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Science College Newsletter

Issue 49

Summer 2024

National Performance Award for St Gregory's

I am delighted that our school's excellent outcomes have been recognised by the SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network) in this year's Educational Outcomes Awards. The award recognises that St Gregory's Catholic Science College is among the highest performing secondary schools in the country, based on the 2023 performance data.

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 Key Stage 4 exams.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England. These awards are in recognition of the diligence and hard work of our amazing pupils, the support of parents and governors and the outstanding work of our dedicated staff who are committed to enabling every child at St Gregory's to be the best they can be in everything they undertake.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

"Congratulations to St Gregory's Catholic Science College on winning two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards. This success is down to the superb learning and teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of students, staff, parents and governors. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school. Thank you."

Andrew Prindiville, Headteacher



Community litter pick in Woodcock Park in aid of The Great British Spring Clean. Article Page 4.

Swap the Ride for Park and Stride

On 22nd April, the Year 8 Travel Ambassadors launched Eco Active Month with assemblies to all pupils in years 7-10, promoting the benefits of active travel, encouraging pupils to swap car journeys for walking and cycling to school and informing them about all the prizes they could win by taking part in various activities throughout the month.

The winner of our poster competition, entitled Swap the Ride for Park and Stride, was Rita Caterina Fernandes in 9L.

Runners up were Kwame Ofosu-Appiah 8A and Monalisa Ansere Boampong 7L. Their posters were displayed on the trophy cabinet in the school reception.

During week beginning 29th April we held walk to school week. Pupils recorded their walking on a Google Form. All pupils who recorded their walking were entered into a raffle for a prize, which was won by Patryk Ryszka 7H.

After Walk to School Week, it was Bike to School Week. Pupils who cycled were entitled to a biker's healthy breakfast and also had the chance to win cycling accessories.

During Eco Active Month all Form Tutors completed a survey with their pupils to measure how they travelled to school. The results of this survey were compared with those taken in March 2023 and we are delighted to report that the number of pupils using active forms of transport increased from 12% in 2023 to 18% in 2024.

In other travel news, our petition to Brent Council, asking them to install pelican crossings at all pedestrian crossing points on the busy junction of Kenton Road with Woodcock Hill, received almost 700 signatures. Our Year 11 Citizenship pupils also wrote to Barry Gardiner MP about this issue. As a result, Brent Council has committed to conduct a detailed survey of this junction, which will involve further consultation with businesses and TfL. We are told this could take up to 18 months, during which time we will keep campaigning for safer road crossings at this junction.

In March we recorded a podcast with fellow pupils, staff members and Cllr Hirani about sustainable travel. You can listen to our podcast on the school website [here](#).

We also created maps showing the best walking and cycling routes to school. Pupils can see these maps posted around the school, but you can also view them on the school website [here](#) and [here](#).

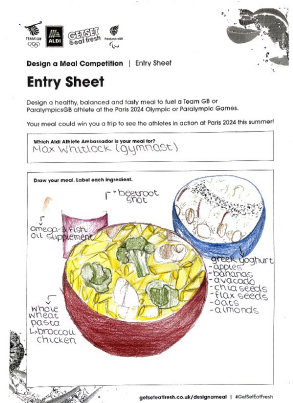
Please don't drive your children to school. Please help them to reduce traffic congestion and to use more sustainable forms of transport. *Y8 Travel Ambassadors*



St Gregory's Encourages Healthy Living

With the Olympic Games around the corner, the Eco Committee and Mr Cullen (Food Tech and PE Teacher) encouraged pupils to enter a national competition to design a tasty meal which would fuel an athlete. Pupils had to draw and label each ingredient of their meal and explain how their meal was healthy and balanced and how it would help their chosen athlete perform their best. We saw some stunning entries to this competition and we are waiting to hear if we have any winners in the national competition.

Week beginning 13th May was Mental Health Awareness Week: Moving More for Mental Health. As well as receiving daily tips in Form time, teachers held lessons in the Eco Garden. Walking or cycling to school is a great way to clear your mind and de-stress, as you will hear in our travel team's [podcast](#). *Y9 Eco Committee*



Sophie Makeviciute 7H

Upcycled Uniform Shop—Girls' Blazers Required

We will soon be opening our upcycled uniform shop to our new Year 7 pupils and parents. The uniform shop helps parents save money, helps save the planet and raises significant funds for St Greg's Pantry. We are in desperate need of girls' blazers. If you have pre-loved uniform in good condition, please bring your donations to school reception after half term.

Year 11 pupils, who wish to do so, may donate their school tie to the upcycled uniform shop after their final examination. Details to be communicated after half term. *Y9 Eco Committee*

Charity Plant Sale

On 15th May, the Gardening Club held a plant sale to raise money for Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), a charity through which we sponsor a Dolphin called Indigo which swims in the sea near Scotland.

We sold lots of plants we had grown from seed in our gardening club, such as tomatoes, chillies, courgettes, cucumbers, sunflowers and more. We also sold chilli jam, made from chillies we grew last year. The plant sale was great fun and very well supported by our teachers and, what's more, we raised over £150 for WDC. Thank you! *St Gregory's Gardening Club*



6th Form Eco Warriors

As a sixth former, I have had the pleasure of participating in the Eco Committee alongside fellow students and Mrs Hovey.

We have taken part in many activities in the Eco Garden, such as sowing seeds and potting-up seedlings for the summer plant sale.

We have also assisted in gathering and sorting food donations from our wonderful school community for St Greg's Pantry.

It has been lovely and I am glad to have been a part of it.

Flannery Braganca 6WOC



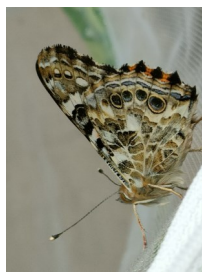
Erecting the structure for climbing beans.

The Science of Butterflies

During this half term pupils (and staff) have once again watched the progress of caterpillars on their journey to becoming 'Painted Lady' butterflies. The caterpillars were separated into containers and given nutrients to grow and form cocoons. They were then transplanted 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*



Life-cycle of caterpillars to butterflies, being released onto a rose bush in the Eco Garden, planted in memory of former SGS Science teacher, Mrs Wood.



Imperial College STEM Visit

The Imperial visit was great! Upon arrival we were taken to the lecture theatre, where we were asked some questions about the school subjects, students and opportunities. This was followed by a captivating lecture about Science (with a Physics bias) by Neil (a Physicist turned Engineer who carries out research for NASA). Neil spoke about the solar system, ancient scientific theories and modern discoveries, rockets, planes and inventive ways to fill a plastic bag with one breath! He also demonstrated centripetal force using a plastic cup of water, string and a baking tray and we did not get wet! This was followed by a presentation on degree subjects offered at Imperial and about the College in general. Then we visited the Campus. Dr Hui showed us where he studied and the Albert Hall, where he graduated. The campus was vast; it was almost like a large town! All in all the trip was amazing. I am sure I will be going to Imperial when I am older! *Renzo Batta 9B*



Great British Spring Clean Community Action

On 21st March we organised our annual community litter pick in Woodcock Park. Almost 100 people took part. We joined forces with pupils from three other local schools – Uxendon Manor Primary School, Mount Stewart Junior School and BrightStart Childcare—and we were supported by staff from BigShots Golf (Northwick Park), as well as representatives from St Luke’s Hospice, The Rotary Club of Northwick Park and The Friends of Woodcock Park. Local residents also joined the group, as did Councillor Sunita Hirani. The event was supported by Brent Council, which provided most of the litter picking equipment. In one hour, the community litter picking team collected 36 sacks of rubbish. *Y9 Eco Committee*



Pupils’ Artwork Supports Community Campaign for Cleaner River

The Friends of Woodcock Park (FOWP) asked St Gregory’s pupils to enter a competition to design a banner discouraging people from throwing food and litter into Wealdstone Brook, which runs through Woodcock Park. St Gregory’s Art Department embraced the project within Art lessons, also encouraging pupils to work on their designs at home.

From hundreds of entries, the FOWP chose 6 finalists. Joy Rickman, Chairperson of the FOWP said “ I was bowled over by the quality of the pupils’ work, which made judging difficult but a great pleasure. I would like to thank St Gregory’s Art Department and all the pupils who took part, for their outstanding contribution to our community project.” The artwork of all 6 finalists will be incorporated into the banner, which will be placed on the bridge on Woodcock Hill.

Finalists were: Clidon L Furtado 8J, Joanna Maria Prins 7H, Joltan Fernandes 8J, Lance De Souza 7H, Muriel Cabral 7H, Romina Hyza 7L, Sophie Makeviciute 7H and Nolan Lobo 7M who was the overall winner. *Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability*



Winning design by Nolan Lobo, 7M

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 20th April, the KATA arranged for another street market to be held between 136-226 Kenton Road. I would like to thank Asian Events for coordinating the event, the Rotary Club of Northwick Park for taking a stand and Kenton Safer Neighbourhood Team for their support, meeting and talking to stall holders, businesses and shoppers. We hope to put on another street market on 6th July with lots of stalls as well as children’s entertainment. Please support your local businesses.

The flower baskets along Kenton Road will be refreshed with summer planting in early June. If you would like to sponsor a basket or help with watering please contact ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk.

The KATA would like to extend its thanks to St Gregory’s Catholic Science College for all the support it gives in helping to coordinate KATA’s many activities. Our next Traders’ meeting is on 26th June at 10am at Blue Ginger Restaurant.

Mr Mandalia, Chairperson, KATA

