



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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Issue 53

Autumn 2025

Welcoming New Faces, Celebrating Success

As we reach the end of this first half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a hugely positive and encouraging start to the academic year.

We began the term celebrating truly outstanding examination results. Our Year 11 pupils achieved the highest GCSE results in the school's history, with an Attainment 8 score of over 60 and an impressive 44% of all grades at 9 - 7 (equivalent to the old A* - A grades). At A level, our students continued this trend of excellence, with 69% of grades awarded at A*-B (significantly above the national average of 55%). Our Level 3 Vocational students also performed exceptionally well, with 89% achieving Distinction* - Merit. These remarkable outcomes are a testament to the hard work of our pupils, the dedication of our staff, and the invaluable support from families.

We have also been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 pupils and their families into our community. It has been wonderful to see how well they have settled in, and it was a real pleasure to meet so many of you at our Year 7 Welcome Mass on Monday. Year 12 have also made an excellent start to their post-16 studies; this year's cohort is our largest ever, and they are already showing great promise.

The term has been rich with activity beyond the classroom too. Each Year 7 class has taken part in a retreat day, and Year 9 pupils enjoyed a fantastic residential trip to the Lake District. Our Open Evening saw record numbers of prospective families visit us, and it was a joy to showcase all that makes our school special.

Our extra-curricular programme is thriving, with a wide range of clubs on offer, I encourage all pupils to take part. The Saturday revision sessions for Year 11 and Year 13 are already proving popular and productive.

Finally, our new staff have made an excellent start and are already making a positive impact.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

With best wishes,

Madeleine Moran, Headteacher



7A pupils with Chaplain, Michael, in the Eco Garden on their retreat day.

Pupils are taking part in an activity showing how we connect together through love for one another.

The pupils are connected to one another by holding onto a web of string. As they say a negative statement, Michael cuts the string, showing how malicious thoughts and harmful words disconnect us and push us apart.

Top Award for Eco Warriors



Eco Schools England has, once again, awarded St Gregory's a Green Flag with Distinction, the highest award possible.

Our Year 9 Eco Committee pupils continue to lead our sustainability programme across the school and within the local community. They recently collected 20 sacks of fallen leaves in Woodcock Park, which will be tucked away in a quiet corner of the park to rot down into leaf mould—a nutrient rich compost.



Travelling to School

Our Y8 Travel Ambassadors recently conducted a citizen science investigation into air quality near our school. Using lichens on trees; tar spots on sycamore tree leaves and particulate matter deposits on lamp posts as indicators of air pollution, they discovered much higher levels of air pollution near Kenton Road than were in evidence in Woodcock Park or Donnington Road.

St Gregory's Travel Ambassadors would ask parents not to drive their children to school. This will help to reduce congestion and pollution around school and improve road safety for pupils.



Care for Creation—Don't Drop Litter (please)!

As part of our RE focus on Care for Creation this term, Mr Carter from WISE (Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement) visited our school to give an assembly to pupils in Years 7 & 8 on the impacts of littering on our environment and how to recycle correctly. After the assembly, 7B undertook a community litter pick in Woodcock Park.



St Gregory's Pupils Feature in Brent Climate Video

Last term, St Gregory's was one of seven schools in Brent invited to feature in a video showcasing their environmental work. You can watch our Travel Ambassadors and Eco Warriors taking part in the video [HERE](#). *Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability*

Climate Pledges

During Open Evening, the Geography Department invited parents and prospective students to take part in a "Climate Pledge" activity. Visitors were encouraged to write a short personal commitment to help combat climate change. The pledges included thoughtful actions such as reducing red meat consumption, avoiding car use for short journeys, cutting down on plastic waste, and conserving energy at home. The display of pledges created a powerful visual reminder of how small individual actions can collectively make a big difference for the planet. *Miss Lueiro, Head of Geography*



Gardening Club

This term, we have planted cabbages, cauliflowers, radicchio, peas and spring onions and we have harvested courgettes, apples and carrots. We have cut back our raspberries and our tender herbs and we have done LOTS of weeding.

Gardening Club takes place on Tuesdays after school. It's a great way to connect with nature, get out in the fresh air and stay active. We also get to take home and eat all the produce we grow. Why not join us? *St Gregory's Gardening Team*



2025 STEM Destinations

Year 13 2025 scientists have progressed to various university destinations including Imperial, Queen Mary, Warwick, Cardiff and Kings College. The students are studying a variety of STEM subjects, such as Medicine, Chemistry, Physics, Biomedical Sciences, Aerospace Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Paramedical Science, Chemistry with a Year in Industry, Biomedical and Healthcare Science.

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

Mrs Woodhouse, Gifted & Talented & Chemistry Lead

The Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2025

This competition is for Year 12 students and it aims to stretch and challenge students who are interested in Chemistry. Over 130,000 students from across the country took part in this challenge, including some of St Gregory's Year 12 Chemistry students. Shewan De Silva received the Gold Award for being placed within the top 10% of students who entered. Congratulations and well done to all who took part. *Mrs Woodhouse, Gifted & Talented & Chemistry Lead*

Visit to Imperial College

Dr Hui took us on a tour of Imperial College and showed us the various buildings he had used as an undergraduate and during his PhD. We then went to The Royal School of Mines where a taster Bioengineering event was being held. The taster session consisted of an introduction, 3 five-minute flash talks and an hour long lecture.

The flash talks covered the following topics:

- How bioengineering is involved in food production.
- Life sciences entrepreneurship—the process of getting projects approved, then factory produced to improve and save lives.
- Breast Cancer Related Lymphedema (BCRL) and trying to find methods to cure or prevent it, such as using an implant made of silicone.

We also listened to a lecture on Prosthetics and Repair. The general idea is that DNA and proteins can be used to create a plaster to repair parts of the body. These would have a handle to tell cells to pull the edges of a wound together once there is enough tension.

Kaya Szczodrch and Julia Bachulska 6WOC



Science Club—Aerodynamic planes and aeronautical engineers

Science Club pupils designed aerodynamic planes in the laboratory. Their planes reduced air resistance and maximised the thrust force. When tested in the school field, pupils found that the wind deflected the flight path of their planes and also decreased the distance the planes glided. When our aeronautical engineers flew their planes in same direction as the wind, their planes were propelled further and effortlessly breezed through the school playing field.

Dr Rathod, Science Teacher



Robotics Club

In our first full academic year with Vex Robotics, St. Gregory's Robotics Club will be entering two competitions for this season's game: "Push Back". Pupils are currently building this year's "Hero Bot" named Dex. The competitions take place in November and January.

Robotics Club pupils have also built a "Clawbot", which is currently being used for open evenings and is taken to primary schools as part of our primary outreach programme. *Mr Brozny, Head of Science*



Puzzle Workshop

Puzzle challenge day for Years 7 & 8 was fun; the puzzles challenged us in unique ways and we had to persevere when we got stuck or experienced a setback.

Through the experience we learnt how to co-operate in groups without being overwhelmed. The puzzles themselves were challenging and truly enjoyable. We worked at own pace as a team, discussing and problem solving each puzzle. *Marysia Slowinska 8M*



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 at ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk.

Upcycled Uniform Shop Supports St Gregory's Families

During Year 6 Induction Evening in June and parent/pupil information evenings in September, we opened our upcycled uniform shop to parents. We raised a phenomenal £1578, every penny of which will go towards purchasing food for St Greg's Pantry.

Not only does the upcycled uniform shop reduce waste, it helps parents save money and supports 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

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

On 15th October, the KATA hosted the annual switch-on event of the Kenton Festive Lights. This was the 10th anniversary of this event at which pupils from St Gregory's Catholic Science College, Uxendon Manor Primary School, The Mount Stewart Schools and BrightStart Nursery School provided musical and dance performances.

The Mayor of Brent (Cllr Ryan Hack) and the Mayor of Harrow (Cllr Anjana Patel) led the countdown to the switching on of the lights, praising the children for their magnificent performances and thanking the KATA, schools and local community for supporting this multi-faith celebration.

In September the KATA held its AGM, which was very well attended by local businesses, schools, Councillors and Kenton community organisations. If you would like a copy of the minutes of the AGM, please email ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk.

Mr Mandalia, Chairperson, KATA

