St Gregory's Catholic Science College Newsletter

Christmas 2025



From the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding autumn term, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. It has been a term filled with learning, challenge and growth, and I am immensely proud of all that our school community has accomplished together.

The last few months have seen students engaging enthusiastically in a wide range of enriching experiences beyond the classroom. Year 9 students enjoyed an unforgettable residential visit to the Newlands Activity Centre in the Lake District. From ghyll scrambling and high ropes to mountain hiking, archery and raft building, students showed determination, resilience and teamwork. Alongside the excitement and laughter, the trip helped develop confidence, independence and strong relationships, creating memories that will stay with them for years to come.

Year 7 students took part in a powerful Deeper Learning Day through "Your Life, You Choose". With contributions from the London Ambulance Service, magistrates, Pathways, Inclusion, Stop Hate UK and the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Charity, students explored how the choices they make can have long-term consequences. They listened thoughtfully, engaged with maturity and reflected on how to make positive decisions for their futures. Our visitors commented very positively on the students' behaviour and engagement throughout the day.

Supporting students to develop real-world skills has also been a key focus. Years 9 and 10 participated in Barclays Finance Workshops, gaining important knowledge around money management and exploring possible career pathways. A smaller group received additional support focused on preparing for life beyond school. Barclays representatives were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm, confidence and maturity shown by our students.

Year 8 students were fortunate to receive hands-on CPR training from London Lifesavers. This practical experience equipped students with vital life-saving skills and encouraged them to think about how they might help others in times of need. Hearing about the paramedics' own career journeys also inspired curiosity and ambition among our students.

Opportunities for reflection and personal development have remained an important part of school life this term. Years 7 and 8 took part in spiritual retreats led by Mr Coughlan, offering students space to reflect on their experiences, values and wellbeing. In addition, our whole school community came together for Christmas liturgies and Mass, and many students and staff took part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr Brendan.

Following last summer's record-breaking GCSE and Key Stage 5 results, our new Year 11 and Sixth Form cohorts have shown exceptional commitment and determination. Students have embraced the increased demands of exam courses with maturity, attending Saturday classes, after-school intervention sessions and revision workshops with enthusiasm. Their positive attitude and strong work ethic have already been reflected in encouraging mock examination results.

We are also very proud of the Year 9 and 10 students involved in the Called to Action project. Working alongside organisations such as the St Vincent de Paul Society and Pax Christi, students explored themes of social responsibility, justice and service. Their visit to the SVP centre in Brixton and collaboration with another school encouraged meaningful discussion and showed how young people can play an active role in supporting their community.

As we move into the Christmas break, I would like to thank our staff for their dedication and commitment, and our families for your continued encouragement and support. Christmas is a time of hope, generosity and togetherness, and I hope the coming weeks bring rest, happiness and peace to you and your loved ones.

I would like to also take this opportunity to say good luck to Mr Dannie and Mrs Vlasakova who are leaving the school at the end of term. We are pleased to welcome Ms Bharadawa in January.

On behalf of everyone at St Gregory's, I wish you a safe, restful and joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Madeleine Moran





Advent Giving

Each year, St Gregory's is proud to support the Catholic Children's Society in collecting gifts to be distributed to children within the Diocese of Westminster who are in need, and might not otherwise receive gifts this Christmas.
Every year we ask Year 7 to donate just one gift each to this cause, and again this year they certainly did not disappoint! For a third year in a row, we think we have had the most donations ever. These donations are going to make a huge difference to some of the most in need children and families in our local area this Christmas.
Our sincerest thanks to every Year 7 student and parent who donated so generously to this wonderful cause!
Wishing you a blessed Christmas.

Mrs V Briody & Miss A McGrath, R.E. dept



Hampers

26 St. Gregory's families have received Christmas food hampers this year. The majority of these hampers have been donated by staff and the rest have been donated by St Luke's Parish Church, Pinner.

Mrs Hovey, Science College Project Manager

We would like thank all our donors:

Horohoe Construction
£850 of vouchers for our families in need
Caritas Food Vouchers
for families in need
St Luke's Parish
food hamper donations
O'Kane's Irish Foods
Regular donations to St Greg's Pantry and refreshments for our Christmas Concert to raise money for St Greg's Pantry



Celebrating Success and Talent

This term has been exceptional for our Key Stage 5 mathematicians, who have shown great skill, enthusiasm, and resilience. From success in national competitions to collaborative challenges, their achievements have been outstanding.

Ms Muktari KS5 Co-ordinator

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Students achieved 2 Gold, 6 Silver and 26 Bronze awards—an impressive result.
Special congratulations to Reuben Almeida, Luiz Moraes-Neto, and Daniel Kosek, who gained Silver and were named Best in Year.
Further praise to Shewan De Silva and Mateusz Kazrat for their Gold awards. Shewan was Best in School and earned Silver in the Andrew Jobbings Kangaroo, which both boys qualified for.

Ms Muktari KS5 Co-ordinator



MOG & MCG Competitions

16 female mathematicians took part, showing strong confidence and problem-solving ability.
Congratulations to:

- Calista Fernandes – Merit
- Olivia Peeris – Merit
- Marta Ilkiv – Distinction

Ms Muktari KS5 Co-ordinator

Ritangle Competition

Three student groups are competing in Ritangle, a national challenge requiring teamwork and advanced reasoning. We wish them continued success.

Ms Muktari KS5 Co-ordinator

Sixth Form Students explore NHS Apprenticeships



Our Sixth Form students recently visited Great Ormond Street Hospital to explore the wide range of apprenticeship pathways available to young adults. With over 350 different roles and more than 25,000 apprenticeships offered across the NHS, students discovered how their current Level 3 studies can lead directly into meaningful, well-paid career routes — all without the financial pressures of university.

Students enjoyed speaking to staff across a variety of departments, including the inspiring Play Specialists, whose work supports young patients through treatment. The visit left students excited and motivated, recognising that rewarding NHS careers are available right here in London, their home city.

Dr Rathod, Science Teacher

Year 9 Newlands Trip

Year 9 had an unforgettable adventure at the Newlands Activity Centre in the breathtaking Lake District. From tackling thrilling ghyll scrambling and conquering the high ropes to mountain hiking, archery and raft building, students threw themselves into every challenge with energy and determination. Filled with laughter, teamwork and plenty of muddy memories, this action-packed trip was the perfect blend of excitement, resilience and pure fun!

Miss Curley, Assistant Headteacher









Jubilee Time Capsule





As KS3's final activity for the Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', all KS3 RE classes have written letters to the future students of St Gregory's based on this year's theme. These letters will be opened during the next Jubilee Year in 2050.

A selection of students also took part in a mini-pilgrimage around the school, pausing at stations to reflect and pray. They concluded the experience by burying our Jubilee Time Capsule, creating a meaningful reminder of this special year.

Miss Prindiville, R.E. Teacher

Prize Night

It was wonderful to host Prize Night again at the Kadwa Patidar Centre in Harrow on Thursday 27th November. Throughout the evening we enjoyed high quality musical performances from Agustin Sasikumar, Blessing Fuka, Joel Agyemang and our School Choir and Year 7/8 Worship Choir.

Our Guest of Honour was Dr. Mary Mihovilović, Associate Professor and Subject Lead for Postgraduate Education Programmes at St Mary's University. Dr. Mihovilović presented our pupils with their trophies, GCSE and A Level certificates before an audience of over 600 people including parents, staff, governors and special guests of the school. Dr. Mihovilović also gave an inspirational speech, which was appreciated by everyone present.

This was a wonderful evening and a fitting tribute to our students for all their hard work.

Miss Woulfe, Assistant Headteacher











Year 7 Deeper Learning Day

Year 7 immersed themselves in a powerful Deeper Learning Day through Brent's "Your Life, You Choose" workshops, featuring inspiring visitors from the London Ambulance Service, magistrates, Pathways, Inclusion, Stop Hate UK and the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Charity. Students explored the importance of positive life choices and the real-life consequences of poor decisions, leaving with valuable insights for the future. The day was a huge success, with students praising the experience and guests commending their outstanding behaviour and engagement.

Miss Curley, Assistant Headteacher



Year 9 & Year 10 Barclays Finance Workshops

Students in Years 9 and 10 took part in engaging Barclays Finance Workshops, gaining essential knowledge in financial literacy and exploring exciting career pathways in Finance. A select group of 30 students also received focused support on managing money and preparing for life after school. Barclays representatives were incredibly impressed with the enthusiasm, maturity and participation shown throughout the sessions.

Miss Boyle, Careers



Y8 London Lifesavers CPR Training

Year 8 students were privileged to receive hands-on, 1:1 CPR training from the fantastic team at London Lifesavers. This invaluable life skill could one day make the difference between life and death, and students relished the opportunity to practise on the training dummies. They were also inspired by hearing about the paramedics' exciting career journeys, sparking curiosity and ambition for their own futures.

Miss Curley, Assistant Headteacher



Year 7 and 8 Spiritual Retreats

Years 7 and 8 were guided through meaningful spiritual retreats led by the warmly welcomed Mr Coughlan on his return to St Gregory's. These reflective sessions offered students a chance to engage in deep prayer, explore personal challenges and discover how turning to God can be a source of comfort and strength. A truly peaceful and enriching experience for all involved.

Miss Curley, Assistant Headteacher

Christmas Liturgies and Sacrament of Reconciliation



In preparation for the festive season, all year groups attended a special Mass, creating a beautiful opportunity for reflection and unity within our school community. Students and staff were also invited to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, led by Fr Brendan, offering a moment of spiritual renewal and forgiveness as we journey towards Christmas.

Miss Curley, Assistant Teacher

Y9 & Y10 Called to Action Project

A dedicated group of students from Years 9 and 10 have begun an inspiring project putting Catholic Social Teaching into action, working alongside St Vincent de Paul, Pax Christi and St Columban's. Visiting the SVP centre in Brixton and collaborating with another school, students explored ways to promote peace and justice within our community.

Thought-provoking discussions and meaningful collaboration made for a truly memorable and impactful experience!

Miss Curley, Assistant Headteacher



Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity

This Advent, students in Years 8–13 have put our Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity into action by supporting our school community. Using the Caritas Advent Calendar, each form group created food parcels for St Greg's Pantry, with pupils generously bringing in the items needed for their contributions. The response this year was outstanding, and we are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity shown by our pupils.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our entire school community for supporting this project, as well as to the Sixth Form prefects, Mr. Bynoth, and Mrs. Hovey's Sixth Form Eco Group for their fantastic work collecting and organising all the donations.

Mrs Cooney and Mrs Briody, R.E. dept





Purple 4 Polio



On 12th November, pupils from St Gregory's Catholic Science College and Uxendon Manor Primary School joined forces to plant 4000 crocus corms on a roundabout on Regal Way on behalf of the Rotary Club of Northwick Park.

The crocuses will create a striking carpet of purple in the spring, raising awareness for the Rotary's campaign to end polio across the world. At the same time, the crocuses will provide food for pollinating insects during one of the bleakest months of the year.

Photo: Helen Antoniou from the Rotary Club of Northwick Park with children from Uxendon Manor Primary School and St Gregory's 6th Form Eco Club on the Regal Way roundabout

Mrs Hovey, Science College Project Manager

A Thriving Term in Our Library

Our school library thrived throughout this term, with a wide range of new books added to our collection, giving students plenty of exciting choices for reading and research. As part of the curriculum, our regular reading lessons encouraged students to explore the library, sign out books, and strengthen their reading habits—something we look forward to continuing as the year progresses.

From 11–13 November, the library buzzed with energy during our Book Fair, which welcomed students to explore a vibrant selection of newly launched titles. Alongside browsing, students took part in lively quizzes that celebrated their love of reading, with winners receiving some wonderful prizes. We also introduced a new reading corner, providing a warm and inviting space for students to relax with a book—an area that will continue to support quiet reading throughout the year.

With enthusiastic participation from students and so many fresh titles added to our shelves, the library has enjoyed a fantastic start to the year. We are excited to continue building on this momentum and to see our young readers discover even more favourites in the terms ahead.

Ms S de Ponte, English Teacher



P.E. News









It's been a busy and exciting term for the P.E. Department, with plenty going on both inside and outside school. We kicked things off with a brilliant start to the year as pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 headed to the Kenton Rec Park Run on a fresh Sunday morning. It was great to see so many pupils getting involved and representing the school in the local community.

This term also included two fantastic trips to Wembley Stadium. The first was the official stadium tour, which gave pupils a behind the scenes look at one of the world's most famous sporting venues. The second trip was a real highlight - we were lucky enough to secure 40 tickets to watch the England Men's International game against Serbia.

Our school teams have continued to impress too. The Year 9 boys' football team have battled their way through to the third stage of the English Schools competition, which is a huge achievement. Unfortunately they were knocked out of the competition by Haberdashers Boys School. On top of that, our Year 8 netball team were crowned borough champions, showing brilliant teamwork and determination throughout the tournament. The Under-13 girls' football team also had an impressive run, reaching the quarter-finals of the QPR Tournament. They were narrowly knocked out after a tense penalty shootout. Needless to say, there were a few tears along the way, but also plenty of pride in what they had achieved.

In addition to the above achievements a large number of pupils made a visible stand for the 'Show Racism the Red Card' campaign, wearing an item of red for the day and helping to raise awareness by buying over 350 'Wear Red' badges across the school. The commitment of all students, especially our P.E. Ambassadors made a real impact and showed great maturity towards the cause.

Overall, it's been a fantastic term full of hard work and enthusiasm. We're looking forward to building on this next term, with even more opportunities and achievements to celebrate.

Miss Emery, Head of Physical Education

Poetry Day

On the 3rd of October, to celebrate both National Poetry Day and Black History Month, we were thrilled to welcome award-winning poet and performer Karl Nova to our school. Karl led exciting assemblies where he performed some of his amazing poetry and shared stories about his journey as a writer and performer.

He also shared stories from his life growing up in both London and Nigeria. Karl described how his life experiences and discovery of rap led him to express himself through poetry, and argued that it can "stimulate your mind and feed your imagination".

Ms S de Ponte, English Teacher



Year 10 Speak Out

The Speak Out workshop was a lot of fun because we completed games and challenges. We each wrote a speech about a topic that was very important to us. We also learnt many useful public speaking skills.

Senon Crasta 10H

Former Pupil (Medic) Visit

I found it inspiring to speak with a former student who once sat in the same classrooms as us. It made our goals feel more real and helped us understand both the challenges and rewards of a future in Medicine. I learnt a lot about the medical school application process, especially the value of work experience for my personal statement. Hearing the journey of someone who started where I am now was refreshing and insightful.

Carol Braganza, 6WOC

Ceili (Kay-Lee) Our Therapy Dog



Each morning in our Respite provision, students are offered a calm and supportive start to the day. Ceili, our therapy dog, plays a key part in this. Her gentle presence helps students settle, lower stress levels and feel ready for learning. Whether a pupil needs quiet time, a confidence boost or simply a friendly greeting, Ceili provides a comforting anchor that supports positive mental health across the school community.

Mr Sloan, Assistant Headteacher

Year 7 and 8 Students visit Middlesex University for STEM Christmas Lecture

During the lecture Dr David Westley asked us if we thought that AI or humans are smarter or are they equal. In summary Dr David Westley explained how biological and artificial systems sense, learn and imagine comparing human and machine intelligence. We had the opportunity to ask questions and participated in activities including meeting a robot.

Miusa Vaz 7L

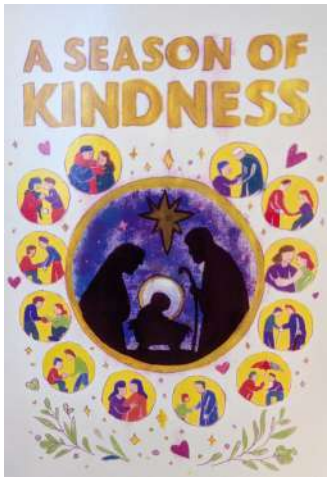








Headteachers' Awards



Winning Entry

Headteachers Christmas Card Competition Winners

Marushka Rodrigues - 1st Place
Ayona Fernandes - 2nd Place
Simona Dias - 3rd Place
Pleffa Fernandes - 4th Place

Well done!

Headteachers Christmas Card Competition Highly Commended

Amber Cassidy
Beverley D'Costa
Bryce Fernandes
Greshon Fernandes
Lena Gigon
Karis Ngwoke
Cataleya Petrencu
Julia Prasad
Jovial Prins
Amelie Smart
Thevin Wickramarachchi

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.
Thanks to your generosity this Advent, St Greg's Pantry shelves have been brimming over with festive treats in addition to every day essentials. Your kindness is very much appreciated by all who manage and utilise St Greg's Pantry. Thank you!

Mrs Hovey, Science College Project Manager



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"

Mrs Camangon, Medical Welfare Officer



Drop the Ride for Park and Stride

St Gregory's Travel Ambassadors encourage families who travel by car to park a 10-minute walk from school. This reduces congestion and air pollution, improves road safety, and the short walk helps stimulate the brain at the start and end of the day.
Parents/Carers are reminded not to block driveways or park illegally, to drive considerately and to switch off engines while waiting.
Thank you for your cooperation.
St Gregory's Y8 Travel Ambassadors

E-Safety

Platforms such as TikTok and Instagram make it easy for children to chat with people they have never met, which is why regular conversations at home matter. Remind your child to keep personal details private, to be careful about sharing photos and to speak to a trusted adult if an online contact seems unusual. Parents can find clear guidance on internetmatters.org. If you have any concerns, please contact the school's E-Safety Officer, Mr Sloan.

We wish you a Happy Christmas

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