



Donnington Road
Kenton
Harrow
Middlesex
HA3 0NB

Phone:
020 8907 8828

Fax:
020 8909 1161

Email:
schooloffice@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk

We're on the web
www.stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk

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Celebrating Growth, Compassion and Achievement

As we approach the end of what has been a vibrant and rewarding half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many successes and enriching experiences we have shared as a school community.

One of the most exciting developments this term has been the introduction of Ceili, our new therapy dog. A gentle and calming presence, our four-legged friend has quickly become a cherished member of the school, providing comfort and emotional support to students across all year groups. The positive impact on wellbeing has been remarkable, and we look forward to developing this initiative further in the coming months.

Year 7 pupils recently enjoyed a thought-provoking drop-down day, featuring a range of visiting speakers who engaged students in workshops and discussions on topics beyond the regular curriculum. It was wonderful to see our youngest students immersing themselves in new ideas and developing their confidence and curiosity.

This half term also marks the beginning of the public examination season, and I must commend our Year 11 and Year 13 students on the mature and focused approach they have taken. Early feedback from invigilators and staff has been extremely positive, and I know we are all rooting for them to achieve the success they so richly deserve.

As part of our commitment to developing global and historical awareness, we held a series of assemblies and themed lessons to commemorate VE Day. These sessions allowed students to reflect on the sacrifices of past generations and the enduring importance of peace and unity.

Finally, pupils have had opportunities to learn more about the life and legacy of Pope Francis. Through assemblies and RE lessons, they have explored the values he has championed and the unique process of conclave that leads to the selection of a new Pope. These moments of reflection have encouraged thoughtful discussion and deeper understanding of faith and leadership.

I am incredibly proud of all that has been achieved this half term. Thank you for your continued support in helping us nurture a community where every student can thrive academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Wishing you a restful and enjoyable break.

Madeleine Moran, Headteacher



St Gregory's Wins TfL Travel for Life Award. Full article P2

TfL Top Schools Awards Event

On 19th May, Year 9 representatives of the student Travel Ambassador Team attended the TfL Top Schools Awards ceremony at the Oval cricket stadium. We were thrilled to be selected as winners of the “Best Campaign” category for our lobbying of Brent Council to introduce pedestrian crossings to all sections of the crossroads of Kenton Road with Woodcock Hill. As a result of our campaign, a plan to introduce pedestrian crossings is now under consultation and, in the interim, brightly coloured road markings have been painted onto the road at crossing points. In addition, Brent Healthy Streets team has undertaken a road safety survey on roads around the school. As a result, they are currently considering reducing the speed limit on Woodcock Hill. *(Photo on front page). Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability*

St Gregory's Commemorates 80 Years Since VE Day

On Thursday 8 May 2025, St Gregory's joined the nation in marking the 80th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day, when the Second World War came to an end in Europe after defeating Nazi Germany.

During an assembly, pupils learnt that in 1945 VE Day was celebrated in Kenton with bonfires, parties, and fireworks. A large crowd gathered on Donnington Road and Woodcock Hill for a view of London's celebrations, while Wembley Stadium hosted a thanksgiving service.

The assembly also highlighted how, despite the celebrations, rationing continued long after the war. Wartime posters reminded people not to waste food—an important message we still carry today. *Pupils were encouraged to be mindful of food waste and recycling, both in school and at home.*

As a Catholic school, VE Day is a time for reflection. We remember the courage and sacrifices of soldiers, nurses, civilians, and children, and we give thanks for the peace we now enjoy. The day also reminds us of the power of unity—how people from different nations and backgrounds stood together for justice and peace. This links closely to our Catholic Social Teaching theme for this term: *Community and Participation*.

Some subjects integrated VE day celebrations into their lessons. History and Maths classes enjoyed VE Day-themed lessons in the eco-garden as part of *Outdoor Classroom Day*. History pupils worked in groups to find hidden WW2 artefacts which provided clues to questions; whilst Maths pupils performed algebraic calculations to show the number of soldiers captured. In RE, pupils learnt about St Maximilian Kolbe's sacrifice during WW2 as he offered to die in place of a fellow prisoner at Auschwitz, and in Drama Club pupils re-enacted VE Day celebrations and Churchill's speech.

The canteen also offered a VE day special menu to commemorate the day.

It was a day of remembrance, learning, and gratitude for the freedom we share.

Miss Doherty, Head of History



Charity Plant Sale

On 7th 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, cosmos and more. The plant sale was great fun and very well supported by our teachers and, what's more, we raised over £100 for WDC. Thank you! *St Gregory's Gardening Club*





The Eco Committee has redesigned our Eco Code to reflect the key priorities they have chosen to work on this year.

This fabulous design was created by Eleanor DSilva, 9L.

Science Club Protein Tests

Why is milk a valuable food for teenagers? Curious students wanted to investigate if cow's milk has protein and to compare different types of milk for protein content. They tested various types of milk for protein content -oat milk, soya milk, almond milk, and full fat cow's milk in the laboratory. Their results were that full fat cow's milk had the highest protein content, followed by soya milk. They also tested the different milks for their reducing sugar content. Cow's milk also tested positive for glucose. Teenagers require protein for growth and repair, and glucose for respiration. They concluded cow's milk is a good source of protein, glucose and water.

Dr Rathod, Science Teacher



Secret Messages and Secrets to Excellent Bakes

Scientists made invisible ink to write enigmatic secret messages that couldn't be seen by looking at the paper they were written on. Students enthusiastically made magic potions of invisible ink using household substances such as lemon juice and red cabbage, and an easily available heating tool (a hairdryer!). Their secret messages could only be revealed using their top-secret laboratory technique.

The super sleuths also probed the mysteries of excellent bakes. By changing the reaction temperature they showed that baking powder works best in warmer temperatures (balloons inflated) versus cooler temperatures (balloons deflated).

Dr Rathod, Science Teacher



Chemistry Challenge

This year we have started preparing for the Cambridge Chemistry challenge for lower sixth, a competition that challenges students beyond the A level syllabus with creative degree level questions. While it is tough, we are excited to push our problem-solving skills and deepen our understanding of Chemistry. We have enjoyed discussing and brainstorming the questions as a group. We are looking forward to taking the challenge in June 2025.

Calvyn Dias, Timothy Pudlo, Cloyster Braganca 6WOC and Shewan De Silva 6HUA.

Eco Active Week 9th –13th June

As part of Eco Active Week, the Y8 Travel Ambassadors are organising a cycling obstacle course challenge for pupils in years 7-9. Details of how to be involved will be emailed to parents/carers. MEDBIKE (a new cycling shop in Kenton) are providing some fabulous prizes for this challenge and their staff will be on hand to service your child's bike. In addition, St Gregory's staff, parents and pupils will soon be able to benefit from discounts on bike repairs and servicing.

Great British Spring Clean Community Action

On 26th March we organised our annual community litter pick in Woodcock Park. We joined forces with pupils from Uxendon Manor Primary School, Mount Stewart Junior School, Claremont High School and BrightStart Childcare and we were supported by representatives from KBMD Accountants, Infatec Security Systems, The Rotary Club of Northwick Park and The Friends of Woodcock Park. Local residents also joined the group, as did Councillors Sunita Hirani, Sheth and Butt. In one hour, the community litter picking team collected 50 sacks of rubbish! Thank you to everyone involved and to Brent Council for providing the litter picking equipment.

Y9 Eco Committee



A BrightStart to Wildlife Exploration

On 12th March, pupils and staff from BrightStart Childcare visited St Gregory's Eco Garden. The children had fun filling bird feeders, sowing pea seeds and investigating the wildlife in the Eco Pond. *Mrs Hovey*



UPCYCLED UNIFORM

The uniform shop has proved so popular we are running low on blazers and PE kit. With only a few weeks to go before our new Y7 induction day we need more stock to help kit out next year's Y7 intake. The uniform shop is our main source of fundraising for St Greg's Pantry. Over half term, please take the opportunity to sort out any items your child has grown out of and please consider donating them to the school uniform shop via the School Office.



STOP FOOD-WASTE!

Visit our school cookbook!



- Plan meals ahead – Create a shopping list based on what you need and stick to it.
- Store food properly – Learn the best ways to store fruits, veggies, and leftovers to keep them fresh longer.
- Freeze extras – Don't let food go bad; freeze it for later use.
- Use leftovers creatively – Reinvent yesterday's dinner into a new meal, like turning roast veggies into soup.
- Check portion sizes – Serve just enough to avoid scraping plates into the bin.
- Understand "use by" vs. "best before" dates – "Best before" usually means it's still safe to eat after the date, as long as it looks and smells fine.

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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*



Kenton Area Traders' Association

The flower baskets along Kenton Road will be refreshed with summer planting in early June. If you have a business in Kenton and 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 19th June at 10am at Uxendon Manor Primary School.

Mr Mandalia, Chairperson, KATA

