

THE NET

'One Family Inspired to Learn'



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thursday 27th October

Wear it Pink—Breast Cancer Now

Thursday 27th October

End of term

Monday 7th November

Start of second half term

Thursday 10th November

Remembrance Mass

Thursday 24th November

Presentation Evening for past Year 11s

Thursday 22nd December

Second half term ends

STAFFING

Welcome to:

Rebecca North - Administrator/
Receptionist



The Media Team

Our Media Team have had an amazing start to the school year interviewing teachers, pupils from the drama production and practising their photography skills in order to put together this terms newsletter.
Mrs Hennessey

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

The start of the 2022/23 academic year has been incredible and one that has demonstrated the talents of our school family. The year began by celebrating a record-breaking examination performance from our class of 2022. These results put St. Gregory's into the top 3 highest performing schools across Warrington and Liverpool Archdiocese, as well as being well above the national average. The credit for this goes to our dedicated teaching and support staff, who have worked in great partnership with pupils and their parents all the way through the pandemic.

In September, we welcomed a group of amazing new Year 7s. I have been very impressed by how well they have settled into school life and showcased their many talents and positive personalities which I am sure will make a big contribution to our 'one family inspired to learn' ethos.

Our open evening was a great success and the feedback from the evening was of course all about the young people

who welcomed our prospective new pupils and parents.

St. Gregory's first half term has drawn near to completion with the brilliant school production of 'Our Day Out'. This event demonstrates what an inclusive family school we are, bursting with amazing talent and performances.

The first half term has left me feeling so proud of the success and contributions that all members of our school family make everyday to ensure that we remain one of the best places to learn and develop as a young person in the whole of the north west. We now look forward to a new and equally successful second half term.

Well done to my staff and to all of our young people.



Mr McGlinchey
Headteacher

OUR DAY OUT - THE CAST

Anna P – Mrs Kaye – Red Coach
Interviewed by Quinn (10J)

What character are you playing?

I play the role of Mrs Kaye. It is a key role, I'm so grateful that they chose me for this part.

If you could play any other character in the production, who would it be?

I would say, Mr Briggs. He has a unique personality. Especially when he changes from being extremely strict to a fun teacher that's well-liked by the students.



Who is your favourite character in the play?

I would say Carol, she has a strong background story. She comes from a poor family and she's interesting.



What is your favourite part of the production?

I think one of my favourite part is a

section at the end where it uses a lot of physical theatre and I think that has developed well.

What is your favourite scene to perform?

The part where the trip stops off at the toilets!

Rachel – Mrs Kaye – Blue Coach
Interviewed by Emma (10 M) and Holly (10 K)

Photography by Mark (10P) and Beth (10T)

What character are you playing?

I play Carol. She is one of the more involved child characters in the play. She's very innocent, almost naïve, not knowing much about the outside world.

Did you get nervous coming up to the play?

No and Yes. I think I had good enough faith in myself in terms of my lines and all the hard work I had put in, but I was a little nervous because I had a lot of family and friends come to see me.

Who is your favourite character in the play?

Jackie or Linda because they are really funny!



Emily – Carol – Blue Coach
Interviewed by Quinn (10 J)

OUR DAY OUT

'Our Day Out' is set in the 1970s and tells a lively story of children from an inner-city high school on a day out to North Wales. For many of the characters, this is their first experience outside their tough Liverpool lives and comic incidents inevitably ensue as they navigate the correct behaviour for such trips. The play is tinged with sadness, with writer Willy Russell keen to highlight the lack of opportunity both in education and the workplace for such pupils during this era, and he does so through wonderfully emotive, poignant and often hilarious dialogue.

The 'school play' is so much more than what it says on the tin. The school play is about year groups mixing, new friendships forming and the courage and resilience that all our young people have shown throughout the process. It's about the rewards gained from commitment to a project. It's about understanding the world a little more because you have stepped into the shoes of others, to see it from their perspective. It's about memorising both verbal and non-verbal language to communicate a story of another time to a present-day audience. It's also a whole heap of fun!

We are immensely proud of our young actors and backstage crew as they have brought energy and creativity to each rehearsal. They have exercised such patience whilst rehearsing scenes with two casts, which has been a new challenge for us. Cast members are to be praised for the mutual respect they have shown throughout and we thank them for doing what they do best – bringing to life the words on a page, creating a new world and filling it with the energy and joie de vivre that young people do so well. 'Bravo' and 'thank you' to them and to all that came to the productions for supporting the chance to bring life to drama and drama to life.

Ms Chappel and Miss O'Connor



LITERACY NEWS

Word of the Week

Resolute	Ominous
Cantankerous	Insurmountable
Humble	Possession
Incredulous	Spectre

Accelerated reader

Our Y7 and Y8 pupils continue to take part in the Accelerated Reader scheme which is a whole class management and monitoring programme that aims to foster independent reading in pupils. It gives teachers the information they need



to monitor students' reading practice and make informed decisions to guide their future learning.



Word Millionaires

We already have four word millionaires in Y7 with others nearly there. Congratulations to Sophia (7W), Joey (7P) and Harry(7T) and Maadhav (7C).

Poetry By Heart

Poetry by Heart meetings take place week B Wednesdays in N16 after school, 3-4pm. If any pupils with a love for poetry would like to join, please come along to the next meeting.
Dr K McCooley-Heap



MEET THE TEACHER

Dr McCooley-Heap



Who inspired you to become a teacher?
"My Dad. He was also a teacher and is my biggest inspiration."

What is your favourite book?
"My Cousin Rachel by Daphne Du Maurier"

Who is your favourite author?
"I have two! The first is Sylvia Plath who was an American poet, novelist, and short story writer and the second is Simon Armitage who is a famous poet."

When you were younger, what did you want to be? (Other than a teacher)

"If I did not become a teacher, I always liked the idea of becoming a Vet."

If you had one wish, what would it be?

"Take my little brother to Disney World to meet his hero, Mickey Mouse!!"

Interviewed by Leo (10K) and Alfie (10T)

Ms Chappel



What inspired you to get into teaching?
"My desire to work with others to make a difference."

What was your favourite film as a child?

"It was The Jungle Book. I remember going to the cinema to watch it with my mum, It is such a precious memory."

What excites you the most about doing a school production?

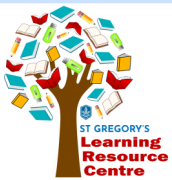
"So many things!
From the first rehearsal to the opening night. But what excites me the most, is when the students realise how brilliant they are for what they have created."

Why did you pick 'Our Day Out' as the play this year?

"Our Day Out is a great story. It's set locally to us, it is relevant to teenagers and it teaches us about another era of the 1970s. And, most importantly it's funny!"

Interviewed by Beth (10T) Quinn (10J)

LRC NEWS



National Poetry day

On October 6th, the LRC was a hive of activity for National Poetry Day. The theme for this year was

'The Environment', and pupils and staff were invited to come to the LRC at break and lunch times to choose a poem and read it.

Over 40 pupils volunteered to choose a poem and read it aloud to everyone, well done and thank you to everyone who took part.



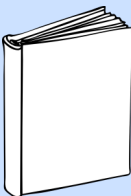
given the chance to choose a ticket. If a golden ticket was picked, the pupil won a sweet treat. It was a very popular event with lots of prizes won! "Happy Birthday" Roald Dahl.



Reading Clubs

Our two reading groups have made a fun and successful start to the school year. Our Y7 group meets on a Thursday after school, and we begin each session with a quiz devised by the students.

Our mixed year group 'One more chapter' meets every Tuesday break time, where we have held some lively discussions about our favourite books.



Mrs Huckerby

Roald Dahl's Birthday

To celebrate the birthday of Roald Dahl every pupil who came to the LRC on September 13th was



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

Try our eplatform

How do I access it?

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

How do I read them?

On 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

We are thrilled with Y9s observational drawings based on the theme of 'Sweets'. Pupils have demonstrated that they certainly understand how to create the illusion of a 3D form. A special well done goes to Ellie, Lara and Favour who achieved Grade 9's.

Mrs S Wynn



BACK OF THE NET

Football

Year 8 Boys – A great start to the season for our Y8 football team beating King's Leadership Academy and drawing with Cardinal Newman.



Year 7 and Year 8 Girls - Our Y7 and Y8 girls working hard at football practice.

Year 10 Boys - Outstanding start to the league by our Y10 football team. The team have played 4 games and are unbeaten! Brilliant start, keep it up!



Year 7 Boys - Our unbeaten Y7 football team scored an amazing 13 goals in 4 games.

Rugby

Year 7 Touch Rugby team - Well done to our Y7 Touch Rugby League team, 3 wins out of 3!



Mr Dean

GCSEPod



Welcome to a new academic year and a special welcome to Y9 who have started using GCSEPod. At the time of writing, nearly 1500 pods have been viewed by pupils who have used the pods to prepare for mock examinations, embed past knowledge or to get a head start on a new topic. Jenith is currently the top podder having watched the most pods over the last half term. There have been nearly 2000 questions answered on Check and Challenge, Joel currently leads the way with Zeynep closely behind. Well done to every pupil who has used GCSEPod this year.

Year 10 and 11 pupils, spend 15 minutes a day on GCSEPod by watching pods or answering

questions on Check and Challenge to help you prepare and build confidence ahead of any upcoming mock examinations.

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. By the time this newsletter reaches you there will be a Halloween GCSEPod winner, congratulations to whoever that pupil is!

Mr Jones

CHAPLAINCY NEWS

One of St. Gregory's staff, Mr Johnson, ran the Great North Run to raise money for Dementia UK, a charity very close to his heart. To support his fundraising, St. Gregory's held a bake sale on the 30th September and managed to raise £100 towards him reaching his goal.



Mrs S Whitlow

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

Keeping Your Child Safe Online

You may have seen the recent news regarding the very sad death of Molly Russell in 2017. A young girl



who took her own life aged 14 having viewed suicide and self-harm content online. The coroner concluded that she died whilst suffering the 'negative effects of online content'. One of the significant concerns around this case was that Molly (and lots of young people) are able to access adult content online. Ofcom commissioned research and found that 32% of children have an account intended for adults, while 47% of children aged eight to 15 have a user age of 16 and over.

At St. Gregory's Catholic High School we are keen to ensure that our young people and their parents/carers know how to keep themselves safe online. As such we have purchased National Online Safety which has a wealth of information, courses and guides showing parents how to set parental controls and providing advice on various social media accounts and online games. If you have not done so already, please follow the link and sign up as a parent. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-gregory-s-high-school>

In addition to this further information can be found on the following websites: NSPCC – [Social media and online safety](#) | [NSPCC Learning](#) | Internet Matters - [Online social media safety guides](#) | [Internet Matters](#)

Please talk to your child about how to stay safe online and how to use social media appropriately. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding team at St. Gregory's High.

Domestic Abuse

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). It is designed to unify women and men across the world who have been victims of domestic abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background.

Signs You Are In An Abusive Relationship

A lot of people do not realize that they are in an abusive relationship. Here are some of the signs that you could be in an abusive relationship that you need to get out of...

- Your partner sexually or physically abuses you. If they ever make you have sex with them when you don't want to, hit you, shove you, or push you, this

is domestic abuse.

- Your partner threatens you or your family.
- Your partner puts you down. They attack your capabilities, mental health, looks, or intelligence. They blame you for their violent outbursts.
- Your partner is jealous. They may isolate you from your family or friends or they may accuse you of not being faithful.
- Your partner is possessive. They may check up on you all of the time and they may get angry if you hang out with certain people.
- Your partner has strangled you, beat you, or hit you in the past.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abusers look to chip away at your feelings of independence and self-worth. You can end up feeling like you do not have anything without your abusive partner or that there is no way out of your relationship.

Emotional abuse includes verbal abuse. This includes controlling behaviour, intimidation, isolation, shaming, blaming, name-calling, and yelling. Abusers who use psychological or emotional abuse will often throw about threats of physical violence, as well as other repercussions if you do not do what they demand.

Children who witness domestic abuse are also victims of domestic abuse.

If you believe that you are a victim of domestic abuse you are not alone and there is support available:

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

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

Bright Sky is an app that provides support and information for people who are concerned that they are victims <https://www.hestia.org/brightsky>

Ask for ANI is a code that you can use at participating pharmacies. They will then provide a space, phone and ask if you need to contact the police.

UK SAYS NO MORE is working with Boots, Morrisons pharmacies, Superdrug pharmacies, Well pharmacies, independent pharmacies, HSBC and TSB banks across the UK to provide Safe Spaces in their consultation rooms for people experiencing domestic abuse. You can ask for a 'Safe Space' and many will also respond to 'ANI'. They will also provide a space for people to contact the police. [Safe Spaces](#)

[Locations - UK SAYS NO MORE](#) has further information.

Halloween and Bonfire Night

Many of us enjoy celebrating with family and friends and both Halloween and Bonfire night can be a good reason to get together. However, we must ensure that we keep ourselves safe. The majority of people are responsible when using fireworks; however, in the wrong hands they can cause real misery. Fireworks and bonfires can be extremely dangerous:



Firework injuries in England and Wales from 2014-19

- Total number of severe firework injuries - 1088
- 623 people under the age of 20 received severe firework injuries - 57%
- 38% (412) of severe firework injuries were in under 15s and 68% (281) of these injuries were sustained by males
- 77% (316) of severe firework injuries in under 15s occurred around bonfire night between 2014-2019



Bonfire injuries in 2014-19 in England and Wales

- Total number of severe bonfire injuries - 1695
- 1256 people over the age of 20 received severe bonfire injuries – 74%
- 15% of severe bonfire injuries were in under 15s

Fireworks are explosives and should be treated with respect and the manufacturer's instructions should always be followed! Please stay safe and follow the Firework Code:

- Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable
- Only buy fireworks which carry the CE mark, keep them in a closed box and use them one at a time
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving



Mrs McKenna