

St Gregory's Catholic Science College Newsletter



Easter 2025

From the Headteacher

This has been an incredibly successful half term. As you are aware the school had an Ofsted inspection on 25th and 26th February which judged that the school has maintained our Outstanding standard. The report is testament to the hard work of our staff, pupils and families. It details pupils' enjoyment of lessons, the pride they take in meeting the school's high expectations and the high-quality care and support that they receive. It also praises the exemplary behaviour, that pupils are respectful of each other and that they have very positive attitudes to their education. Well done to everyone!

In February the 16-19 school league tables were published by the government and we ascertained that the Value-Added scores for our A level results in Summer 2024 place us in the top 2% of schools in the country. The Value-Added scores for our vocational qualifications in Summer 2024 place us in the top 2.5%.

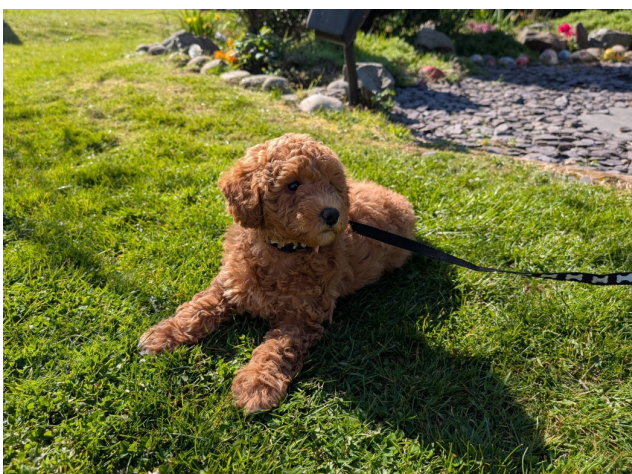
In March we learnt that our excellent GCSE outcomes have been recognised by SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network) in this year's Educational Outcomes Awards. The award recognises that St Gregory's Catholic Science College is among the highest performing secondary schools in the country, based on 2024 performance data and information from Ofsted. St Gregory's Catholic Science College was recognised in two categories, receiving awards for being in the top 10% of schools nationally for student progress and in the top 10% of non-selective schools for student attainment in the 2024 end of KS4 exams.

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 staff. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school. Thank you."

During Lent it has been wonderful to see our pupils planning a variety of activities to raise money for charities. In order to prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter all pupils will be participating in the Stations of the Cross within their RE lessons this week. All pupils will attend Mass on Wednesday 2nd April and each pupil will be offered the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. There is an open invitation to pupils and families to attend our Lenten liturgy on Thursday evening and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

I would like to say farewell on your behalf to Mr Cullen, who has worked at St Gregory's for over twenty years. We welcome Miss Thomas-Gwarada, who will be teaching Art and Textiles and also our youngest ever member of staff (at only eight weeks old): Ceili, our therapy dog. Our pupils and



staff have been very excited to welcome Ceili and we look forward to the joy she will bring to our community.

Next term is an important one for all pupils and therefore excellent attendance is expected from 22nd April, when we will return refreshed and enthusiastic for the accomplishments of the exam season. I do hope that you are able to celebrate the feast of Easter by attending Mass as a family. Please look up Mass times on your Parish website.

Wishing you and your families a happy and Holy Easter.

Madeleine Moran

Catholic Life

We are in the most sacred and solemn time within the Church's calendar as we wait for the death and resurrection of Jesus.

During this period of Lent all students have been busy fundraising for our House charities.

On Monday 31st March, all students were offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This provided students with the time to reflect on a busy term as well as reflecting on their actions.

On Wednesday 2nd April we gathered to celebrate our Easter Masses with Fr. Brendan, the school's Chaplain, leading us in the service.

Miss Curley, Assistant Headteacher

Year 10 Mock Interviews

In February our Year 10 students worked very hard to prepare CVs ready for their mock interviews. On the 12th and 13th of March we were fortunate to be joined by ten local employers who conducted interviews with every Year 10 student.

As well as being interviewed, students were able to ask the employer questions about their job and learn about the journey that led them to where they are in their career today. They also received feedback on how they could improve their CVs and interview skills.

The students found the experience very helpful and highly enjoyable! Many reported that they will feel less nervous about interviews in the future, having had this practice.

The employers were hugely impressed by the students' CVs and the professional way in which they all conducted themselves. It was a fantastic experience for all involved and our Year 10 students are now well equipped to face interviews in the future.

Ms Boyle, Careers Co-Ordinator

Remembering the Holocaust



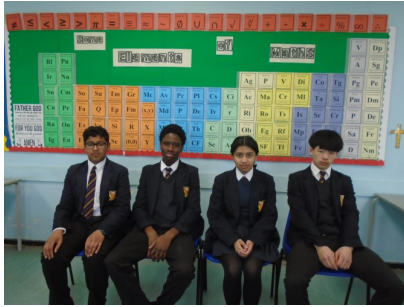
On Tuesday 11th March, St Gregory's welcomed Hilary Hodsman, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, to speak to our Year 9 pupils who are currently studying the Holocaust in history. Hilary shared the testimony of her parents, who both experienced Kristallnacht (German for "Night of Broken Glass"). This Nazi-led night of terror saw hundreds of synagogues burnt down; Jewish owned shops looted and large numbers of Jews physically attacked and arrested and led to the Kindertransport, which saw her parents travel to the UK to escape persecution. The pupils were incredibly respectful of and fascinated by Hilary's testimony.

Miss Doherty, Head of History

Hilary Hodsman is the daughter of two Holocaust survivors. She came in to our school to give a talk about her parents' story. She talked about her parents' journey on the Kindertransport to the UK. Her story is important as we students were able to hear a personal perspective of the experience of what it was like during the Holocaust. It was interesting to have Hilary come in and share her parents' experience as, most of the time, we only learn about the Holocaust through textbooks. It would have been so hard on her grandparents to let their children go without knowing if they would ever return. Hilary told us how her mum went to Leicestershire and had many stops on her journey whilst her dad travelled to Glasgow. It's important to share these experiences as it makes people realise about the harsh reality that Jews had to face and it makes people realise the importance of tolerance and accepting others.

Malesa Coelho 9J

UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge



The UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge is a prestigious national competition that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency. The problems on the Intermediate Maths Challenge are designed to make students think; most are accessible yet still challenge those with more experience.

Open to students in Years 9, 10, and 11 across the country, this challenge is a true test of mathematical ability, requiring sharp reasoning and deep understanding.

This year, we are thrilled to celebrate a number of award winners, with students earning Gold, Silver, and Bronze Certificates. The Gold award was achieved by the top 4-5% of entrants—an exceptional accomplishment. The Silver award was achieved by 11-15% of the entrants, while the Bronze award is earned by the 25% of entrants.

Such outstanding results are a testament to the dedication, perseverance, and passion our students demonstrate in every lesson. Their success reflects not just talent but also their commitment to tackling challenges head-on and striving for excellence.

A huge congratulations to all our students—you have truly made us proud!



Ms Halai, Teacher of Maths

Speak Out Regional Final

When I arrived at Kingsbury High School I was really nervous. The first part of the evening was a workshop for all the competitors. The organisers were very supportive and we were all introduced to each other and played some warm-up games. After the games we were given a chance to practise our speeches with each other and give feedback. We then had the opportunity to run through our speeches on the stage and get used to the technology and make any last-minute changes. Finally, the event happened and although I did not get a podium place it was a great opportunity for me to practise public speaking. I am very glad I competed and would encourage others to do the same when the opportunity arises.



Victoria Kocioruba 10M

Macbeth Performance

The Globe Players theatre company visited St Gregory's to perform Macbeth, to help students to revise the play, which is part of their GCSE English curriculum. Students also benefited from a Q&A after the performance where they could ask the cast questions.

Ms De Ponte, Teacher of English



Travel for Life Top Schools Awards

St Gregory's is a regional finalist in the TfL Travel for Life Top Schools Awards. The judges said: The judging panel was extremely impressed by your brilliant work to increase active travel and decrease the number of cars on the school run, helping to improve air quality, road safety and children's health in your community. Well done to your school community for this fantastic achievement. We will find out on 19th May who are the overall winners for London. Wish us luck!



Meanwhile, we continue our campaign to improve road safety on roads around our school and to increase active travel. On 20th March, officers from Brent's Healthy Streets Team conducted a survey of traffic congestion and parking at school home-time. We look forward to hearing their recommendations soon. Please encourage your child/ren to walk, cycle or take public transport to and from school in order to reduce traffic around our school.

Student Travel Ambassadors

John Lyon University Fair



The university fair was a very good opportunity for us to explore different universities from Manchester to Imperial and gain a deeper understanding of degree options available to us after sixth form. It was very useful as we got to speak to representatives from various universities about courses, entry requirements and campus life. We also had the opportunity to attend a talk on Oxbridge applications and various healthcare degree options from Medicine to optometry. Overall the fair gave us a clear idea about our future academic paths

and choices available to us.

Matei Vasilache 6WOC

World Book Day



To celebrate World book day the author Graham Scott visited our school, where he spoke to our students about being a writer, his books and his adventures whilst researching and writing various books.

Aislinn Dunne 8M was one of the students who ordered and received a signed copy of one of Graham Scott's books: 'Banished to the Forest'. To celebrate World Book day, students were encouraged to enter a poster competition, where they could recreate any book cover. Beautiful and creative posters were entered.

Our top posters received £15 vouchers and certificates.

Our top 3 winners were from Year 8: First prize, with her "Alice in Wonderland" entry was Blanka Adaszek, second prize; "Hound of the Baskervilles" by Patrizia Cuomo and third prize, "Life of Pi" by Lance De Souza.

Ms De Ponte, Teacher of English



National Poetry Day

For National Poetry day in October, students were encouraged to enter the Young Writers Poetry competition: 'The Beautiful Truth'. The best poems submitted would be selected for publication.

33 students from St Gregory's were selected and published in *The Beautiful Truth: A Fountain of Ink*.

Over 680 schools entered this competition and we are thrilled to announce that St Gregory's has come second in the country.

As a prize we have received a book bundle. The books have been added to our school library. Congratulations to all students involved!



Ms De Ponte, Teacher of English

Year 12 University and Apprenticeship Fair



On Friday 21st March, all Year12 students were taken to Arsenal's Emirates Stadium for London's biggest University and Apprenticeship fair. Students met staff from Russell Group Universities as well as employers who offer apprenticeship style degrees. The event also had exciting seminars regarding help with UCAS, student finance and courses that were right for them. I think students were most excited about all the free merchandise they got to walk away with!

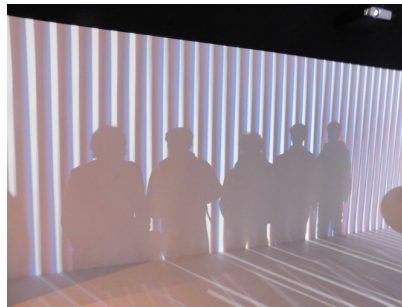
Miss Curley, Assistant Headteacher

Tate Modern

In January, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 Art and Photography students went on a visit to the Tate Modern for the exhibition entitled "Electric Dreams" – an eye opener into the world of art, technology and digital media. It also showed how artists use AI, motion sensors and interactive installations to push creative boundaries – a look into the future for the students.

One of the highlights of the exhibition for me was Carlos Cruz-Diez's *Chromointeférence* – an interactive installation featuring balloons and overlapping lights. The vibrant colours and shifting patterns created a mesmerising effect, making the experience both playful and immersive. It was amazing to interact with the artwork alongside friends, sharing laughs while admiring the creativity behind the piece.

Besides the visual feat, the trip was a learning experience. It helped develop critical thinking, take inspiration for current or future projects and understand the great role of technology in creative industries. Field trips make learning come alive offering new perspective and real-world insights for students.



Miss Murphy, Head of Art



Sporting Achievements



The Year 9 boy's football team has enjoyed a successful season throughout the past seven months. They gained promotion to the top division last season, therefore encountering stronger schools this year.

Our team managed to come 2nd in the division losing to JFS only in the league. This meant that they had to play a semi-final, to see if they would move into the final. Unfortunately they couldn't overcome QPCS, losing 3-2 in the final minute. Throughout the game the team were on top, seeing chances flash just wide and hitting the crossbar twice. I am sure that the boys will rally round and go for the title again next

season.

The Year 10 boy's also won promotion last season into the top division. The step up for the boys was a difficult one, with many outstanding teams and players in opposition to us. They battled hard throughout the season and came 6th in the end, putting in some good performances against the teams above us, and not giving up, even when the odds were against them.

Mr Crosland, Teacher of P.E.

Careers

The Spring term has been a busy term for careers! We have marked two major events in the careers calendar with celebrations for National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week. KS3 students participated in the 'Step into the NHS' day in March. This provided students with an overview of the different job roles that are available within the NHS.

Year 7 and 8 students were also lucky enough to have a talk from two Microsoft employees about their route into their roles.

A group of Year 12 students participated in a workshop run by Microsoft. This workshop saw students gain further support for CV writing, interview tips and advice on how to get into the technology sector.

Miss Boyle, Careers Co-Ordinator

Sustainability Month

Throughout March, St Gregory's Eco Committee coordinated Sustainability Month. This year's theme was Food Waste. Did you know, over 10 million tonnes of food are wasted in the UK every year? That's enough to fill the Albert Hall 190 times over! This has a huge impact on the planet's resources.

Following lunch service on 4th March, the Eco Committee weighed all the food waste thrown away by pupils. It weighed 8.3kg – the equivalent weight of a microwave oven! A new bin system has been installed into the canteen enabling pupils to separate their food waste from dry recycling. This will enable us to send our food waste to be recycled into biogas and agricultural fertilizer. However, it would be even better if we could all reduce our food waste altogether. Have a look at our online school "Food Waste Recipe Book" [HERE](#) for ideas about how to turn left-overs into tasty dishes.

During Sustainability month many departments conducted sustainability-themed lessons and the Science department organised a visit to RHS Wisley for 30 pupils in Years 7 & 8.

Our Sustainability Month activities culminated in a community litter pick in Woodcock Park on 26th March, which was supported by almost 100 people who, during one hour, collected 50 sacks of litter!



Student Eco Committee

Cambridge University Trip

On Wednesday 12th March a group of Year 10 students attended Cambridge University to learn about our potential future. When we arrived, we were introduced to two other school groups with whom we had an ice breaker activity. Then throughout the day we learnt about student life at Cambridge, the application process and how things work around the campus (this included a tour). We also listened to a taster lecture to really feel the university experience.



Saviour Hinneh 10B



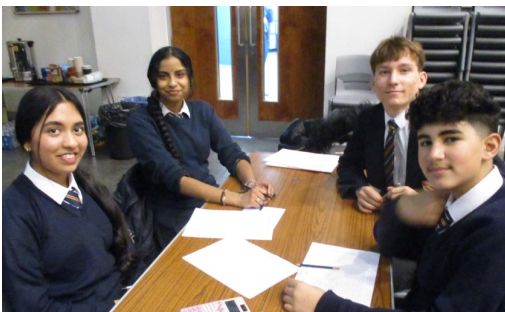
On March 10th we visited Jesus College, part of Cambridge University. As a group we were introduced to the idea of applying to a top university, which was motivational and reassuring. The staff and student ambassadors were very keen to give us opportunities to explore university life through a lecture and tour. The lecture was about the relationship between metabolism, extreme survival and ageing; this was very insightful. Dr Hanane Hadj Moussa introduced us to extremophiles like the Wood Frog, native to Canada, that could freeze itself when exposed to the cold, hibernate and then thaw at the beginning of spring; this

was my favourite part. This fitted in well with the theme for British Science week 2025, Change and Adapt.

Chenoa Fernandes 10M

Maths Feast

On 3rd March, two groups of talented Year 10 Mathematicians attended a national "Maths Feast" competition held at Bishop Ramsey Church of England School. Our pupils competed against students from 22 private, grammar and state schools. They were fantastic ambassadors for St Gregory's, achieving 4th and 15th places.



Congratulations to Jack Botros, Bartosz Kowalczuk, Kaelynn Menezes, Duelin Shelke, Leona Noronha, Alejandro Ortiz, Treivon Robinson and Frazer Rocha!

Mr Lall, Teacher of Maths

St Gregory's Catholic Science College

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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”.

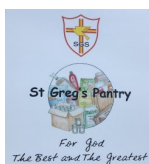
Mrs Camangon, Medical Welfare Officer



The Pantry

We stock a variety of foods and toiletries. 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.

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 visited the school on 2nd April checking bikes are roadworthy.

If you have to drive, please park away from the school and switch off your engine whilst waiting.

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



Year 9 Eco Committee for delivering assemblies on “Mental Health” to Years 7 to 10 and on “Air Quality” to St Bernadette's

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

Amazing efforts in raising money for Mary House charity - St Luke's Hospice during our Lent fundraising.

Justina Krehovetskaja 7M
Noa Molina Lugo 7M



Outstanding Achievement Poetry Competition

Blanka Adaszek 8H
Nikola Adaszek 11B
David Burghlelea 7H
Muriel Cabral 8H
Michelle Cardozo 8B
Lance De Souza 8H
Chenoy Dias 8H
Jessica Dias 7M
Eleanor Dsilva 9L
Adithi Durgapersad 10H
Olesia Fernandes 8J
Richelle Fernandes 11A
Clidon Furtado 9J
Jessica Gerez Llorente 9H
Thomas Gomulkiewicz 11B
Moses Kankam 7J
Kaya Lao 8B
Phelim Lennon 8A
Isabella Machado 8B
Absaron Martin 8A
Lewis Martin 11M
Cliona McDonnell 8B
Leon Ng Kwet Shing 11L
Kwame Ofosu-Appiah 9A
Richmond Opoku-Afriyie 9M
Winston Osei-Antwi 8A
Michael Owusu-Ansah 8J
Giacomo Paciucci 10M
Vernon Pires 8A
Obinaash Sahayathevarajan 8B
Shaun Sijo 8B
Marysia Slowinska 7M
Alexander Szulc 9L

Managing Screen Time Wisely

Too much screen time can affect sleep, schoolwork, and physical health. Help your child find a healthy balance by setting daily limits and scheduling tech-free times, like during meals or before bed. Encourage offline activities such as reading, sports, or family games. Use tools like app timers or parental controls to monitor usage. Open conversations about how they're using screens can also help them make better choices. For more advice, visit NSPCC Screen Time Guide or contact Mr. Sloan, our E-Safety Officer. Let's keep screen time positive and productive!



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/>