

St Gregory's Catholic Science College Newsletter



Easter 2024

From the Headteacher

This term is always one of the busiest and most important of the academic year, particularly for students in the upper school as their attention turns to their “final” exams in May and June. A key part of their preparation is attendance at after school, Saturday and holiday classes and I, as ever, have been hugely impressed with both students’ attendance at these classes and the dedication of the teachers and support staff who run them.

Since Christmas, we have had very successful and well supported Parents’ Evenings (for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12) as well as a meeting of the Parents’ Forum. Please do remember that all parents are automatically members of this group and that by attending the meetings, you will be able to put forward your suggestions and raise any concerns that you might have.

In February we were delighted to learn that our GCSE Attainment 8 score placed us in the top 5% of schools in the country (as you already know our A Level ALPs score has placed us in the top 1% of schools and Sixth Form colleges nationally).

Furthermore, last week we heard that St Gregory’s excellent academic outcomes have been recognised by the SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network) in this year’s Educational Outcomes Awards. St Gregory’s was recognised in two categories, receiving awards for being in the top 20% of schools nationally for student progress and in the top 10% of non-selective schools for student attainment in the 2023 end of KS4 exams.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England. To be recognised with an Educational Outcomes Award is a significant achievement and a testament to the work of the whole school community.

March also saw us receive an award from the Fischer Family Trust for having attendance levels that are amongst the top 25% in the country. Given the impact that poor attendance has on students’ education and the fact that poor attendance is such a big issue nationally, we were very pleased to receive national recognition for the excellent attendance levels of our students.

We have this year, as we are every year, been overwhelmed by the generosity of the whole school community in organising and taking part in a huge range of enterprising, Lenten Charity events this half-term; with all of this work during Lent culminating in a wonderful and hugely spiritual Lenten Vigil. For all this, I am once again extremely grateful and would like to thank the Governors, parents and pupils of the school for their support.

I would though, on a personal note, like to thank my dedicated and hard-working staff for all they do for the students of the school.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors and staff of St Gregory’s, I would like to wish a Holy, safe and Happy Easter to our pupils and families: and I hope that St Gregory’s students are able to attend Easter liturgies as a member of their parish

Communities. *Andrew Prindiville, Headteacher*



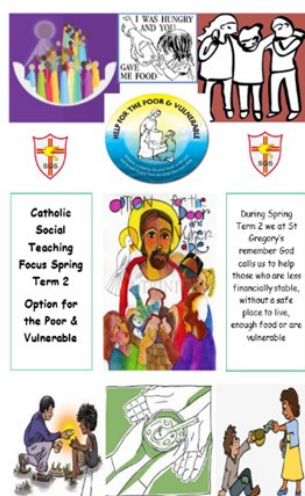
Year 7 Girls' Football
Brent Schools Champions.
Full report on page 7.

Catholic Social Teaching at St Gregory's

During the spring half term 1 the focus of our Catholic Social Teaching was **Human Dignity**.

The principle of Human Dignity teaches that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. This is a gift we all share as fellow human beings; we are all infinitely loved by God our creator. God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation and economic standing.

This principle was highlighted through RE lessons, assemblies and subjects throughout the first half term where the focus was remembering that all people are made in the image of God and that we should treat others as we would like to be treated.



During the spring half term 2 the focus of our Catholic Social Teaching was **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**.

The option for the poor reminds us of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people. God's love is universal; he does not side with oppressors, but loves the humble.

As well as focusing on this in lessons and assemblies over the course of the half term, in the run up to Lent this is when we were able to really put this teaching into practice as a community through our Lenten fundraising. This time of year for Catholics is an important one regarding almsgiving, and our pupils and teachers have been working hard to raise money for each of our house charities, A – St Johns Mission, Zimbabwe; B – Cafod; H – The Passage; J – St Joseph's Pastoral Centre; L – HCPT; M – St Lukes Hospice.

Mrs V Briody, Head of Religious Education

Lenten Fund Raising

During this season of Lent, pupils and staff from across the school have been coordinating activities to raise funds for their House charities. They have been guessing the weight of a giant Easter egg (8M); guessing the number of mini eggs in a jar (8J); guessing the name of the Easter bunny (8J); organising an Easter basket raffle (6HAK); selling geometry sets for House charities (Maths Dept); organising a small football tournament 6FAN and Form Group donations / chores for charity (Y10). Fundraising activities culminated in a whole school sponsored walk around Woodcock Park on Friday 22nd March.

Miss McCarthy, Deputy Headteacher



Year 9 Retreats

This term, we went on retreat with our form groups. The retreats were held at a church in Kenton. During the retreats we completed a number of team-working activities which helped us build trust in each other and improved our communication skills. The activities were fun. We watched videos and held discussions on our chosen theme and we had recreation time between the activities, which was a great way to balance out the fun and religious aspects of the retreat. At the end of the retreat we had time to pray and reflect before going back to school. *Casimier Walker 9M & Destiney Syvester 9L*

UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge 2023



The UKMT Intermediate Challenge is a national event which takes place annually. This year we have had a record-breaking number of Gold, Silver & Bronze Certificate winners in Year 9, 10 & 11. The Gold award is achieved by the top 8-9% of the entrants. The Silver award is achieved by 16-17% of the entrants. The Bronze award is achieved by 25% of the entrants. This success is a testament to the hard work our students do each and every lesson.

Ms Hernon, Head of Maths

Year 9 Silver Winners: Saviour Hinneh, Leona Noronha, Jared Rendo, Treivon Robinson.

Year 9 Silver Winner and Best in Year: Bartosz Kowalczyk

Year 10 Silver Winners: Ruben Almeida, Steve Andrews Anthony Prasad, Nikola Borenska, Cristina Jicmon, Harshil Mugatlal, Léon Ng Kwet Shing, Olivia Peeris, Kacper Puzniak, Miralea Sta. Lucia, Fabio Vullo.

Year 10 Gold Winners and Best in Year: Jakub Hejnold, Aleksander Kubinski.

Year 11 Silver Winners: Zakaria Abbasi, Sean Bibbo, William Chan, Andrei Dumea, Adrian Gomes, Isabel Karim, Mateusz Kazrat, Aleksander Kolbuszewski, Renny Kumaran, Seneshka Perera, Maja Skroma, Avin Sojy.

Year 11 Gold Winners: Dominic Istoc, Roydon Ruban, Matei Vasilache, Sammy Whitcombe.

Year 11 Best in School: Shewan De Silva.



Y9 Silver Winners



Y10 Silver & Gold Winners



Y11 Silver & Gold Winners

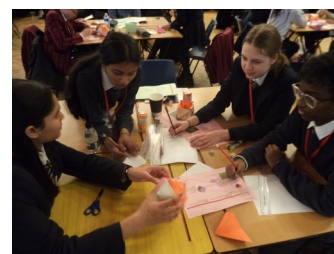
Maths Feast Competition

On 22nd March, a group of exceptionally talented Year 10 Mathematicians attended a national "Maths Feast" competition at Canons High School. Our pupils competed against students from 18 Private, Grammar and State schools and were fantastic ambassadors for St Gregory's. We had 2 teams competing - team 1 achieved 73% and team 2 achieved 76% the results of which were outstanding!

Congratulations to Steve Andrews Anthony Prasad 10M, Nikola Borenska 10J,

Stacy Fernandes 10H, Edelle Gomes 10J, Theo Madanayake 10B, Sharun Patrick 10H, Kacper Puzniak 10M, Miralea Sta. Lucia 10L and Cristina Jicmon 10J.

These students, along with their peers in 10M1, will be sitting their Further Maths GCSE exam in June so please wish them luck. *Mr Lall, Maths Teacher*



Primary Maths Challenge

On 8th March 68 pupils from six primary schools competed in St Gregory's Primary Maths Challenge. Schools involved were St Bernadette's, St Joseph's Wembley, St Robert Southwell, Our Lady of Grace, St Joseph's Belmont and St Margaret Clitherow.

Pupils worked in groups of two and participated in seven rounds of mathematical activities.

The marking was in the capable hands of St Gregory's pupils from years 8, 9 and 10, whilst 3 Year 12 students took responsibility for scoring. (Please see the back page for a full list of pupil markers and scorers). All students were great role models for their primary protégés.

The winning school this year was St. Bernadette's. *Ms Hernon, Head of Maths*

Speak Out Regional Final

In February, I took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Regional Final, which was the follow-on round after the Assembly Final in school. It was an amazing experience! Not only did it help me develop my communication skills and confidence but I also met like-minded people, with whom I was able to discuss various topics and issues in the world (we had a workshop before the speech giving). In my eyes, this programme was an absolute win and I'd definitely take part in it again. The title of my speech was:- AI - The end of humanity?

Kacper Puzniak 10M

Debatemate Round 2

The second round of the Urban Debate League took place on Wednesday 28th February at Villiers High School.

Two teams attended including a Year 7 team.

The motion for the first debate was about allowing secondary students to vote in the general election and the motion for the second debate was about banning mobile phones in school. The year 7 team were in opposition for the first debate, which they won, and were on proposition side for the second debate, which they lost. The Year 8/9 team were in proposition for the first debate and in opposition for the second debate, which they won.

It was an educating trip that enabled me to develop my knowledge of how a debate works and be part of two debates. *Jerel D'Sa 9A*



Cambridge Visit

On the 7th March I was given the opportunity to visit Jesus College, Cambridge University. As soon as I entered the gates I was captivated by the architecture and history of the College. We were taken on a tour of the College, which included a visit to the chapel which was founded in the 12th century. We were taken through the application process and were informed about university in general and courses available to study. We also had the opportunity to experience a seminar on the history of fashion. This topic covered many subjects including art, science, history and psychology, demonstrating how cross-curricular a degree course can be. The trip was very useful and will help us with own future university applications. *Sharun Patrick 10H*



Visit to Parliament

On January 22nd, our politics class went to the Houses of Parliament to see where important legislation is developed and debated. We had a guided tour of Parliament; learnt about historic events and viewed the House of Lords. This trip was very helpful for my politics A-level as it allowed me to fully understand the importance of Westminster to our country's politics how impactful legislation has been on society today.

On the trip we had an exclusive Q&A with our local MP, Barry Gardiner. He spoke about the importance of participation and how much of an impact young people's votes are having on modern day politics. Overall, a truly enjoyable experience. *Nicole Perez G 6ANN*



Media Careers Talk

On Wednesday 17th January, students from Years 12 & 13 were very fortunate to have a visit from Media professional, Michelle Fobler. She spoke to the students about her career, various jobs that are available in the Media and how to access them. Her career has been long and varied and she has worked as a producer on a variety of shows, including Rochelle Humes: Interior Designer In The Making. She also analysed some parts of the show and described how it was made. It was very insightful to have a talk from such an experienced professional and the students appreciated her giving up her time to talk to them. *Mr Griffin, English Teacher*

Y10 Mock Interviews

During February, Year 10 students prepared their CVs ready for their mock interviews in March.

We were fortunate to have a number of employers come into school to conduct the interviews and every Year 10 student was able to take part in a one-to-one interview. As well as being interviewed, students were able to ask the employer questions about their job and discover the career path that led them to where they are today.

The students found the experience inspiring and their feedback was very positive. The employers were very impressed by the students and commented on their confidence and how well prepared they were for their interview. *Mrs Crook, Careers Officer*



Biology AS Taster Day

Year 11 students had the chance to experience a Biology AS level class on their taster day. They carried out an investigation on how enzyme concentration affects rate and experienced a wide range of scientific practical skills as well as carrying out an analysis of their results.

Mrs Smart, Biology Teacher



Remembering the Holocaust

On 4th March, St Gregory's welcomed Jackie Young, a Holocaust survivor, to speak to our Year 9 pupils who are currently studying the Holocaust in history. Jackie Young was born in Vienna, Austria in 1941. When Jackie was only 9 months old, he was deported to Terezin, a ghetto-camp in Czechoslovakia and remained there until it was liberated on 8th May 1945. Soon after the liberation, Jackie, along with other young children, was brought to the UK. Our pupils were incredibly respectful and fascinated with Jackie's testimony.

Miss Doherty, Head of History

I enjoyed the visit from Jackie Young because I was able to learn a lot about how young Jewish children were treated during the Nazi regime and in concentration camps. Jackie Young is a very inspirational man and I am lucky to have been able to meet him. His testimony has taught me that there is always hope.

Blessing Fuka 9M

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, Year 7 pupils watched a live interview with Holocaust survivor, Hedi Argent. Hedi described how the Holocaust forced her to travel from Austria to England. In the interview she said she was banned from attending school, public places and public transport, as she was an outcast. Hedi and everyone else believes that racial injustice should not be tolerated, especially to the degree of the Holocaust. *Cian Conneely 7J*

World Book Day

“Book Giveaway”: As part of the redevelopment of our Library catalogue and in celebration of World Book Day, we gave away almost 300 surplus books to pupils. I hope you all keep visiting the Library to browse through all of our new and exciting books.



“When Worlds Collide” Competition: Continuing the World Book Day celebrations, pupils were asked to produce a short piece of writing featuring an interaction between two characters from two different fictional books. The creativity and the originality of some of the work produced was impressive. The winners were Connor McCafferty, 9M and Obinaash Sahayathevarajan, 7B. Their work will go on display in the Library and will be featured in the Literacy Newsletter next term. *Miss Boyle, Librarian*

Creative Writing Workshop: When I was at the library for World Book Day, I had lots of fun. Some of us had to create a story. First we all had to plan the story. In our plan we had to have the characters, the place where the story was set, and also the plot. Each year group wrote a different section of the story and then Miss McSweeney put all of our ideas together. At the end of the workshop, Miss McSweeney read our work to us and sent it to all our form tutors so we could share it with our forms.

Amber Kurton, 7H.

Pupils demonstrated fantastic team work in this task and created a wonderful story. See the Literacy Newsletter for the full story.

Miss McSweeney, Literacy Co-ordinator



Sustainability Month

Throughout March, St Gregory's Eco Committee coordinated Sustainability Month. This year's theme was “Plastic is not whale food”. The eye-catching display in our school reception (right) was created by pupils in Art Club.



Pupils, staff and parents were encouraged to take part in the national Big Plastic Count; an investigation into how much plastic is thrown away over one week by households. Data from this investigation will be used by campaigners to lobby UK policy-makers to press for a strong UN Global Plastics Treaty.

On 12th March the Year 9 Eco Committee visited Sea Life London Aquarium:

“At Sea Life we explored all the different sea creatures native to the UK and from abroad. We were given a quiz to complete along the way, which helped us gain more knowledge about all the sea animals and the importance of marine life. This trip will benefit our whole school because it will enable the Eco Committee to raise awareness of marine conservation through our environmental campaigns”. *Ednah, Twyla and Leona, Y9.*

The Eco Committee also presented an assembly to all pupils at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School on how to live more sustainably and they presented assemblies on Healthy living to St Gregory's KS3 pupils. Their many activities culminated in a community litter pick in Woodcock park on 21st March, which was supported by almost 100 people who, during one hour, collected 36 sacks of litter!



In addition, every department conducted sustainability-themed lessons and the Science Department organised a visit to RHS Wisley for 30 pupils in years 7 & 8. *Y9 Eco Committee*

Easter holiday competition:

The Friends of Woodcock Park have asked St Gregory's pupils to design a banner discouraging people from throwing food and rubbish into the brook. The requirements: SLOGAN: 'Please don't throw rubbish into our home'; Landscape Orientation; A3 paper; Cartoon Style; Images of river/pond life such as ducks/fish/invertebrates & the impact of rubbish on their home. Prize: £50 art vouchers. *Entries to Miss Murphy 15th April.*

Sensational Sporting Success

St Gregory's sports teams have achieved unparalleled success in the Brent Schools Championships with all disciplines (netball, basketball and football) reaching the Finals.

The girls' Year 9 netball team acquitted themselves brilliantly to reach the Brent Finals tournament in January, coming 3rd overall.

The boys' football teams in years 7, 8 and 9 are all Finals qualifiers, having been victorious in some thrilling matches, such as in this match report of the Year 7 boys' semi-final by Mr Aristides:

There was no doubt we were the underdogs in this fixture. The team we were up against (Ark Academy) hadn't conceded a goal all season and also had the home advantage.

We went 1-0 down after 10 minutes but instantly bounced back with a superb finish by Lesley Boakye 7J. The team grew into the game, but we missed some glorious chances to win the match.

After 60 minutes of normal time the match went to extra time. During extra time the team put a real effort into trying to get a second goal but unfortunately couldn't get the upper hand in the game. The game finished 1-1 after 80 minutes and the only way to settle this was the dreaded penalties.

In this situation most students shy away from stepping up to take a penalty but not on this occasion. Shay McGinley 7A, Shane Horan 7A and Shyheem Wright 7M stepped up and scored their spot kicks and with the help of our outstanding goalkeeper, Tyler Dias 7J, we were victorious!!

The boys' football Finals will be held after the Easter holidays.

In Basketball, all teams made a solid start and are gathering momentum for the Brent Championship final's. In a thrilling game on 25th March, the Senior Boys' Team won the final against Kingsbury High School 45-44! The Year 7, 9 and 10 teams have made it through to the Semi-final stages, which will be played after the Easter holidays.

Our stars of the season so far are our girls' Year 7 football team who, for the first time in St Gregory's history, won the Brent Schools Girls' Football Championship for their year group. The team Captains Leah McGinley and Ellie Murphy report on their road to success here:

"It was a tough competition, but the girls played really well. Mr Crosland and Miss Muha were our coaches.

On our nail-biting road to the final, we played against many good teams and we persevered in all our games, winning most and drawing in one. In our semi-final match against Ark Elvin Academy we went 1-0 down, but our heads didn't drop. We kept trying and Ellie Murphy equalised. Leah McGinley then scored two more stunning goals to make the final score 3-2 to St Gregory's.

We were now through to the finals in which we played against Queen's Park Community School. They had very good players and we soon went 1-0 down, but that didn't stop us. Ellie Murphy equalised and, in the last minute of the match, Leah McGinley scored another goal. That made it 2-1 and WE WON!

Everyone was over the moon. We were presented with gold medals and we were all proud of each other as we worked together to earn this amazing achievement." (see back page for a full list of team names. Team photo front page).

PE Teachers: Mr Crosland, Mr Aristides, Miss Muha & Mr Cullen



Y9 Netball Team



Y7 basketball team



Y7 boys' football team

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For God, the best and the greatest



We stock a variety of foods and toiletries.

The Pantry is open during term time on Saturdays from

9:30am—11am. Any family is welcome to use this facility occasionally or regularly.

To organise a visit, email:

ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk



Active Travel



Did you know, regular walking or cycling can make you 50% less likely to catch colds and flu! Please ditch the car and encourage your child to walk or cycle to school. Dr Bike will be in school all day on 17th April checking bikes are roadworthy. If you have to drive, please park away from the school and switch off your engine whilst waiting.

Y8 Travel Ambassadors

Upcycled Uniform

Please bring donations of pre-loved uniform in good condition to the school office, in particular girls' blazers, skirts and PE kit.



Headteacher's Awards



St Gregory's Primary Maths Challenge Scorers:

Ashane Welikala 8L
Agustin Sasikumar 8J
Isla Curson 8M
Caryn Fernandes 8L
Caláeb Ryan 8H
Bartosz Kowalczyk 9M
Victoria Kocioruba 9B
Sania Martins 10A

Miguel Aldridge 10A
Nikola Badora 10B
Alex Aina 10J
Gabriel Lao 10H
Rachel Fernandes 10B
Nathan Berhane Y12
Louvina Aranos Y12
Thinuth Christostom Y12

Y9 Eco Committee School Ambassadors:

Patrick Masterson 9A
Jerel D'Sa 9A
Pedro Mendes 9B
Lilly-Mae Hurley 9B
Ednah Correia 9H
Leo Gill 9H

Arsema Zerai 9J
Twyla Mendes 9J
Leona Noronha 9L
Andoni Lucia Sanchez 9L
Jakub Buda 9M
Ryan Perera 9M

Brent Girls' Football Champions:

Maria Cherek 7M
Jessica Lewis Cardoso 7L
Carensa Edebiri 7M
Amy Molina Lugo 7M
Makayla Adu-Yeboah 7M
Leah McGinley 7B

Ellie Murphy 7H
Felisha Dias 7J
Lena Lepiarz 7J
Nia Wilson 7L
Michelle Cardozo 7B
Aislinn Dunne 7M

Community Service:

Liliana Pamrocka 8H
Aaron Augustyniak 9B

Ava Alphonso 9H
Casimier Walker 9M

Social Media Influencers



The things social media influencers do and say online can be quite impactful. Around a third of children and young people think that, because the influencer is a 'celebrity', what they share is always good. That isn't always the case; sometimes it can be advice based on pseudo-science, selling something because they've been paid to and much more. Internet Matters have a great article where various specialists offer advice and guidance to parents/carers to help them to get their children to think critically about social media influencers. You can find the article [HERE](#).

If you have any e-safety concerns, please contact Miss McCarthy via the school office.

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