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# Science College Newsletter

Issue 50

Autumn 2024

## Off to a Flying Start

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. Over a third of our A Level results were graded A\* or A, with 76% of vocational subjects achieving Distinction\* or Distinction. At GCSE, the school's Attainment 8 score, which is a measure of the average grade in each subject, has improved, yet again, and we saw more pupils than ever achieving the top grade, with 138 grade 9s awarded to pupils this summer. Pupil progress was also significantly above the national average.

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 and TfL awarded St Gregory's with Gold in its school active travel award programme. At the end of this Season of Creation in our Liturgical calendar, I am proud to see St Gregory's community embracing the Pope's desire for all of us to "reduce pollution and waste, (and) to consume with prudence."

During this half term we have held Information Evenings for parents and pupils across all year groups, outlining the academic, extra-curricular and personal development programmes across the school. I hope you found these meetings helpful. We have also welcomed a large number of prospective pupils and parents who attended our Open Evening and Open Morning events.

*Madeleine Moran,  
Headteacher*



Eco Committee pupils celebrating their Eco Schools Green Flag Distinction achievement. Full story on Page 2.

## St Gregory's Eco Warriors Achieve Top Award

Eco Schools England has awarded St Gregory's a Green Flag with Distinction, the highest award possible and a rare achievement in schools across the country. The assessors said, "We encourage everyone involved to take great pride from their wonderful achievements – your year of activity has been inspiring." (Picture: front page).

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, focussing on Healthy Living and Biodiversity. Your new Y9 Eco Committee Reps are:

Eden-Kyle Samuel 9A	Aaron Hazzard 9H	Eleanor DSilva 9L
Riva Fernandes 9A	Calaeb Ryan 9H	Thenuri Warnakulasurjya Costa 9L
Aysel Fernandes 9B	Maisie Ellis 9J	Laura Jasinksa 9M
Kiann Javen 9B	Keely Doherty 9J	Thomas Shwalbe 9M



## Travelling to School

Last term, our Y8 Travel Ambassadors, supported by the whole school, achieved Gold Accreditation in the TfL Travel for Life programme. This programme encourages pupils to use more sustainable and active modes of transport by increasing walking and cycling to and from school. The number of pupils walking/cycling all or part of the way to school increased by 6%, reducing our school's carbon footprint by an estimated 6.5%.

As a result of all their hard work, the Y8 Travel Pioneers were presented with leadership awards by the SSAT (Schools, Students And Teachers Network).

This year we have a new team of Y8 Travel Ambassadors who kicked off the term by inviting a speaker from Brent's Breathe Clean project into school to talk to all pupils in Y7 and Y8 about safe, active and healthy travel. Our Travel Ambassadors have created maps which demonstrate the best walking and cycling routes to school. Pupils are encouraged to get off the bus early and walk the rest of the way to school. The maps can be found here: [Park & Stride Map](#) [Cycling Map](#).

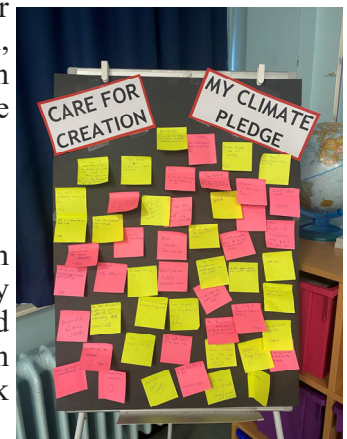
St Gregory's Travel Ambassadors would ask parents not to drive their children to school. This will help to reduce congestion around school, improve safety and contribute to a reduction in pollution and an improvement in healthy lifestyles. Listen to our podcast on Sustainable Travel [HERE](#).

WE HAVE  
ACHIEVED



## Climate Pledges

During St Gregory's Open Evening on 3rd October our Geography Team encouraged pupils and parents to embrace St Gregory's sustainability values by making lifestyle pledges which will help our planet. Our board depicts a wide variety of impactful pledges, such as "spend less on clothes and shoes", "Don't waste my food" and "get the train to work instead of driving." *Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability*



## Gardening Club

The possibilities in Gardening Club are endless. Four weeks ago my friend and I joined Gardening Club and in that time we have prepared the soil for planting; harvested leeks, apples and autumn raspberries (which we got to take home) and we have planted lots of new winter vegetables. We even got to take home some spare winter vegetable plants. We also weeded the remembrance garden and planted new flowering plants. In my opinion, Gardening Club is the best club.

*Matthew Romega 8H*





## 2024 STEM Destinations

Year 13 2024 scientists have progressed onto various university destinations including UCL, Durham, Queen Mary, Brunel and St George's. The students are studying a variety of STEM subjects including:-

Biomedical Sciences with Immunology	Mechanical Engineering	Radiotherapy & Oncology	Nursing
Placement Chemistry with Mathematics	Aerospace Engineering	Biomedical Sciences	Paramedic Science
	Pharmaceutical Chemistry	Biochemistry	

We wish them every success and look forward to hearing of their future achievements.

*Mrs Woodhouse, Science Teacher*

## Summer Science Careers Experiences

During the summer holidays, I took part in an engineering work experience in London. It taught me a lot about practical science from using chemical tests to check bromine and biocide levels of the water and its conductivity in the cooling towers - an absolute necessity for ensuring the water circulating in and around the building is safe - to learning about the air handling units and how this is used through all floors and offices. It was a physically demanding job, but was fascinating to be part of a building project behind the scenes. **Aaliyah Walsh 6WOC**

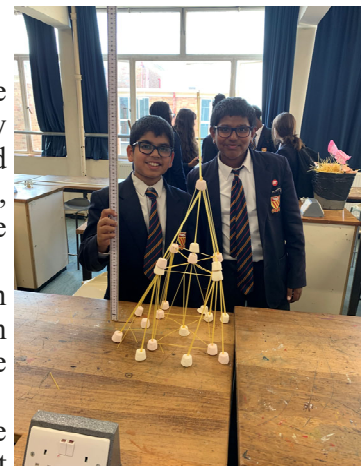
I had the opportunity to visit Magdalen College in Oxford over the summer for their physics and engineering programme. My group was given a range of lectures on acoustics, radios and the role of origami in engineering. We also had the opportunity to use the university's facilities, taking meals in the College Hall and staying overnight in student accommodation. This experience was really interesting, and it gave me a sense of what university might be like. **Louvina Aranos 6WOC**

## Science Club Creativity

Enthusiastic scientists modelled engineering and architecture in the laboratory. Using sturdy spaghetti and adhesive marshmallows they designed tall structures. Their team work, resilience and creativity led to numerous tall towers built within record time. Despite being tempted, the young scientists followed the safety guidelines with the marshmallows and did not consume them!

In another session, scientists used applicable chemistry and made a non-Newtonian liquid (slime) in the laboratory by reacting a polymer with a crosslinking agent. Their differing use of the reactants formed slime of different colours and viscosity.

In class, Y7 scientists have been learning about cells. Students were asked to create a 3D cell out of any product that they wanted to at home. They demonstrated some fantastic examples of their learning through their models. *Mr Brozny and Dr Rathod*



## Wonder for little ones in St Gregory's Eco Garden

Throughout the year we welcome children from BrightStart Childcare into St Gregory's Eco Garden. In September we were delighted to see their faces light up again as they filled bird feeders with bird seed and fished for pond-life. They found water boatmen, dragonfly and damselfly larvae, water snails and many microscopic water nymphs. Such excitement!

*Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability*



St Greg's Pantry stocks a variety of foods and toiletries, free of charge to anyone in the St Gregory's family who might need a little extra help. The Pantry is open during term time on Saturdays from 9:30am—11:30am. Any family is welcome to use this facility occasionally or regularly.

If you would benefit from this facility, or if you wish to donate, please contact Mrs Hovey on [ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk).

## Upcycled Uniform Shop Supports St Gregory's Families

During parent/pupil information evenings in September we opened our upcycled uniform shop and raised £310. Not only does the upcycled uniform shop reduce waste, it helps parents save money and all proceeds from the sale of pre-loved uniform is used to purchase food for St Greg's Pantry, supporting families in need.

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.

If you wish to make use of the upcycled uniform shop at any point throughout the school year, please contact the School Office.

*Eco Committee*



Ready for business.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk).

On 30th October, 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 provide musical performances 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 a **Christmas market to Kenton. The market will take place on Saturday 23rd 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*

