

# THE NET

'One Family, Inspired to Learn'



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Thursday 22nd December**

Second half term ends-1pm finish

**Monday 9th January**

First half of Spring term begins

**Monday 16th January**

Start of the Y9 Exams

**Tuesday 17th January**

KS3- Flu vaccinations

**Thursday 19th January**

Year 11 Mock results day

**Friday 17th February**

First half of Spring term ends

**Monday 27th February**

Second half of Spring term starts

## STAFFING

### Farewell to:

**Miss H Fleming** - Food Preparation and Nutrition Teacher

### Welcome to:

**Mrs M Long** - Kitchen Manager

**Mrs F Ashraf** - Attendance Manager

**Mrs J Roberts** - Positive behaviour Champion

**Mrs J Beswick** - Food Preparation and Nutrition Teacher

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This half term has been epitomised by the power of St. Gregory's pupils to provide outstanding service to our local community and beyond. There have been countless examples of our young people showing that they contribute much more than quality academic work to school life by leaving their positive footprint everywhere they go.

It was a pleasure to welcome back our class of 2022 in November to help them celebrate their record breaking achievements and to present them with their certificates and awards. Former pupil Matthew Pennington returned to the school to provide an inspirational speech.

Our remembrance services were poignant and brought our whole school together to remember the sacrifice and tragedy of war, particularly apparent in current times in Ukraine.

Our pupils reached out to the local community by paying visits to Warrington hospital, the local parishes, primary schools and family centres, warming the lives of many. Our charity campaigns have shown how selfless our

pupils are.

Our sports teams continue to shine and in the classroom pupils have been enjoying updated schemes of learning and making good progress in their work.

As an outward facing school, we have opened our doors and welcomed many visitors, for a multitude of activities. When visitors leave our school, their parting words are always similar, "what outstanding young people" "what great staff you have" and "what a positive, wonderful ethos".

As the proud head teacher, I couldn't agree more with our visitors. I would like to wish all connected with our school community a very restful and holy Christmas holiday break. Let us look to 2023 with optimism of what we can achieve as One Family, Inspired to Learn.



**Mr McGlinchey**  
Head Teacher

## CLASS OF 2022

It was lovely to see the class of 2022 in November and celebrate their GCSE achievements. A big thank you to Matthew Pennington, one of our former pupils, who gave an inspiring and motivational speech.



## WELCOME MASS

In October, we held a special Mass with Fr. Raymond, welcoming all of our new Y7's and their families to St. Gregory's.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE





## CHAPLAINCY NEWS

### Y7 Retreats -

We took a group of Y7's over 4 days to Lowe House, St Helens. They spent the day working with Animate on the theme of 'One Family, Inspired to Learn'. All of the students worked



really well in teams and individually as they built stronger relationships with their form and form tutor.

impressed with our lovely singing, they have invited us back!



### Coffee, Cake and Carols -

St. Gregory's students have worked closely alongside parishioners from St Joseph's, Penketh, to run a Coffee, Cake and Carols afternoon on Thursday 15th December. The choir attended and provided the local guests with some live music and also our Y7 & 8 chaplaincy team served coffee and cake.

### Light Up a Life -

A select group of students attended the Light Up A Life Service in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on Friday 16th December. This is an event we attend every year and is set up by the charity Nugent Care. We were fortunate enough to have three Y8 students read during the service.

### Toy Appeal -

Over the past few weeks, we have worked hard promoting a toy appeal for local charity OLLY. The charity supports children who have been bereaved. Thank you to all who were able to donate.

### Singing at Warrington Hospital -

On Wednesday 7th December, Mrs Whitlow, Miss Dolphin and Miss Krusinskyte took a group of pupils to Warrington General Hospital, to provide music to the visitors there. This was to raise funds for the Children's ward within the hospital. The staff at the hospital were so



### SJFC Fundraising -

We have also been busy raising funds for a Warrington charity, St. Joseph's Family Centre. Miss Dolphin and Miss Heaton have been giving students and staff the opportunity to buy candy canes to send to their friends. We have managed to raise a total amount of £200.



Mrs S Whitlow

## INTERFAITH LEARNING AND FUN

This half term our Key Stage 3 pupils had special lessons to promote Interfaith Week 2022. We studied key elements of Sikhism including the 5K's and the Ten Gurus. We also studied Buddhism and we learned about Siddhartha Gotama and the importance of symbols such as the lotus flower and the eight spoked wheel. Pupils then formed teams and took part in our annual Interfaith Quiz on Sikhism, Buddhism and the also the Christian faith which is the core of our school. The winners were two Year 9 pupils Isabella and Natasha who both won Amazon vouchers to spend on a treat of their choice. Well done girls. We are so proud of you and all the pupils who participated this year.

The RE Team



## WEAR IT PINK

Thank you to everyone that donated to our 'Wear it Pink' day for the Breast Cancer Now, Research & Care Charity.

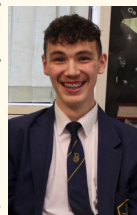
**We raised an amazing £606.51!**



## THE WARRINGTON WOLVES FOUNDATION

Interviewed and written by Brannagh Y10 & Emma Y10, and photographed by Mason Y10.

The St. Gregory's Media Team interviewed Joel Y10 who volunteers with the Warrington Wolves Foundation and found out about all the great things they do. The Warrington Wolves Foundation is a charity that enables young people with learning difficulties to do sport. We asked Joel what exactly inspired him to work with the Foundation. Joel answered that he was inspired



because he wanted to help people with learning difficulties make their dreams come true through sport. Joel informed us that in the past the Warrington Wolves Foundation has done a 'Lantern Walk' recently and went to Newcastle in August for Rugby activities. Joel plans on working with The Warrington Wolves Foundation as it's a good opportunity to meet new people. Joel hopes that the Foundation will continue their work, putting smiles on the faces of everyone they help.



## MEET THE TEACHER

### Miss Lavin



Interviewed by Jack Y11 and photographed by Mark Y10

### What is your favourite part about being a teacher?

"Working with young people, and seeing when they understand and develop new knowledge which they can then apply into the real world."

### What did you do before becoming a teacher?

"I was in sales. I was sales manager for Pampers nappies and then later for Bulmers Cider."

### Which is your favourite job?

"Teaching! It is the best decision I have ever made."

### What did you want to be growing up?

"I always thought I would go into something to do with economics. I completed an Economics GCSE, A-level and half of my degree was in economics. I found it really interesting but I realised I wasn't really an office based person, I like to be up and moving around."

### What did you study in University?

"Business and Management. I majored in International Economics."



## LITERACY NEWS

### Word of the Week

Remorse	Absence
Impropriety	Reprimand
Fictitious	Transparent
Traditional	



their heels. In addition to rewarding those pupils with outstanding word counts we have introduced the 'Endeavour award for

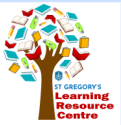
Accelerated Reader' which will be awarded by each English teacher for those pupils who work consistently well during their A.R lessons and have 100% pass rate on their quizzes.



### Accelerated Reader

Our Y7 and Y8 Accelerated Readers continue to go from strength to strength. We now have 20 word millionaires with many more hot on

## LRC NEWS



This term began with Science Fiction as the focus for our book display and Y8 Literacy task.



### Cheshire Book Awards

With the launch of the Cheshire Book award nominations one of our Reading Groups have taken on the challenge to read all 10 books in preparation for the final announcement of the winning book in May 2023 when hopefully we will travel to the final to meet the winning author.



### Christmas in the LRC

Christmas has arrived in the LRC with festive displays, decorations and the return of our Christmas Fair, with money raised going to St. Joseph's family centre. Our celebrations included an elf hunt and our Advent calendar filled with fantastic Christmas book recommendations from staff at St. Gregory's.



Mrs Huckerby



## MEET THE TEACHER Mr McGlinchey



**What inspired you to become a head teacher?**

"I left university with an IT Computing Degree from Manchester University and a good friend of mine, who

was training to become a teacher, always used to tell me how much he enjoyed his work. He inspired me to start my teaching journey. I also feel that teaching is a job where I could give something back and see people progress and develop. Whether it be a teacher developing their skills or students maturing and growing their knowledge."

**Did you always want to be a Head Teacher at a secondary school?**

"Yes, definitely! When I first started training, I always aspired to one day become a Head Teacher."

**Do you teach any school subjects?**

"I have a Computing degree so IT is the main subject that I teach. But when I first came to St. Gregory's I also taught RE to the Y7's."

**What message do you want to pass on to your pupils?**

"My main message is that the students of St. Gregory's should always believe that they can achieve whatever they want to achieve. If they focus on their goal, they are prepared to fail and bounce back, keep going for what they want, they can succeed."

**What makes St. Gregory's different to other schools?**

"We have a wonderful ethos in our school that goes beyond normal everyday values. We have our Catholic ethos that is 'One Family, Inspired to Learn' and even though we are a big school, it always feels like we are a close family. Students who have now left the school always love to come back and that tells me everything I need to know, especially when they say how much they miss St. Gregory's."

**If you had one superpower, what would it be and why?**

"To be able to help or heal people when they are unwell. I think that would be an amazing superpower."

## POETRY BY ANONYMOUS

Poetry is the thing that makes me, me.

The one thing that quiets the storm in my mind.

And the one thing I can always rely on.

It makes me feel whole.

Bringing a peace I couldn't describe,

No matter how hard I might cry.

On the days I feel most alone,

It is always there.

There to stop the flood,

The flood of my thoughts,

My feelings.

It pulls the plug.

Everything gushes out on the page.

Poetry has saved me,

In more ways than one.

**Would you like your child to have access to books 24/7?**



Try our e-platform

**How do I access it?**

Click [here](#) or login to RM Unify and click on the eplatform tile from the launch pad.

**How do I read them?**

On a computer, laptop, or through the free App for tablets or smartphones.

**To download the App**

= Search "eplatform" in the App store and download.

= Search for St. Gregory's Catholic High School library.

= Click the 3 little lines in the top left corner and select sign in. Enter the username and password

= Username: Student email

= Password: password (once signed in change the password)

Once downloaded the book can be read on all devices without the need for internet connection and will be automatically returned in two weeks.

**Any Problems?** Please contact [Mrs Huckerby](#)

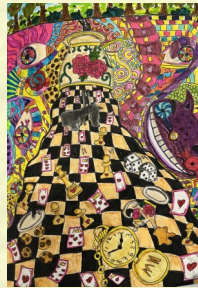
## ART DEPARTMENT



Year 7 have produced some fabulous symmetrical compositions using natural forms and autumnal colours.



Year 9 have produced some creative and imaginative outcomes this term as they created their 'Alice in Surreal-land' pieces combining Surrealism and Alice in Wonderland together.



Mrs S Wynn

## BACK OF THE NET

### Football

**Year 9 Boys** – Well done to our Y9 football team. All of the players show fantastic sportsmanship and were a credit to the school when winning against Bridgewater High School and Sir Thomas Boteler in November.



**Year 8 Boys** - Well done to our Y8 football team for their excellent performances against Bridgewater High School and Cardinal Newman. Fantastic performances from all of the players who represented the school in an exemplary way.

**Year 7 Boys**- Well done to our Y7 football team, keeping their winning streak going though November! Well done team!



**U14's Girls** - Well done to all of our St. Gregory's pupils that played in the U14's Warrington Schools Tournament!

**Year 7 Girls** – Our Y7 football team braved the elements at their recent tournament winning 3 games.



### Netball

**Year 8** - Our Y8 netball team enjoyed an amazing win against Cardinal Newman. Well done !



Mr Dean

## GCSEPod



At the time of writing, nearly 2000 pods have been viewed by pupils since the start of this academic year.

Jenith J remains the top podder having watched the most pods over the last term, Lewis R and Shimroon Y are closely behind. There have been nearly 4000 questions answered on Check and Challenge, Alfie W currently leads the way with Maya K and Joel B fighting for the leaders spot. Well done to every pupil who has used GCSEPod this year.

A reminder that you can sign up by visiting the GCSEPod.com website by using your school username e.g. Y20djones and the word 'password' as your password.

Remember to keep checking ClassCharts for details of GCSEPod competitions. There are prizes for watching the most pods and answering the highest number of questions on Check and Challenge. Enjoy your Christmas break, why not put a GCSEPod playlist on whilst you eat your Christmas dinner!  
Mr Jones

## SAFEGUARDING

**DSL**  
Mrs McKenna (Deputy Head Teacher)

Safeguarding Advice: 01925 444140

Social Work Teams: 01925 446257

**Safeguarding Governor**  
Mr Roger Harrison.

Cheshire Constabulary: 101

ChildLine: 0800 1111

Out of Hours: 01925 443322



# SAFEGUARDING

## Household Support Fund - Winter 2022

The Household Support Fund is the government funding to support vulnerable families with food costs and utility bills. The Government have announced an extension to the Household Support Fund, to cover the period from the 1 October 2022 to the 31 March 2023.

The Household Support Fund is aimed at supporting the most in need in our community across 3 specific sectors of society;

1. Parents with children
2. Those individuals on the lowest of incomes
3. Pensioners within our community

In line with the Government's advice, the eligibility for Warrington's Household Support Fund will be;

- Parents whose children are in receipt of free school meals and are claiming a qualifying benefit
- Individuals in receipt of Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit (in the current financial year)

Pensioners in receipt of either;

- Pension Credit (Savings Credit or Guarantee Credit)
- Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit

If you have any questions please contact

[householdsupportfund@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:householdsupportfund@warrington.gov.uk)

If you wish to apply for an award, please follow the link and complete the application form. [Household Support Fund | warrington.gov.uk](#)

## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) over Christmas

School holidays can be a difficult time for families with the extra cost of food and childcare. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) is available for all children across Warrington who are eligible for free school meals. There are different HAF provision across Warrington and you can book you child/children on to these provisions directly with a HAF provider or on the booking system as follows. Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/haf>

If you'd like to know more about the HAF programme, please email [HAF@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@warrington.gov.uk), visit the [Holiday Activities and Food programme](#) on

GOV.UK or search #HAF2022



## Staying Safe Online

Children have greater access to the internet during the holiday period, and whilst we are all aware of the benefits of the online world, we are also conscious that there are risks for children. As a school we have signed up to National Online Safety, which provides a wealth of information from guides, webinars, courses, and many more. If you have not done so already, please follow the link and sign up as a parent, once you have done this you will be able to download the app. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

In addition to this there are many other sites that provides information and support. CEOP: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> SWGfl: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

Please do take the time to talk to your child about staying safe online.



## Film and PEGI Ratings

All films and games have age ratings which are used to ensure that entertainment content is clearly labelled with a minimum age recommendation based on the content they have. These age ratings provide guidance to consumers, parents in particular, to help them decide whether or not to buy a particular product for a child.

When it comes to games, many are suitable for players of all ages, whilst others are only suitable for older children and young teenagers. A specific portion of games on the market contains content that is only appropriate for an adult audience. The PEGI rating considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. A PEGI 3 game will not contain any inappropriate content, but can sometimes be too difficult to master for younger children.

Reversely, there are PEGI 18 games that are very easy to play, yet they contain elements that make them inappropriate for a younger audience. It is an important part of safeguarding to ensure that a child is not exposed to content that is not appropriate for their age. For further information please follow the link [PEGI age ratings | Pegi Public Site](#)

## Mental Health & Support

Whilst many of us look forward to the

Christmas holiday, it can prove a challenging time. If you or someone you know is struggling or in need of support the following websites may be helpful:

MIND: <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

Samaritans: <https://www.samaritans.org/>

Domestic Violence – How to get help: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>

Refuge: <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

Liverpool CAMHS: <https://www.liverpoolcamhs.com/>

In addition to this, the Safeguarding page of our website information and links to other services which you may find useful <https://www.stgregoryshigh.com/pastoral/safeguarding>

## The Dangers of Frozen Water



Frozen water may look solid from the surface, but it will not hold your weight.

If you fall though the ice;

- Keep calm and call for help.
- If no help is available, spread your arms across the surface of the ice
- If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs and slide onto the ice.
- Lie flat and try to pull yourself to the bank
- If the ice is very thin, break it in front of you
- If you cannot climb out, wait for help, keeping as still as possible
- Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together.
- Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately

If you see someone fall into ice;

- If you see someone has fallen into cold water DO NOT attempt to rescue them, call 999 and reassure them that help is on the way
- If someone is in water shout to them to remain still to conserve energy - DO NOT move around
- If there is rope or a long branch throw that to them for them to hold on to
- If you can't find anything slide them a bottle or football that they can hold onto as a float

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas. Mrs McKenna