



Science College Newsletter

St Gregory's Catholic Science College



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Together in Faith & Learning

As we come to the end of another busy half term, it is hard to believe how much we have packed into such a short space of time. One of the highlights of the term came on Tuesday 5th May, when I received a phone call informing us that we would be welcoming inspectors from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate for a two-day Section 48 inspection. I would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to complete the parent survey; your feedback and support were greatly appreciated. The inspection was a very positive experience, and I am very much looking forward to sharing the final report with you when it is published.

The inspection provided an opportunity to reflect on what makes our school such a special community. It was encouraging that inspectors recognised the central importance of the spiritual life of the school, our witness to Christ, and the genuine love and care shown towards our young people each day.

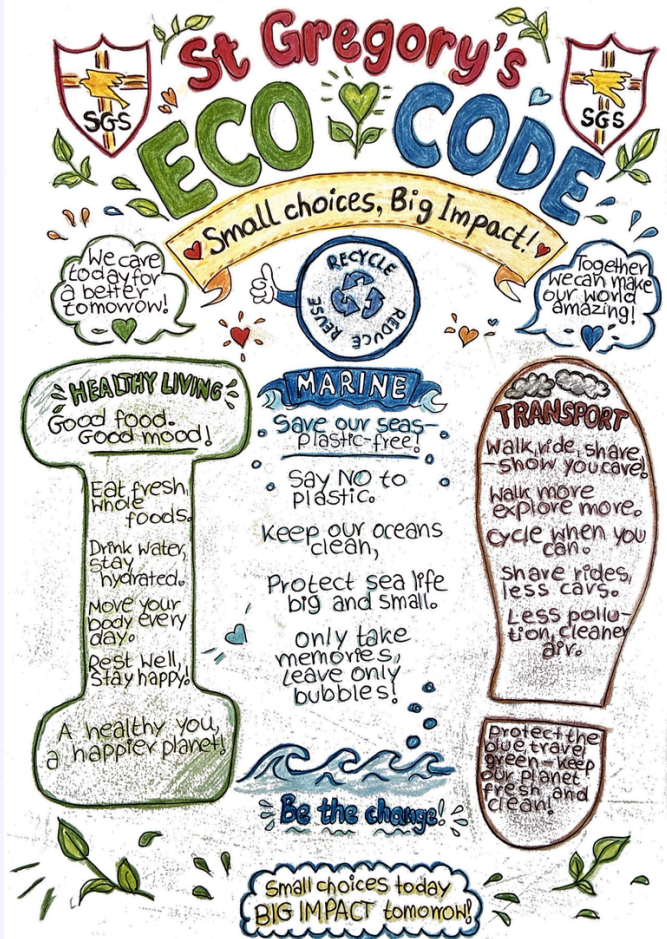
This half term has also marked the beginning of the public examination season. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have approached their GCSEs, A levels and vocational examinations with maturity, professionalism and determination, and we are extremely proud of the way they have risen to the challenge.

Alongside this, there have been many enrichment opportunities, including sporting successes, book swaps and a wonderful four-day residential visit to Paris, all of which you may have seen featured on our Instagram account.

I hope that you are able to enjoy some rest and valuable family time over the half-term break, and I look forward to another exciting and successful half term together when we return. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Madeleine Moran
Headteacher

Our new school Eco Code, designed by Blanka Adaszek on behalf of the Y9 Eco Committee.



Let's Grow

Veolia's Sustainability Team recently gave us help with our growing project by donating strawberry plants and planters to our Eco Garden Club. The planters are recycled from the football pitch at Wembley stadium! The Wembley pitch is a hybrid of 95% sand/grass and 5% plastic reinforcement. The old turf is taken off-site, where the grass biodegrades, and the plastic is separated from the sand.

Veolia staff also gave us compost made from household green waste.

One of the Veolia Team used to be a pupil at St Gregory's and he was excited and delighted to see how our Eco Garden has developed.

Eco Garden Club



Community Clean Up



On 17th March, St Gregory's Eco Committee students organised the annual community litter pick in Woodcock Park in support of Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean.

The St Gregory's team was joined by pupils from Uxendon Manor Primary School, Mount Stewart Junior School, Claremont High School and BrightStart Childcare, as well as adults from The Friends of Woodcock park, The Rotary Club of Northwick Park, Infinity Property Solutions, local residents and Councillors.

In one hour, the community litter picking team collected almost 30 sacks of rubbish!

St Gregory's Eco Committee would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our Great British Spring Clean event.



Charity Plant Sale

The Eco Garden Club raised almost £160 for Whale and Dolphin Conservation by selling plants we had grown from seed. We grew tomatoes, chillies, onions, aubergines, cauliflowers, leeks, coriander, basil and cosmos. Thank you to everyone who supported us. We hope you have lots of growing success.

Eco Garden Club

Medical Sciences Trip

Our Year 12 BTEC Medical students had the chance to visit the Laboratory of Medical Sciences, which is a biomedical research facility focusing on many different medical science fields including: cancer research, muscle regeneration, drug transport and synthetic biology. Students were introduced to current research, including the application of a new drug to help prevent muscle degeneration for muscular disorders.

Ms Smart, Science Teacher

"The part I enjoyed the most was the plant research, especially the work involving glowing plants which they achieved by adding genes from separate organisms (fungi) into plants, such as the gene that causes the organism to produce its own light and glow in the dark. This demonstrated a unique way for scientists to study how plants and cells function and respond to their environment"

Biniam Zerai, Y12



"The researcher explained how muscle cells naturally elongate and connect together to form longer fibres and how, in the lab, they make them stressed before drug testing in order to see if the drug will help improve or repair the cells."

Samayyah Dualeh Y12

Making Molecules, Making Magic



Perfume is 'poetry in memory'. In Science Club, young scientists performed distillation in the laboratory and created 'magic molecules'. They followed in the footsteps of Perfumer Ernest Beaux, who created Chanel No. 5 perfume. Ernest Beaux made a fragrant bouquet of 80 organic chemicals including jasmine, sandalwood, rose and vanilla. These organic chemicals are obtained using distillation to extract the fragrant oils from the fresh or dried flowers. Distillation is the physical process of separation. Students turned a complex mixture of volatile compounds into pure, concentrated essential oil in the school laboratory

Dr Rathod, Science Teacher.

Science Week: Space Talk

During British Science week we listened to a talk by Helen Sharman, the first British Astronaut to go to the International Space Station (ISS). We learnt some amazing facts from Helen's experiences on the ISS, such as:

- Water from urine is electrolysed to make oxygen and hydrogen. Faeces are dehydrated and expelled from the ISS.
- Small animals like fish have previously been on the ISS. They grow plants in microgravity, too.
- Helen had 18 months of training in Kazakhstan for the MIR space station 1991. ARTEMIS II astronauts have been training a lot longer as their mission ultimately is to go to Mars.
- It takes 8.5 minutes to reach the ISS from Kazakhstan.

Helen's talk was fascinating, making us want to learn more about the ISS and Artemis II.

Class 8S2 & Dr Rathod

Community Planting Project



St Gregory's Eco Committee pupils successfully applied for funding from the Brent Environment Team to renovate an overgrown flower bed close to the school entrance. Pupils brought the community together by working in partnership with the Friends of Woodcock Park, Brent Parks Department and Brent Parks contractors, Krinkels. *Mrs Hovey, Head of Eco Schools Sustainability*

Purple Polio

Our raffle, in support of Rotary's campaign to eradicate Polio from the world, raised £135. This will be tripled by the Melinda Gates Foundation, taking the total to £406, which will be enough to vaccinate 1624 children against this crippling disease. The raffle prize was a cute teddy donated by The Rotary Club of Northwick Park.

St Gregory's Eco Committee

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 St Greg's Pantry, or if you wish to donate, please contact Mrs Hovey on ghovey@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk or your child's Head of Year.



No Nuts Please

We have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies. Please could I remind you that our school has a "No Nuts Policy"

Mrs Camangon, Welfare Officer



Uniform Donations

Donations of blazers, ties and PE kit in good condition are much needed to help kit out our new Y7 intake after their induction day later this term. Donations will be gratefully received by the School Office. All proceeds from the Upcycled Uniform Shop go towards keeping St Greg's Pantry well stocked.



Eco Active Week Starts 8th June

Cycling Skills Competition, sponsored by Medbike: Sign up via the Google Form sent to parents/carers - places limited.

Walk to school week: Take part, win prizes.

Golden Lock: Cycle to school and you could win some great cycling prizes.

