



Science College Newsletter

Issue 54

Spring 2026

Success and Shared Purpose

As we approach the end of this half-term, I am delighted to reflect on the many successes and activities that have enriched our school community. Our Parents' Evenings for Year 11 and Year 13 were very successful; thank you to all parents for your support. Year 11 students have also enjoyed a Sixth Form Taster Day and our Year 9 students are looking forward to their Pathways Evening after February half-term to explore their GCSE options.

I was thrilled to receive a letter in January from Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, congratulating us on the excellent outcomes for disadvantaged students in last summer's exams. The letter went on to say "Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement. This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together." I am very proud of this recognition for our school community.

This term, we have prioritised wellbeing during Children's Mental Health Week and Internet Safety Day, with assemblies for all year groups. Creativity shone through with the Robotics Club attending their first regional competition. We have also celebrated National Apprenticeship Week, with subject-based activities and a talk for Year 10 and Year 12 from a former student, Nathan, who is currently on an apprenticeship with Amazon. Spiritually, our students deepened their faith by participating in whole school Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany and whole class Masses. Our ongoing commitment to Catholic Social Teaching has been evident in active charity work, demonstrating a desire to serve others.

All of these experiences have made this term both enjoyable and meaningful. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success and I wish you all a restful half term break.

*Madeleine Moran,
Headteacher*



Members of St Gregory's Sixth Form Environmental Team serve their community by litter picking along pavements on Woodcock Hill and Donnington Road and in Woodcock Park on a regular basis.

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Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

The Year 9 Eco Committee has spearheaded this year's Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. This year's theme was "This is my place" and was all about belonging. Through assemblies to all pupils and PSHE activities, we encouraged everyone to think about what makes them feel like they belong and how they can help others feel valued and included. *St Gregory's Eco Committee*

THIS IS
MY PLACE

Our Planet, Our Choice

As part of our Marine Eco Schools topic and to help us plan our environmental campaigns for Sustainability Month (which will take place in school throughout March), we recently visited Sea Life London Aquarium. We felt a sense of awe and wonder viewing all the different types of marine life and rainforest species; learning about their eco systems and their interdependence upon each other. One theme that came across strongly was how farming expansion and intensification and overfishing are affecting climate change and habitat loss for marine and rainforest species.



This Sustainability Month our message will be: What we eat and what we throw away matters. An estimated 26 million tonnes of plastic pollution enters our oceans and beaches every year. The common skate is Britain's largest fish but is under threat from pollution and overfishing. Due to deforestation for farming, the Amazon Rainforest houses more cattle than people. What can we do?

Don't buy water and soda in single use plastic bottles—use a refillable water bottle instead.

Eat less meat and fish.

Only buy fish with the MSC label (Marine Stewardship Council).

Y9 Eco Committee

Travel Ambassadors Teach Road Safety

St Gregory's Travel Ambassadors have been running a road safety awareness sessions for Year 7 pupils. In addition to delivering an assembly to Year 7, we have run workshops for all students during PE lessons. Pupils had to complete an obstacle course twice; once without any distractions and the second time whilst completing a long sum on a calculator. Pupils competed to finish the obstacle course in the quickest time, with the fewest penalties. Pupils made more mistakes and took longer to complete the obstacle course



when distracted by completing the sum on the calculator. This exercise modelled the dangers of walking whilst texting on a mobile phone and was used as an example of how distractions such as phones, balls, headphones etc can compromise safety when walking near a road.

All pupils were also given a fluorescent armband to wear when walking or cycling to school on darker days. Thank you to our local bike shop, Medbike, for donating the arm bands.

Y8 Travel Ambassadors

Growing Green Skills

As well as harvesting the rest of our carrots and spring onions, we have learnt how to make plants for free by dividing houseplants which had outgrown their pots and by detaching baby plantlets from the parent plant, then potting them up. We have also sown lots of seeds which are growing in our heated propagator, so we hope to have lots to offer at our charity plant sale later this year. *Gardening Club*



Shaping Financial Education

On January 21st, I was invited to the House of Lords by Claire Hazelgrove MP to share my experience with GoHenry. I spoke about the Money Missions and gave my thoughts on how effective they are, as they are going to be incorporated into UK primary schools. The aim is to help teach children how to save, how interest works, and how to manage money responsibly. I was one of the first people to start using GoHenry to see whether the Money Missions are an interactive and engaging way to teach children about money. *Adam Angelides 9B (Eco Committee Representative)*



More Than An Interview

Attending my medicine interview at Cambridge at Trinity College was an unforgettable experience. The interviews felt like a genuine academic conversation, where I was encouraged to think deeply, challenge ideas and engage with complex problems rather than simply give rehearsed answers. I absolutely loved being in Cambridge; the academic atmosphere, the college setting and the emphasis on curiosity made it incredibly inspiring. I would strongly encourage anyone considering applying to Cambridge to do so; it offers an environment that is both academically challenging and genuinely exciting. *Shewan Da Silva 6HUA*

Robotics Debut

On Saturday 24th January, St. Gregory's took part in their first ever regional Vex V5 Robotics Competition.

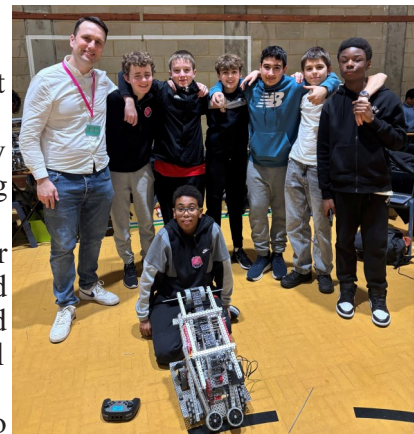
This year's game, "Push Back", challenged teams to efficiently capture Blue or Red Blocks and place them inside the scoring tubes.

It was a memorable first competition for our school, where our students learnt the value of being resilient, asking for help and learning from our mistakes. We quickly moved up the leader board and although we didn't make it past the knockout phase, we are all incredibly proud of our entire Robotics Club.

A special mention has to go to JP Boyle and Noel Yohannes who were our prime robotics engineers. Without them, we wouldn't even have a robot to take to competitions.

Thank you, also, to Aneurin O'Brien whose expert driving on the day resulted in us winning two matches against fierce competition and well done to the whole team which, in addition to those mentioned above, included Paddy Healy, Matthias Gotti, Franciszek Kieltyka, and Michael Owusu-Ansah.

Although our season is over, we are already working on how to come back bigger and better next season. *Mr Brozny, Science Teacher*



Water Walking and Pumping Liquids

In Science club we set up water walking experiments to make coloured water move from one beaker to another. It was fun watching the colours move around and change when they mixed with either water or with other colours.

We also learnt that the heart pumps blood not only to our head and back, but also all the way to our toes and back again. Plants use the 'water walking technique' to move the water from the soil all the way up to its leaves. Amazingly, the water moves upwards against gravity's downward pull force. *Dr Rathod, Science Teacher*

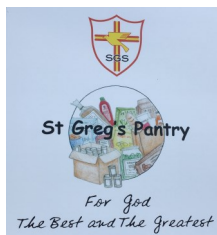


Great British Spring Clean Call-up

St Gregory's Eco Committee will be leading a community litter pick in Woodcock Park on 17th March in support of Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean. We will meet by the Mural bridge in the park at 10:30am for one hour. Litter picking equipment and gloves can be provided, but please bring your own if you have it. To let us know you are coming, please email:

ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk. *Y9 Eco Committee*

St Greg's Pantry



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 or your child's Head of Year.

Little Explorers Discover Wildlife

In November, pupils from BrightStart Childcare visited St Gregory's Eco Garden with their carers, where they delighted in feeding the birds and finding lots of wildlife in the Eco Pond.

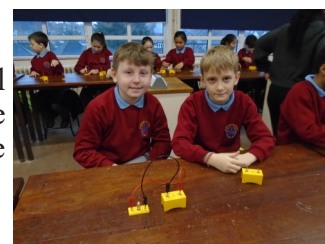
Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability.



Powering up Science Skills at St Gregory's

On 22nd January, pupils from St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School visited St Gregory's for a hands-on Science lesson about Circuits. The pupils were delighted to see their light bulbs illuminate when they made the correct connections.

Mrs Joseph, Second in Science



No Nuts Please

We have several children in school who suffer from a severe nut allergy. Please could I take this opportunity to remind you that our school has a "No Nuts Policy". This includes all coconut-based products.

Mrs Camangon, Medical Welfare Officer



Kenton Area Traders' Association

Brent Council Officers were invited to the KATA meeting in January, where Traders raised concerns around parking enforcement and damaged paving as well as street cleanliness. Council Officers agreed to investigate these matters and report back to the KATA by the end of February. KATA delegates have noticed increased waste enforcement visits to hotspot areas since the meeting.

The KATA continues to organise the planting and sponsorship of flower baskets on Kenton Road. There are a limited number of flower baskets requiring business sponsorship. If you are aware of any businesses which would like to sponsor a flower basket, please contact ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk.

KATA unites local businesses and helps Kenton thrive. Join us to amplify your voice and shape Kenton's future. Membership fees: £40 per annum or £70 for two years. Contact ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk for more information.

Mr Mandalia, Chairperson, KATA

