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# Science College Newsletter

Issue 48

Spring 2024

## Leading the Way in Behaviour

As we approach the half term break, I am delighted to announce that we shall imminently be taking possession, from the building contractors, the temporary classrooms, which have been constructed at pace in Woodcock Park adjacent to the school. The new buildings are fully integrated with the school IT and CCTV systems; contain their own toilet block and are incorporated within boundary fencing which has been extended from the main school. These classrooms will house our Art and MFL departments which have been displaced due to the discovery of RAAC in a small area of the main school building. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my dedicated and resourceful staff in these two departments who have gone above and beyond to ensure uninterrupted curriculum delivery to pupils. We are all excited to be moving into our new space soon after half term.

On 31st January representatives from the Department for Education visited St Gregory's to gain feedback on the national Lead Behaviour Schools programme, of which St Gregory's has been an exemplar of best practice. During the three years this programme has been in place, St Gregory's has mentored 14 schools, receiving visitors from these and other schools on a regular basis. The leaders of the DfE's behaviour programme said they were impressed not only by the behaviour of our pupils but also by the supportive and nurturing ethos of the school. St Gregory's will continue to host Open Days and Networking days throughout the year to share our good practice with other schools.

*Andrew Prindiville, Headteacher*



Year 9 Eco Committee Pupils help improve the biodiversity of Wealdstone Brook in Woodcock Park. Story Page 2.

## St Gregory's Eco Committee Update

Our main topics of focus this academic year are Marine, Healthy Living, Energy and Transport (led by our Year 8 Travel Ambassadors). As well as encouraging staff and pupils to turn down heating in classrooms and switch off lights, we have undertaken a number of projects.

We organised a raffle for the Rotary Club's Purple for Polio Campaign, which aims to eradicate Polio from the world. We raised £80 for this appeal, which will be tripled in value by the Melinda Gates Foundation.

On 29th November the Brent Schools Climate Champion, Charlotte Milner, came to talk to us about our environmental activities. Ms Milner will use examples of our activities in a best practice framework she is compiling for all schools in Brent.

In December, four members of our school Eco Committee represented St Gregory's at Brent Council's first Climate Showcase Event, held at Brent Civic Centre.

On 1st February, the Year 9 Eco Committee joined forces with pupils from Uxendon Manor Primary School to participate in a community event in Woodcock Park which was part of a project to (hopefully) introduce beavers to the brook running through the park. We received a highly informative talk by beaver expert, Derek Gow, on the history of beavers and their importance in maintaining the ecology and biodiversity of our landscapes. We also planted a variety of plants around the brook which will help improve the biodiversity of this area.

On 7th February the Year 9 Eco Committee gave assemblies to all pupils at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School in support of their sustainability week. We showed pupils how to recycle properly and we gave them lots of tips to help them live more sustainably in their daily lives.

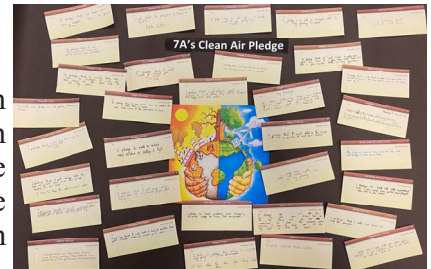
One thing you can start doing now to support St Gregory's Sustainability Month in March is to start collecting up your used batteries. We will be doing a collection in school as part of our recycling initiatives. *St Gregory's Eco Committee*



Talk with beaver expert.

### TfL Travel for Life

We received a great response to our Clean Air Day campaign on 8th December. As well as delivering assemblies to all pupils in years 7-10, we asked each form to compile a Clean Air Pledge Board. The winning pledge board was created by 7A whose pupils not only created a class board, each pupil created their own poster on air pollution too.



We would like to thank all the pupils who completed our survey on travel options. We had a fantastic response to this survey from all year groups. The survey results told us pupils believe it is important to tackle air pollution, traffic congestion and road safety. As a result, the Travel Ambassadors are leading a petition to ask Brent Council to install pelican crossings on all road crossings at the junction of Kenton Road/Woodcock Hill/Kenton Lane. If you would like to sign the e-petition, you can do so here (please only sign if you have not completed the hard copy petition circulated at recent parents' evenings):

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=278&RPID=55616378&HPID=55616378>

The petition closes 1st March. *Y8 Travel Ambassadors*

## Climate Action Artwork Competition

Two of our pupils were winners in Brent's Climate Action Artwork Competition: What does Climate action mean to you? Over 200 entries were submitted, from which the competition organisers chose eight winners. The winning entries will feature in the Brent Schools Climate Action Framework. Congratulations to Khloe Denise Melocoton Y8 (right) and Monalisa Ansera Boampong Y7 (left). *Miss Murphy, Head of Art*





## Gardening Club

I like gardening club because I like plants and watching them grow day by day. I also like how calm it is and how nice the teachers are. Another reason I like gardening club is because we get to take home some of the food that we grow.



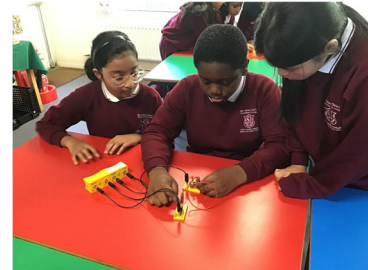
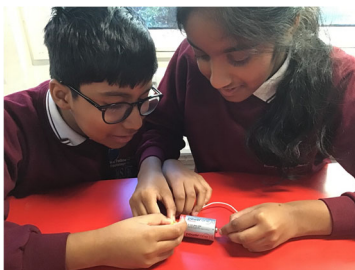
Some of the things we do in gardening club are: weeding, sowing seeds, watering plants, harvesting produce, feeding the birds, cleaning the pond and much more. *Francesco Carpena 7M*

Gardening club is an amazing place for all years to enjoy peace and fresh air. One of the many reasons I like gardening club is that we get to take home the food we grow and we plant amazing flowers which are a fabulous pop of colour. The older year groups in the club have been really nice and they have taught us more about gardening.

Overall, gardening club is an amazing place and if you enjoy people and the outdoors then this is the club for you. *Elizabeth Lari 7J*

## Primary Science Visits

Our Science visits to primary schools have continued this academic year with Mr Knights and Mrs Hovey conducting a pond dipping INSET for staff at Our Lady Of Grace and lessons on Electricity and Forces being conducted at Our Lady of Grace and



St Joseph's schools by Mr Knights. Further visits are scheduled to St Robert Southwell, St Margaret Clitherow and St Bernadette's as well as summer sessions in St Gregory's Eco Garden. We also look forward to receiving schools on 8th March for St Gregory's Primary Maths Challenge. *Mr Knights, Assistant Headteacher/Head of Science*

## Science Lecture at Harrow School

On Tuesday 30th January some pupils from years 10 and 11 attended a lecture at Harrow School entitled, Why do we need science and art? It was led by Professor Kneebone, Head of Anatomy at Imperial College London. He first talked about his experience as a trauma surgeon, where he dealt mainly with stab wounds and how this inspired him to start the SHARP project. This programme aims to reduce knife crime by educating teenagers on what happens after a stabbing, particularly in surgery and the consequences of it. His talk also discussed how art and science work closely together and how many of the skills used in craftsmanship, art and textiles align closely with those in surgery. At the end we had the opportunity to take part in a mock surgery where we were able to see and feel all the instruments used and the importance of teamwork during an operation. Overall it was a very educational and fun trip.

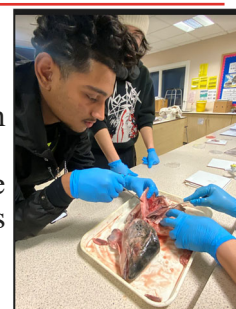
*Miraclea Sta Lucia 10L*

## Gas Exchange in Fish

Year 12 carried out a dissection on Salmon heads this term, as they have been learning about gas exchange in fish.

They had the chance to look at the structure of the gills, operculum and lamellae which helped them to further understand how these features aid in efficient gas exchange.

*Mrs Smart, Science Teacher*



## Great British Spring Clean Call-up

St Gregory's Eco Committee will be leading a community litter pick in Woodcock Park on 21st March in support of Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean. We will meet by the Mural bridge at 10am. Litter picking equipment and gloves can be provided. Please support our community by taking part. To let us know you are coming, please email:

ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk. *Y9 Eco Committee*

## Wonderful Wildlife

On 31st January, children and staff from BrightStart Child-care, assisted by students from St Gregory's Sixth Form Eco Club, filled bird feeders, planted Sweet Pea seeds and investigated pond life in St Gregory's Eco Garden.



## St Greg's Pantry

St Gregory's is grateful to the Community Development Committee of Winners Chapel International UK, who recently provided a significant donation of food and toiletries to St Greg's Pantry. The Committee's aims, amongst others, include poverty alleviation, tackling homelessness and improving inclusion and the environment.

*Mrs Hovey, Science College Project Manager*

Right: Members of Winners Chapel Community Development Committee with Mrs Hovey.



## Girls' Pre-loved Uniform Required

The upcycled uniform shop is proving more popular than ever with parents, but we are short of girls' blazers, skirts and PE tops. If you have uniform and/or PE kit your child has grown out of and 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*

## 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*



## Kenton Area Traders' Association

On 8th November, the Kenton Area Traders' Association (KATA) hosted the festive lights switch-on event on Kenton Road. The event was attended by local residents, businesses, councillors, police officers from Kenton's Safer Neighbourhood Team and pupils from three Kenton schools. The massed choirs of St Gregory's Catholic Science College, Uxendon Manor Primary School & The Mount Stewart Schools sang festive songs and performed Diwali dances prior to a community countdown to the illumination of the festive lights, which was led jointly by the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr Ramji Chauhan and the Mayor of Brent, Cllr Orleen Hylton. Both Mayors commented on the wonderful community atmosphere and wished everyone a very happy festive season.

On 11th November, the Kenton Area Traders' Association, working with Asian Events hosted a street market along Kenton Road to get everyone in the Diwali spirit with a variety of stalls and children's attractions. The Mayor of Harrow, Cllr Ramji Chauhan, visited the market in his official capacity, wishing local businesses a happy Diwali and encouraging Kenton residents to shop local.

*Mr Mandalia, Chairperson, KATA*

