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Inside this issue:



2

Science News

3

Community
News

4

Science College Newsletter

Issue 47

Autumn 2023

Success and Praise for St Gregory's Pupils

Welcome back to a new school year. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to pupils and their families who have joined St Gregory's for the first time this term. The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time and this year we started the academic year in the knowledge that St Gregory's had achieved another set of record-breaking GCSE and A Level results. Our A Level results were up to 20% above the national average with two of our students securing places at Cambridge University. At GCSE, the school's Attainment 8 score, which is a measure of the average grade in each subject, is the highest it has ever been outside of the years affected by the Covid pandemic. Our students performed well across the board with Aaliyah Walsh achieving one of the highest scores in the country for GCSE Photography.

Congratulations to our pupils who applied themselves to their studies so diligently. This fantastic set of results is, in no small part, due to the incredible hard work and dedication of our teaching staff, ably supported by our governors and parents. Thank you!

Our pupils' outstanding achievements were not limited to the academic field. In July, Eco Schools England awarded St Gregory's a Green Flag with Distinction. St Gregory's is one of only four schools in Brent to achieve this accolade. This achievement is testament to the incredible hard work and enthusiasm of our excellent student Eco Committee, who also led the school to achieve Silver in the TfL STARS school travel award. At the end of this Season of Creation, as the Pope releases his Apostolic Exhortation on Climate: Laudate Deum, I am proud to see our school community striving to act on the Pope's desire for all of us to "reduce pollution and waste, to consume with prudence" and "to create a new culture."

On 20th September, the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, visited St Gregory's to see, first hand, how schools identified as having Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) are managing. During her visit, Gillian Keegan met pupils and complimented them on their excellent behaviour and their ambition to succeed.

Gillian Keegan complimented the staff at St Gregory's for maintaining outstanding teaching and pupil behaviour despite the disruption caused by the identification of RAAC. I am delighted that the DfE and the Secretary of State recognise the hard work and dedication of St Gregory's staff and pupils.



Andrew Prindiville, Headteacher

Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education,
talking to St Gregory's pupils.

St Gregory's Eco Warriors Achieve Top Award

Eco Schools England recently awarded St Gregory's a Green Flag with Distinction, the highest award possible and a rare achievement in schools across the country. The feedback from assessors was glowing, recognising a whole-school approach to community environmental action and complimenting the school on embedding environmental education across the curriculum.

The assessors said, "Congratulations to everyone for the great work you have managed to do, earning your Green Flag with Distinction in style. You should all be very proud of your work and the application you have submitted!" Well done to the Eco Committee of 2022/23 who led a wide range of environmental campaigns throughout the year. I would also like to thank Calista Fernandes, 11M, who compiled our Food Waste Recipe Book. Available on the Eco Schools page of our school website, the recipe book is full of tasty recipes made from leftover food. This term a new group of Y9 pupil volunteers will be leading our sustainability programme across the school. They have already completed a whole school Environmental Review and are currently working on their action plan for the year ahead. Your new Y9 Eco Committee Reps are:



Eco Committee 2022/23 with Mr Prindiville celebrating their Green Flag Distinction Achievement.

Patrick Masterson 9A	Janice Fernandes 9H	Leona Noronha 9L
Jerel D'Sa 9A	Jasmine Patel 9H	Andoni Lucia Sanchez 9L
Pedro Mendes 9B	Arsema Zerai 9J	Jakub Buda 9M
Lilly-Mae Hurley 9B	Raymond Bockarie 9J	Ryan Perera 9M

TfL Travel for Life

Last term, our Eco Committee led the school to achieve Silver in the TfL STARS travel scheme. This year, the name of the scheme has changed to TfL Travel for Life and a new group of Travel Ambassadors from Year 8 will be continuing last year's outstanding work with the aim of taking us to Gold. On 10th October they completed their first workshop with TfL's Youth Travel Ambassador, Michael Kitchen, and they will soon be embarking on a climate science project to measure pollution levels near our school.

St Gregory's Travel Ambassadors would like to remind all parents and pupils to use active forms of travel or public transport wherever possible when traveling to and from school. This will help to reduce congestion around school, improve safety and contribute to a reduction in pollution and an improvement in healthy lifestyles.



Our Travel Ambassadors 2023/24

Junk Kouture

In September, students interested in Art/Design and 6th Form students studying Geography and Business Studies took part in workshops delivered by Junk Kouture, a charity which aims to educate young people about the environmental and ethical impacts of fast fashion:

"The slides showing piles of clothes discarded by consumers have not only inspired me to buy less but to consider how often I will wear that item of clothing before buying it." Flannery Y12.

"The Junk Kouture workshop taught me about the different ways we can make our clothes last longer. I thought clothes swapping was a good idea. I also learnt that washing clothes can release microplastics into the ocean, so we need to wash our clothes less." Xavier Y12.

"I have learnt how unsustainable the fast fashion industry is and that many of the people making the clothes work in poor conditions and get paid very little." Nathanael Y12.

"I learnt that fast fashion is the most polluting industry after the oil industry." Frank Y12.

Junk Kouture also encourages young people to design and create clothing made out of "Junk". Inspired by these workshops, the Art Department has set up a Junk Kouture after school club for pupils in Year 10. The club will take place on Mondays. Pupils interested in attending should speak to Miss Murphy or Mrs Haines. *Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability*

2023 STEM Destinations

Congratulations to all of our Year 13 students on their achievements in Summer 2023. Below are just some of the **STEM** degree choices of our students. We wish them every success with their studies and future endeavours. *Mr Knights, Head of Science*

Pharmacology	Mathematics	Computer Science	Architecture
Animation	Medicine	Midwifery	Psychology
Biochemistry	Aerospace Engineering	Nursing	

First Impressions of Cambridge

Having achieved the A Level grades I needed, I am now a first-year medical student studying at the University of Cambridge! I was feeling slightly anxious about transitioning into this next big chapter of my life, however despite only being here for few days now, my college already feels like a second home.

Contrary to popular beliefs, Cambridge isn't all work and no fun but rather work hard and play hard. Many older medics I talked to did remind me about how demanding the course was, however, what struck me was that despite this, they still enjoyed every bit of what they were doing. At the time of me writing this, the work is just getting started, however, just like a doctor, it is important to maintain a good work-life synergy and I am achieving this through joining all sorts of societies and clubs.

It is amazing to be in Cambridge after all of the work I put in during sixth form in St Gregory's. I highly encourage anyone who has a passion for their subject to apply to Cambridge as I think it is the opportunity of a lifetime.

Pawan De Silva

Science Summer Camps

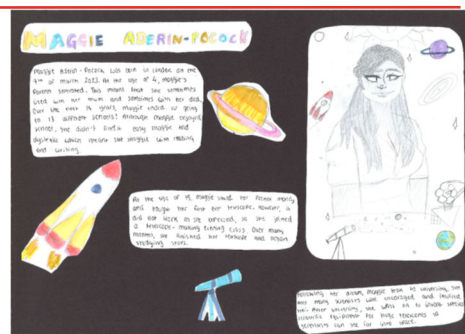
In the summer holidays I went to King's College University for their summer school programme. Whilst there, I got to use lots of fancy chemistry equipment and learnt about how it works. We also made our own sunscreen. In addition, I got to ask current and former students about how they enjoyed the course and the university which helped me to narrow my choices for my university applications this year. *Leone Fernandes 6HUA*

During the summer I attended the UNIQ programme at The University of Oxford. They provided activities that allowed me to interact with fellow students and experience the cultural and social aspects of university life. I received guidance and support throughout the program, including assistance with the university application process, personal statement writing, and information about higher education options. By providing me with accommodation on a university campus, giving me a chance to live and study in a university environment I was afforded a glimpse into university life. I also attended workshops and seminars on academic and career-related topics, enhancing my knowledge and skills. This programme has helped me to solidify my decision to study medicine at university. *Ardit Golaj 6HUA*

Saluting our Sisters in Science

The theme of Black History Month 2023 is "Saluting Our Sisters" and the Science Department has responded by creating a lesson on the prominent British space scientist Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock. The pupils learnt about her life story as well as her contribution to science. The lesson concluded with the students working together in small groups to produce an informative poster.

Dr Hui, Science Teacher



Poster by Lauren Lee-Heaply

Bags of Harvest

On returning to school we harvested a bumper crop of carrots, leeks, beans, pears, parsley, cucumbers and aubergines. Having prepared the soil for the winter season, we have planted a large variety of vegetables and salads which we look forward to harvesting throughout the winter and into next spring. We would also like to welcome all our new Year 7 gardeners to Gardening Club. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.



In July, St Gregory's Eco Committee and Gardening Club visited RHS Wisley in Surrey. Wisley is the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship garden. We took part in a workshop with RHS staff during which they showed us how to make wildflower seed bombs. This was followed by a tour of the gardens and glasshouse led by Mrs Hovey. The gardens were amazing and we brought home lots of ideas which we hope to incorporate into St Gregory's Eco Garden.

The Gardening Club Team

Girls' Pre-loved Uniform Required

The upcycled uniform shop is proving more popular than ever with parents, but we are short of girls' uniform: Girls' blazers, skirts and girls PE tops. If you have uniform and/or PE kit your child has grown out of and it is in good condition, 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. In addition, 6th Form students may wish to consider donating their Year 10/11 tie. *Eco Committee*



Eco Committee opening upcycled uniform shop to new Y7 families in July. They raised £700 for St Greg's Pantry.

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 September the KATA held its AGM, which was very well attended by local businesses, schools, Councillors, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Kenton community organisations. If you would like a copy of the minutes of the AGM, please email ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk.

The new hanging baskets on the Harrow side of the road bloomed beautifully over the summer. We would like to thank Harrow Council for securing the funding for these floral displays. Meanwhile, the flower towers and barrier baskets on both sides of the road will soon be replanted with winter flowers. We are in need of more flower basket sponsors to keep Kenton blooming. To sponsor a flower basket, please email: ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk.

On 8th November the KATA will host the annual switch-on event of the Kenton Festive Lights. Pupils from St Gregory's Catholic Science College, Uxendon Manor Primary School and The Mount Stewart Schools will perform prior to the count down to switch-on, which will be led by the Mayors of Brent and Harrow. The event starts at 4pm outside The Vision Clinic on Kenton Road.

The KATA is working with Asian Events to bring another street market to Kenton. The market will take place on Saturday 11th November. It will be positioned on the Harrow side of the road between numbers 136 and 226 and will include attractions for the whole family.

Mr Mandalia, Chairperson, KATA

