its impact on health, well-being and the environment.

We have delivered assemblies to pupils in Years 7 & 8 giving travel tips to help them stay safe when travelling on buses and tube trains. We have delivered a PSHE lesson on road safety and conducted an obstacle course in a Year 7 PE lesson showing the need to concentrate fully when walking near busy roads.

At the beginning of this term, we conducted a hands-up survey with every class in the school to identify their actual mode of travel to school versus their preferred mode of travel to school. These were our findings:

Mode of Travel	Actual	Preferred
Active travel (walking/cycling)	13%	35%
Public Transport	68%	35%
Car	19%	30%

We aim to increase active travel by encouraging pupils to walk or cycle; to “drop a stop” (get off the bus one stop earlier and walk the rest of the way) or “park and stride” (parents park away from school and children walk the rest of the way).

From 12th—16th June we will be running Active Travel Week. There will be a number of prizes for pupils walking and cycling to school, the details of which will be outlined in a PSHE lesson on 9th June. Please encourage your child/ren to take part and help us to reduce congestion around our school, helping to keep us safer and healthier as well as reduce pollution.

Cycle Training for Year 7

On 11th and 12th July, pupils in Year 7 will have the opportunity to undertake cycle training and achieve their Bikeability Awards. The training will be delivered by Brent’s partners Cycling Instructor UK. Pupils must have a bicycle in full working order and must attend both days of training. Places on this programme are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Letters/application forms will be circulated to parents/carers after half term.

Upcycling Competition

To round off our Sustainability Month Activities, over the Easter holidays we asked pupils to create something useful or decorative out of materials they would otherwise have thrown away. Pupils brought their creations into school after the Easter break and the entries were judged by the Eco Committee. There were some fantastic creations, including a guitar made out of cardboard; pen holders made out of old tin cans; a purse made out of an old pair of denim jeans and a wallet made from a tetra pack carton. The winning entry was created by Meagan Fernandes 6WOC, who turned a plastic bag into spun fibres with which she crocheted a necklace and earrings. Inspired!

Eco Committee



Road safety obstacle course.



Bag, cross and wallet by Nikola Adaszek 9B
 Demin bag by Jessica Masie Gerez Llorente 7H
 Jewellery by Meagan Fernandes 6WOC
 Guitar by Raffaele Violaris 7H (being “played” by Mr Eccles-Cannon)

Gardening Club

On 23rd May, the Gardening Club held a plant sale to raise money for Whale and Dolphin Conservation, a charity supported by our school as part of our Eco Schools Topic, Marine. All the plants had been grown by the Gardening Club pupils or donated by staff and family members from excess "stock" grown at home. We raised £97 for WDC.

Mrs Northam & Mrs Hovey



6th Form Eco Committee

On 19th April, the sixth form Eco Committee were given the opportunity to carry out a wildlife project with an Oxford Biology graduate as part of a community project. We were introduced to an app called iNaturalist where we learnt how to take biological recordings and collect data. The most fascinating part was to share observations based on different plant species on iNaturalist which were then used in research and conservation. It was a great experience!

Megan Santos 6WOC

On 17th May, the sixth form Eco Committee students erected a climbing bean structure in our thriving eco garden. To assemble the structure we used bamboo poles tied together with string. This not only provides support for the plants, but also creates a vertical element to our Eco Garden. Not only did we erect a climbing bean structure, we also tidied the sixth form garden by getting rid of weeds and shaping small shrubs with hedging shears. In addition, we sowed carrot seeds, lettuces and radishes as well as moving strawberry plants to give them room to produce larger fruits. There's never a dull moment in our Eco Garden! *Sheal Dias 6WOC*



Outdoor Classroom Day

One of the lessons taking place during Outdoor Classroom Day on 18th May was Field Sketching in Year 7 Geography. Whilst in the Eco Garden, pupils from 7M drew labelled sketches of any garden feature they wished. The pupils enjoyed learning this key Geographical skill in the tranquil surroundings of St Gregory's Eco Garden.

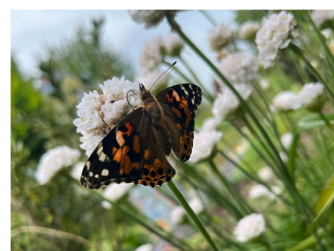
Mr Kingsland, Geography Teacher



The Science of Butterflies

During this half term pupils (and staff) have watched the progress of caterpillars during their journey to becoming 'Painted Lady' butterflies. The Year 12 biologists separated the caterpillars into containers and gave them the nutrients they needed to grow and form cocoons. Year 9 scientists then transplanted the cocoons (Chrysalides) into their hatching habitat and we watched in awe as they emerged as beautifully transformed butterflies. After watching them feed and strengthen their wings we released them into the Eco Garden to enjoy the time they have left.

Miss Anand, Science Teacher



Community Coronation Tea

St Gregory's invited parishioners from All Saints Church in Kenton to meet Year 8 pupils for tea and cake and to share experiences of their youth, comparing the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II to that of King Charles III. Pupils were delighted to welcome Mrs Edwards and Mrs Ellis and thoroughly enjoyed listening to stories and discussing experiences across the different generations.



Nursery Pupils Visit St Gregory's Eco Garden

On May 16th children from BrightStart Childcare in Kenton enjoyed another visit to St Gregory's Eco Garden. As well as filling the bird feeders, they were excited to fish for tadpoles in the pond (which were returned very carefully to their natural habitat afterwards).

Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability



Great British Spring Clean in Woodcock Park 29th March

St Gregory's Eco Committee would like to thank everyone who supported this event. 100 people across 4 schools, residents and businesses collected 30 sacks of rubbish in under an hour.

Pre-loved Uniform Required

The Eco Committee is preparing the upcycled uniform shop for the new Year 7 induction evening on 29th June. If you have uniform and/or PE kit your child has grown out of, please donate it via the School Office. Not only does this reduce waste, it helps parents save money and all proceeds are used to purchase food for St Greg's Pantry, supporting families in need.

No Nuts Please

We have several children in school who suffer from a severe nut allergy. Please could I remind you that our school has a "No Nuts Policy". *Mrs Camangon, Medical Welfare Officer*



Kenton Area Traders' Association

In celebration of the King's Coronation, the KATA invited local schools to create bunting which was put up on the pedestrian railings along Kenton Road. I would like to thank staff and pupils from St Gregory's Catholic Science College, Uxendon Manor Primary school and The Mount Stewart Schools for producing these decorations.

The colourful new murals on the walls of Kenton Bridge near the station are the culmination of a community project involving Brent and Harrow Councils, KATA representatives, community groups, schools, residents and councillors. The KATA has been delighted with the positive feedback from residents and businesses and would like to thank everyone involved.

Following concerns raised by the KATA to Harrow Council about poor street cleansing along Kenton's shopping parade, the street cleansing team has been out in force clearing overgrown vegetation, litter and fly-posters from the Harrow side of the parade. The KATA strongly encourages all businesses to take pride in their own shop forecourts by keeping them tidy and litter-free.

Harrow Council has secured funding to install flowering hanging baskets along lamp columns on the Harrow side of Kenton Road. These will be erected towards the end of June. Meanwhile, the flower towers and barrier baskets on both sides of the road will soon be planted up with summer flowers. We are in need of more flower basket sponsors to keep Kenton blooming. To sponsor a flower basket, please email the KATA Secretary: ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk.

The KATA is working with HA1 BID to bring another street market to Kenton. The market will run for four days from 29th June to 2nd July. It will be positioned on the Harrow side of the road between numbers 136 and 226 and will include food and craft stalls.

Mr Mandalia, Chairperson, KATA

