

THE NET

'One Family, Inspired to Learn'



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Friday 17th February**
First half of Spring term ends
- Friday 17th February**
Careers Event in school
- Monday 27th February**
Second half of Spring term starts
- Thursday 9th March**
Year 7 Engage Evening
- Monday 13th March**
Parenting Support Session After School
- Thursday 23rd March**
Year 8 Engage Evening
- Thursday 6th April**
Second half of Spring term ends
- Monday 24th April**
First day of Summer term

STAFFING

Farewell to:
Mrs Dolphin - Primary Liaison and Off-Site Provision

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This half term marks the halfway point of the academic year and we move slowly from winter into spring and a feeling of regeneration and new opportunity.

Whilst only a short half term of 30 days, each one is action packed and we have enjoyed many important events. For Year 9, it is a critical few weeks of researching and deciding on options for their GCSE years. Many events compliment this during the half term from employer visits, options evening and our careers fair which welcomes an extensive list of employers.

Year 11 have had their mock results day and enter the final strait to their GCSEs and whilst this will be a very busy period for them and the staff, they know that there are positive rewards and celebrations ahead when the work is done.

We have once again welcomed visitors into school to speak to pupils and listen to their views on bullying. Our visitor was blown away by the responses from our pupil panel and commented on their understanding and maturity

surrounding this issue.

At the end of this half term we will be saying farewell to the wonderful Mrs Dolphin who has served St Gregory's with outstanding commitment for 20 years. Whilst I, and all at the school will miss Mrs Dolphin, we are very proud that she will be going on to work with homeless people and continue to provide her great service in an equally important context. Mrs Dolphin will continue to be a friend to the school and work with us in future years on different projects.

This half term was also marked with the sad passing of our wonderful colleague and much loved friend, Lynne Rushton. Lynne was a member of our site team and worked at St Gregory's for 23 years. Lynne and her family will be very much in our prayers as we host a 'wear it red for Lynne' day on the 17th February.

I hope everyone has a restful half term break as we look forward to the next half term.



Mr McGlinchey
Head Teacher

LYNNE RUSHTON

Our school community was heartbroken to hear of the passing of Lynne Rushton, who was a valued member of the school's site staff for 23 years. Lynne was a much loved member of our school family. She always had a smile for pupils and staff alike and was considered a good friend by many of us. She will be missed. Our prayers are with her family. May she rest in peace.



LITERACY NEWS

Word of the Week

Avarice	Ominous
Congenial	Aggressive
Interrupt	Demeanour



Our current podium leaders are 7G4 in the lead with over 1,500 quizzes passed and 7G1 taking the lead for most words read, with over 16 million! 7G2

are close on their heels! Well done to all of our amazing readers!
Dr McCooley-Heap



Accelerated Reader

Since Christmas our Accelerated reader millionaire total has jumped to a total of 32 – fantastic!

LRC NEWS



Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day is coming!



Join in the celebrations for World book day this year by taking part in our activities. To take part in our popular Annual World Book Day quiz, you need to compile a team consisting of four students and one teacher. Collect an entry form from the LRC - get one soon as the places fill up quickly!

Book in a Jar- Or why not enter our 'Book in a Jar' competition? Fill a jar with clues to your favourite book. The best entry will win a prize! All students are welcome to come along and join in the fun!



Chinese New Year- Students celebrated Chinese New Year in the LRC with fun activities. Each pupil that visited the LRC also received a red envelope with a special treat inside.



Romance is in the Air- To celebrate Valentine's Day the LRC featured a romance themed book display and 'Blind date with a book'. Pupils who took part had to choose a book based on a short blurb. Those pupils who took the book out on loan were rewarded with a hot chocolate and reward points, and the excitement of exploring a new book!



Mrs Huckerby

BOOK REVIEW

The Explorer
By Katherine Rundell



I have given this book
3 Stars



Who are the main characters?

Fred, Con (Constantia), Lila & little Max

What is the storyline?

Fred, Con, Lila & Max's plane was going to Manaus when it crashed in the Amazon Rainforest. Now they're lost. They need to find water, shelter and food for survival. But was there someone before them?

How easy to get stuck into this book?

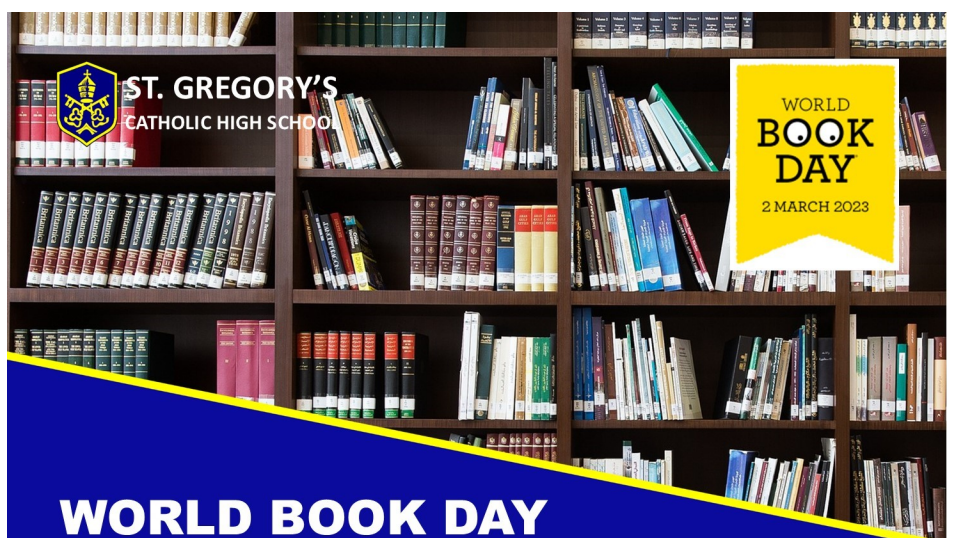
There were no 'hard' words in this book, it was a really 'easy' read.
Review written by Zoya Yr7

WHY I LOVE THE LRC



I recommend the LRC to all pupils to use as much as possible. If you need to do homework, you can use the computers and books to do any necessary research. Or do you have spare time where you would like to light up your imagination? Then come and choose one of the many great books, covering all genres that the LRC has to offer. You don't have to be just interested in books though, come along and play chess or draughts each day, or join in on 'Games Friday'. Other activities include reading clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays where all are welcome.

Written by a year 8 pupil



WORLD BOOK DAY BAKE SALE

THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

A REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS THAT THE LRC WILL BE HAVING A BAKE SALE AT BREAK TIME ON THE 2ND MARCH TO RAISE MONEY FOR BOOK AID INTERNATIONAL.

POSITIVE FOOTPRINTS

Anti-bullying Ambassadors



Two weeks ago, 9 pupils went on a trip to Winsford Academy for an Anti-bullying training event, organised by The Diana Award. The students learnt what bullying behaviour is, how to deal with it and how to support people affected by it. They were also inspired to campaign for several subjects such as respect, community action and online safety. These campaigns are funded towards 4 anti-bullying badges to symbolise the incredible work towards a happier school. Overall, this trip was "informative, inspiring and a lot of fun!"

By The Positive Footprints team

MRS DOLPHIN

This week we sadly say a bittersweet goodbye to one of St. Gregory's finest staff members after almost 20 years of outstanding service. Mrs Dolphin joined our school in September 2003 and has performed many roles from pupil mentor, off-site support and more recently primary liaison. In all of



Mrs Dolphin was the person that made the difference to keeping those children and families connected to the school when it would have been easy for that connection to be broken. Fellow staff who have worked with Mrs Dolphin will be all too aware of the infectious positive energy that she possesses – you will normally always see Mrs Dolphin with a smile on her face and full of motivation to get things done. Mrs Dolphin has been the source of support for many colleagues over the years and has made many special friendships which I know will go on for many years.



these roles, Mrs Dolphin has gone above and beyond and hundreds of families and countless children hold a special place for her for the support she has given them.



MEET THE TEACHER

MR SEXTON



Interviewed by
Leo and Alfie

1. What subject do you teach?

"I teach History here at St. Gregory's."

2. What subjects did you take for GCSE?

"It was a long time ago! But I took History, PE and then I chose Electronics as well."

3. Who or what inspired you to teach?

"It wasn't really an individual, it was more the subject, I just find it incredibly interesting. I did have an incredibly good teacher, Mr Lawton, I suppose he inspired me with how interesting he made the subject."

4. Do you have a favourite book and if so, what is it?

"My favourite book is called 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini' it is sad, but it is a brilliant book."

5. Is there another subject that you would teach?

"If I could choose, English would be interesting and very important to teach and it would be nice to teach PE too and train future athletes."

DT/ ENGINEERING

Our Design & Technology / Engineering students have been hard at work this term on their projects.

Your work has been incredible!

Mr McMorine



CRONTON COLLEGE TRIP

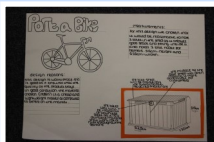
Miss Mannion and Miss Craig are very proud of ten of our Yr10s who represented St. Gregory's at a 'Prestigious Universities' event at Cronton College.

They had a taster of A Level subjects (as well as wider college life) and thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon!

CAREERS

There have been a number of exciting careers events this half term that pupils have been involved in. We are extremely grateful to all those that have visited us to talk to pupils.

Miss Craig



MEET THE TEACHER

MRS DU PLESSIS



Interviewed by Jack

"Firstly, welcome to St. Gregory's and your Media Team interview."

1. Do you have any pets?

"The only pets that I have are fish, two Guppies, called Goldie and Stripy!"

2. Did you have a different career before becoming a physics teacher?

"I have been a physics teacher for the last 20 years, although I have taught some Chemistry and Biology along the way! While I was at university I did work at a vaccine company."

3. What was the most recent book that you have read?

"Well, I recently read Alan Sugar's autobiography, 'What You See is What You Get', which I really enjoyed."

4. So, as you have taught Chemistry and Biology before, why did you settle on Physics?

"I have always been interested in Physics over Biology and Chemistry, there are not many who prefer to teach it now, but it's really fun to teach!"

PUPIL POETRY CORNER

Written by a Yr8 St. Gregory's Pupil

Love can come in many
shapes and structures,
It's a beautiful and blissful
event,
A paradise that's kept like a
picture,
If you ask me something I'll
always assent.

I've never known someone
like you, its true,
Tangled in love stuck by you,
from the glue,
Get rid of the sorrow and
don't be blue,
But that will not stop me from
loving you,

My love is like a fever, longing
still,
Ba-bum Ba-bum love is not
times dumb fool,
I'll not stop loving you even
when I'm ill,
But there is one thing, my
heart which you rule.

When love may be altered
over time and yet,
Love is more than platonic,
and more than a friend.

By Anonymous

VALENTINE'S DAY BAKE SALE

St. Gregory's RE department held a bake sale on Valentine's Day at break time to raise money for the FLAME trip in March.

Thank you to everyone that donated.



MEET THE TEACHER

MR PERCIVAL



Interviewed by
Leo and Alfie

1. What did you
choose to study
for your
GCSE's?

"I studied
Geography, History, Music,
Double Science and Spanish"

2. Who or what inspired you to
teach?

"It was my teachers at school
really, I was very fortunate to
have a lot of great role models at
my school who really inspired
me."

3. Was there any other job that
you wanted to do other than
teaching?

"Not really, though it would have
been nice to be a pro-athlete!

4. Have you ever had another
career, other than teaching?

"I have always wanted to be a
teacher but I was in engineering
before I qualified. I worked with a
firm in Leeds that developed
housing projects, it was
interesting, but it really was not
for me and I like teaching more."

5. Do you have a favourite
book, and if so, what is it?

"Yes, anything by Carl Hiaasen,
he writes dark comedy/crime
books. Also, I like books by the
author Andrzej Sapkowski who
wrote The Witcher and Blood
Meridian by Cormac McCarthy."

6. What other subjects would
you like to teach?

"Well, I teach Geography and
History at the minute, so they are
my favourite, but Geology at A-
level would be interesting to
teach."

7. What is your favourite
country?

"From the places I have been to, I
think Australia. All of the places I
have been to have been amazing,
but that is my favourite."

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

It was Children's Mental Health
Awareness Week last week.

This years theme was 'Lets
Connect' and aim was to encourage
children to make meaningful
connections to improve their
wellbeing.

In school we covered this theme in a
number of ways;

- Collective Worship– All week we
introduced the theme to inform
all pupils.
- We looked at the importance of
connections in form time.

- Resources were put on Class
Charts on how music connects us
for all students to access.

- Connecting safely online
and building safe and healthy
relationships discussions.

The mental health ambassadors
also promoted Children's Mental
Health Awareness week in collective
worship with Mrs Riley.

Mrs Riley



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION



Our Food Preparation & Nutrition
pupils have been busy this term
making some amazing bakes.

Mrs Cross



MY BIGGEST INSPIRATION

Written by Weronika, Yr8

I am writing about my Great Grandma who is my biggest inspiration. Why, you may ask? When World War 2 started, she was 10, she had to quickly learn how to speak German. As she was the only one to learn German in her family, she had to be brave and go to the shops by herself to buy food for her family. She also worked for a German family at the time and she sadly witnessed innocent people in her town getting attacked and killed by the Nazis. After the bombs fell she got out of the basement and saw that her house and the town had been destroyed.

After surviving the war, she later lost a much-loved younger brother and then her lovely mother. She never gave up, never complained, always stayed strong and positive. She is now 93 years old, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren, including myself. She is our family's hero. She teaches us all how to stay happy, positive and strong every day.



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](#)



**St Joseph's
Family Centre**

We managed to raise a massive total of £1,106.98 for St. Joseph's Family Centre before Christmas.

A big thank you to Miss Dolphin and Miss Heaton and to everyone who donated or assisted in any of the fundraising activities.

Mrs S Whitlow



CHAPLAINCY NEWS



Liverpool Called

2023

If you are in year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation.

Register at:

Liverpoolcalled.co.uk

Registration is open:

16th January 2023-17th March 2023



SAFEGUARDING

Children's Mental Health Week



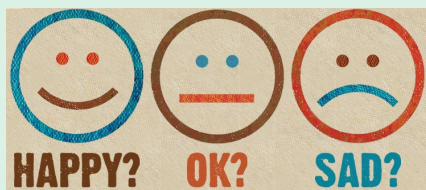
Children's Mental Health Week was 6th – 12th February. This year's theme is 'Let's Connect' encouraging children to make meaningful connections and encouraging people to connect to themselves and with others in healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways. When we have healthy connections, this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. When we don't have positive, meaningful connections we can feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health. We looked at this further in collective worship, during form time collective worship and information was sent out to all pupils and families.

In helping children to make meaningful connections we are supporting them to develop resilience which is an important skill for positive mental health.

For further information and resources for parents please [click here](#).

Happy? OK? Sad?

[Happy? OK? Sad?](#) is a mental health site for people who live or work in Warrington, it includes details of services and resources for children



and young people.

On the Happy? OK? Sad? site there are links to additional local and national, resources, which you can download free: <https://>

happyoksad.warrington.gov.uk/mental-health-wellbeing-resources-for-children-young-people.aspx

ChatHealth Warrington

ChatHealth Warrington: is a secure text messaging service for young people, parents and carers. The service provides information, advice and support on a range of health and wellbeing issues.

· The ChatHealth text number will operate Monday-Friday from 9am until 5pm.

· Messages will be responded to within 24 hours during this period. Outside these hours, service users will receive a 'bounce back' text message indicating that they will receive a response when the line re-opens.

The text number for Warrington is:

· 11 - 19 Young People's Service – 07507 330101

Further information can be found by following the link: <https://bridgewater.nhs.uk/chathealth/warrington/>

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day Tuesday was on 7th February. This year's theme was 'Want to talk about it' encouraging children to talk to parents/carers and their teachers.

As our young people spend more time on their devices it is important that we educate them in how to stay safe online.

The link below has resources and guides to support parents/carers in their discussions with their children.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022/advice-for-parents-and-carers>

In addition to this National Online Safety has a wealth of guides, webinars and courses to support

parents/carers in educating their child in online safety. If you have not yet done so, please follow the link below and join as a parent of St Gregory's High School. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-gregory-s-high-school>

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pupil Progress Manager or Mrs McKenna as the DSL.

Our website has a wealth of information and resources that you may [find useful](#).

E-cigarettes

As many parents will be aware e-cigarettes have become popular amongst young people and they are being promoted to young people through their design. Whilst some parents may consider that it is not as bad as smoking the fact remains that it is not risk free and there is no evidence of the long-term effects vaping has on young people.

E-cigarettes are banned items at St Gregory's and as such pupils must not bring them into school. If you suspect that your child is vaping, please speak to them about this and ensure that they do not bring an e-cigarette into school.

The following article '8 things to know about E-cigarettes' has information which parents/carers may find useful to discuss with their child. <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2020/03/05/8-things-to-know-about-e-cigarettes/>

Mrs McKenna



SAFEGUARDING

DSL
Mrs McKenna (Deputy Head Teacher)

Safeguarding Governor
Mr Roger Harrison.

Safeguarding Advice: 01925 444140

Cheshire Constabulary:101

Social Work Teams: 01925 446257

Out of Hours: 01925 443322

ChildLine: 0800 1111

ART DEPARTMENT



Some amazing artwork from our Yr8s creating skull sculptures.



Below are some examples of our Yr7's work who have been exploring how art can raise awareness of plastic pollution in our oceans.



Below are some examples of our Yr9's Mad Hatter projects. Amazing!



Here are some examples of our Yr9's Mad Hatter's Tea Party and Yr8's Day of the Dead Challenge. We are so impressed with their creativity



Miss Bond & Mrs Wynn

BACK OF THE NET

Football Boys Yr8 -

Well done to our Yr8 football team who scored 6 goals in their first games back after Christmas! Excellent effort team!



Boys Yr7 - Well done to our year 7 team who represented Warrington last night in the FA Cheshire schools

indoor football tournament - they played brilliantly and left with their heads held high!



Girls Basketball -

Amazing shooting technique from Mrs McCabe's girls basketball club - well done girls!

Athletics -

Well done to our outstanding athletes who took part in the Warrington



Indoor Athletics Championships. All of our pupils were a credit to themselves and to St. Gregory's.

Football Girls Yr7 & Yr8 -

Our Yr7 and 8 Girls have been training weekly since September after school- Great job!



Girls Yr8- Well done to our Yr8 girls football team who are the second-best team in

Warrington after coming runners up in the Warrington Schools Football Tournament. Their hard work, passion and dedication is certainly paying off. We are very proud of all our St. Gregory's Lionesses!

Mr Dean



Produced by St. Gregory's Media Team
Edited by George Yr9 & Daniel Yr8