

# THE NET

'One Family, Inspired to Learn'



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Monday 6th November**  
Start of term
- Thursday 9th November**  
Remembrance Mass
- Friday 10th November**  
INSET
- Thursday 16th November**  
Y11 Engage Evening
- Friday 22nd December**  
Last day of term

## STAFFING

- Farewell to:**  
Mrs Huckerby —LRC Manager
- Welcome to:**  
Mrs Hosty —Assistant Head Teacher
- Mrs Baldwin —Assistant Head Teacher
- Mrs Johnstone — Whole School Lead for RE
- Mr Poland —Subject Teacher
- Miss Dennett —Subject Teacher
- Mrs Pennington —Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Rhodes —Teaching Assistant

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

What an action packed half term it has been! The new academic year started with huge celebrations for our year 11s who sat their examinations in the summer. The class of 2023 performed amazingly well, placing our school as one of the highest performing comprehensive schools in the North West.

Our building and learning facilities have been developed over the summer. It has been exciting to open our newly refurbished LRC, reception area, modified classrooms and to have brand new screen technology installed across every classroom in school.

It was then a pleasure to start the new term with a wonderful group of new year 7s who have made the transition look easy and settled into life at St. Gregory's beautifully, bringing with them many new talents and bursting with enthusiasm.

It's the people who make St. Gregory's community so special and we have welcomed some very talented new staff to our team this term. They have made an amazing impact already in taking our school forward.

The main feeling surrounding this term has been one of 'positivity'. This is

evidenced by the fantastic events with which our community has been involved, including our open evening, parent events, extra curricular activities, trips and sporting events. This is a year that is sure to bring success to all based on what we have seen so far.

I want to end with acknowledging the retirement of a wonderful colleague. Mrs Huckerby has been an integral part of our LRC and literacy support for many years and she has done an outstanding job. Always going above and beyond with her colleagues, current and previous, to always put children first and to make our LRC a world class facility. I will miss Mrs Huckerby but she deserves her time in retirement and she leaves a wonderful legacy for our new LRC manager who starts with us in the new term.

As always I want to thank all in the St. Gregory's community, support staff, teachers and all parents and carers for making the new academic year such a positive experience to witness and be part of.

**Mr McGlinchey**  
Head Teacher



## MUSIC CONCERT FOR Y7 & 8

Y7 and 8 pupils enjoyed a concert this term from Anthem Tuition. It was an amazing opportunity for all of the pupils who attended the concert and it has inspired many to learn a musical instrument.  
Miss Krusinskyte



## LITERACY NEWS

Word of the Week	
Daunting	Surveillance
Cajole	Loquacious
Prodigal	Exacerbate
Evacuation	

### Paired Reading

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 readers who have made an excellent start to Paired Reading this week! With the help of our wonderful Reading Role Models in Years 9-11, we have been selecting and discussing books in advance of our upcoming guided reading. Instantly, our older and younger pupils have been incredibly proactive and supportive of each other; Miss Mannion is excited for the reading journey ahead!

These sessions will run weekly in the LRC to all invited pupils. Other invitations may be distributed if spaces become available throughout the year.

### Black History Month

Black voices matter. To recognise Black History month, we are promoting Black writers around school, with a special display in the LRC of fantastic Young Adult fiction created by writers of colour. Which Black writer will you explore in the LRC and at home? Why not use our eBook platform to discover them?

### Vocabulary

Staff at St. Gregory's continue to work hard to encourage the acquisition of ambitious vocabulary amongst all of our pupils. In form time, for example, pupils have been regularly exploring each 'Word of the Week' with their form tutors. Don't forget, achievement points are up for grabs to any pupil who uses a 'Word of the Week' in a lesson!

Miss Mannion



## LRC NEWS

### New LRC

The LRC underwent a huge refurbishment over the summer holidays and a great deal of work was done to complete the work ready for our pupils to return in September. It has been wonderful to welcome so many pupils and to witness their enjoyment and pleasure in



their LRC. In addition to this we have been able to add some fantastic new books on to our shelves, many of which have been recommended by the pupils.

### Open Evening

It was lovely to welcome so many prospective pupils and their families to St Gregory's during Open Evening and to hear their wonderful comments about our LRC. Pupils were able to take part in our activities and were rewarded with some jelly 'bookworms' and a bookmark to colour in.

Mrs Huckerby



## MRS HUCKERBY



The LRC is, to many, not only a literary haven but a place of refuge, quiet reflection and moral support.

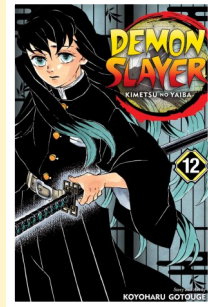
Many of us have found ourselves gravitating to the LRC sometimes for no reason at all; it is a place that contains a spark of magic.

That spark of magic has, for many years, been ignited by a very special person: Mrs. Karen Huckerby. Since the news of Karen's departure from St. Gregory's emerged, it has never been more obvious that she is

incredibly important to so many staff and pupils. Karen has extensive and current knowledge of fiction, a fantastic rapport with our pupils, outstanding organisational skills, and never fails to 'go the extra mile' for the benefit of our pupils' literacy experience. Karen is an unwavering source of support, a listening ear and a dear friend. Although the LRC will move into a new chapter (see what I did there?), it will always be touched by Karen's magic.

## FICTION ADDICTION

### Demon Slayer



I highly recommend reading Demon Slayer, it is a Manga about two siblings and the battles they face against demons so Tanjiro Kamado can return his younger sister, Nezuko Kamado back into a human again.

I have to mention that there is blood and violence so a certain level of maturity is needed, the demons designs can also be a little creepy at times. Just bear this in mind if you do give it a read.

There are plenty of likeable characters, some not so much. I really hope that this was helpful and that you give it a read that's all! Thanks for reading!

Written by a Year 8

## NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Thursday October 5th was National Poetry Day and this year the theme was



'Refuge'. Once again, our pupils embraced the day and were queuing up to volunteer to read a poem aloud to everyone in the LRC, it was lovely to see some of our new year 7's getting involved in the event.

The LRC also held a poetry competition, open to all pupils, to write a poem on the theme of 'Refuge'. We had some amazing entries and it was extremely difficult to pick a winner, we finally decided on two winners, Ffion Y11 is our KS4 winner and Ellen Y7 is our KS3 winner.

[You can view some of the poems entered here.](#)

Well done to all who entered.  
Mrs Huckerby



# POETRY BY ANONYMOUS

Written by a Year 11 pupil.



My face comes from the people who came before me.

The journeys they took,  
The seas and oceans they crossed.

My face comes from the people who came before me.

Their resilience still runs through my veins.  
Inherited from those who paved the way.

My face comes from the people who came before me.

A bittersweet symphony of emotion dancing in their hearts.  
The echo's of their heartbreak along with the sparks of joy and laughter filling their soul.

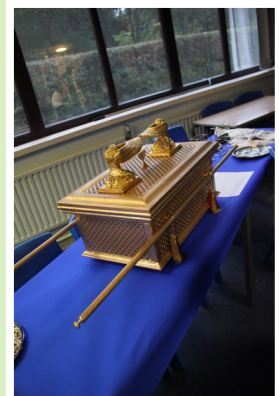
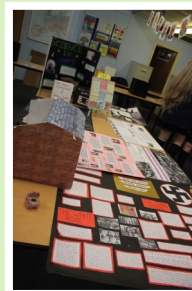
My face is a mirror of those who came before me.

Their journeys like waves crashing on distant shores.  
Inherited strength from those who broke the chains.  
Their story lives on in me.  
It finds its place.



## OPEN EVENING

St. Gregory's 2023 Open Evening was a great success. Our staff and pupils had an amazing time welcoming and meeting pupils as they toured the school and took part in activities and talks.



## MEET THE TEACHER MRS HOSTY



Interviewed and photographed by Isabella Y8, Keeley Y8 and Beth Y11 .



**What subject do you teach?**

"I teach Religious Education here at St. Gregory's, but I have previously

taught History, Psychology, Sociology and Geography."

**Why did you choose to become a teacher?**

"There was a teacher at my school called Miss Cave, she was strict and had very high standards for everyone that she taught. I think about her to this day. She really shaped my views on the world. She challenged me to think about things differently and was a very instrumental person in my life. I feel that she has given me a gift, and I feel as though I want to pass on the gift of knowledge."

**What was your favourite subject at school?**

"RE, but I also loved Latin and History. I love learning about other people's stories."

**What have you enjoyed the most about joining St. Gregory's?**

"That's difficult as St. Gregory's is such a nice school! I feel that St. Gregory's has welcomed me with a calm, kind, and loving ethos. I think the charisms come through in the way that all the staff and pupils act. Everyone has just been so welcoming!"

**Do you have any hobbies and if so, what are they?**

"I have had to make a list about all my hobbies, I like to keep myself busy! I enjoy yoga, pilates, swimming, I go running and enjoy walking up mountains! I also am fond of seeing bands like The Killers, and the Arctic Monkeys, and Blossoms."

**Do you have any pets?**

"I have chosen not to have pets! I can't keep my plants alive! I would love to have pets though."

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



One of our St. Gregory's pupils Alana (Y7) took part

in the new Lego marketing project that pushes the message that 'play is your superpower.' She starred along five other children, the American actress Jane Lynch.

**Interviewed by Isabella (Y8) and Keeley (Y8) and photographed by Dylan (Y10)**

**Was the Lego advert your first advert?**

"No. My first advert was 2 years ago and it was for Lego!"

**What was it like filming with the Lego team?**

"It was really exciting. The people where nice and it was busy!"

**How long did filming take?**

"Filming took two weeks and one day to complete."

**What would your advice be to anyone that wanted to get into acting?**

"Go for it! That's my advice to everyone that wants to act!"

**Do you like doing drama in school?**

"Yeah, it's one of my favourite subjects in school."

**Do you want to be an actor when you leave St. Gregory's?**

"Yes definitely!"



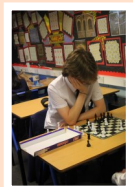
**What was the auditioning process like?**

"You had to send in a tape, and then I went to London to do an audition."



## CHESS CLUB

Mr Ashton's Friday lunchtime chess club has been extremely popular this term. Mr Ashton has been very impressed with some of the skills shown.







## MUSIC



St. Gregory's choir led by Miss K, performed at the St Joseph's Centenary mass this term presided over by Archbishop Malcom McMahon. It was a great celebration

for the parish.

Well done to all those pupils involved.

Miss Krusinskyte



## FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

Here are just a few examples of the amazing work our pupils have been making in FP&N this term.

Mrs Cross



## E-BOOK PLATFORM

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

Try our e-platform! How do I access it?

Log in 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.

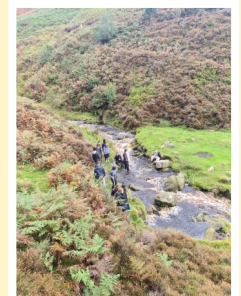
Any problems?

Please contact the LRC Manager



## GEOGRAPHY TRIP

The geography department and pupils enjoyed their trips to Edale, Peak District National Park this term. Pupils followed the Grindsbrook river downstream measuring changes in its width and depth. Pupils were absolutely brilliant and refused to allow the Peak District rain to 'dampen' their spirits. It was a pleasure to see them enjoy their beautiful surroundings and collect their fieldwork data with smiles on their faces.



Mr Bacon





## MEET THE TEACHER MRS BALDWIN

Interviewed by  
Bronwen

**What subject do you teach?**

"I am an Assistant Head teacher at St. Gregory's, and I teach French, although I can speak German as well."



**Why did you choose to become a teacher?**

"When I left university, I went into Marketing. I met a lot of people that that hadn't had a great time at school and didn't understand why speaking a different language was so important and I wanted to change that. I also had some amazing teachers at school, and I always wanted to emulate the work that they had done."

**Why is learning a new language so important?**

"I think that learning a new language is like someone giving you a key to a door that is locked. When you get that key and can open that door, you open up a world of opportunities that are exciting and helps you understand a new culture. Learning a language can help you make new

friends, try new food and find out about new traditions. I also like to talk, and by learning a new language you get to talk to a whole host of new people!"

**What is your favourite book and why?**

"I love to read. I really like 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens. From the first page you are invited into the new world that's very different to mine. It is beautifully written and focuses on the difficulties of people's lives and how they overcome them."

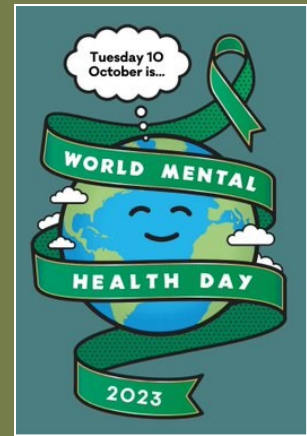
**Where is your favourite place in the world to travel to and why?**

"A place in Germany called Stuttgart, in the south of Germany. Some people might have heard of it because it has a good football team. I have spent a lot of time there and I have met some very kind and generous people there. They also serve some amazing ice cream and cakes!"

**If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?**

"I feel that I have a bit of a superpower as I can speak three languages! But I think it would be the ability to fly, just so I wouldn't have to wait in traffic!"

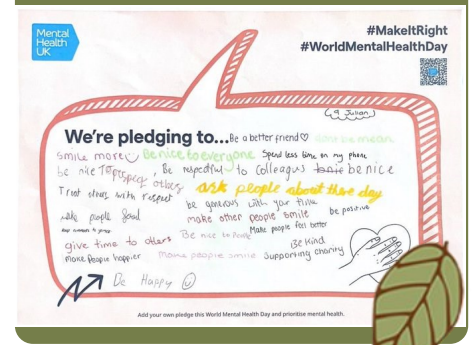
## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



For #WorldMentalHealthDay we have asked all of our forms to create a pledge to support mental health and wellbeing in our school.

Thank you to all the pupils that got involved.

Mrs Riley



## CHAPLAINCY NEWS



### International Day of Peace

We marked this day with a minutes silence at midday, joining the rest of the world in a 'Wave of Peace'. We also asked KS3 to create

origami doves. This was a challenge but they managed to produce some beautiful doves.

### Visiting Priest



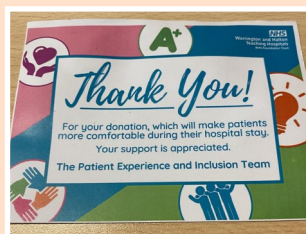
We were fortunate enough to have Fr Johnny Bahbah from Palestine come to visit our school. He came and met with the chaplaincy team and then had a tour of the school with Mr McGlinchey.

### 100 years of St Joseph's Catholic Church

Some of our students were involved in the celebrations for St Joseph's Catholic Church as they celebrated their 100th anniversary. A special thanks to the choir volunteers and Anna and Noah who read a bidding prayer.

### Donated Clothes

Our school Chaplain Suzie and Wellbeing Officer Mrs Riley



dropped off lots of donated clothes to Warrington Hospital. The hospital were very grateful for all of the support from those at St. Gregory's Catholic High School

### St. Alban's Bicentennial

St. Gregory's delivered a bicentennial gift to Canon Christopher and St. Albans church. St. Albans is celebrating its 200th year of serving the parish. St.



Mrs Whitlow



Gregory's was proud to be part of such a special occasion.



## SAFEGUARDING

### Domestic Abuse

Children who witness domestic abuse are also victims of domestic abuse. Domestic Abuse consists of any of the following:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse

### 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.

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.

### Online Safety

Young peoples' use of technology has significantly increased over the past few years. Whilst there are many benefits to the use of IT and the internet, it also poses many threats to young people. At St Gregory's we have invested in National Online Safety, a platform that provides advice and support for parents in how to keep your child safe online. There are courses that you can complete as well as videos and webinars for you to watch. If you have not done so, please follow the link and sign in as a parent so that you can make full use of the software. You will also be able to download the app onto your mobile phone. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Other sources of information and guidance include:

Think you know - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>  
NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>



[keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)  
Safer Internet - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

### County Lines

County Lines is a term to describe young people who are being criminally exploited to store and/or transport money and/or drugs. These children can be as young as 10 or 11.

County lines can happen in any part of the UK, including Warrington. The NSPCC website has further information on what County Lines is, how to recognise it and what you can do if you have concerns about your child. Likewise, the link to ParentWise has further information and advice on how to talk to your child.

[Protecting children from county lines | NSPCC Learning](#)  
[ParentWise - A helping hand for](#)

### parents and carers

If you are concerned that your child may be being groomed or becoming involved in



County Lines please do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team at St Gregory's Catholic High School.

### 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

1. There were 116 hospital admissions of people injured by fireworks in the UK in 2020/21. (NHS)
2. 21 of these admissions involved children aged 14 or under. (NHS)
3. While not all firework injuries lead to hospital admission, 1,835 people in England attended A&E for firework injuries in 2018/19. (UK Parliament)
4. UK firework injuries spike over the Halloween and Bonfire months, and between 2015 and 2019, there were 3,591 A&E visits in England during October and November alone. (JPIMedia Data Unit)
5. Fireworks injure more boys than girls. (Children's Burns Trust)
6. Most injuries from fireworks





## SAFEGUARDING CONTINUED

are to the eyes, head or hands. (Children's Burns Trust)

7. Most injuries happen at private or family displays. (Children's Burns Trust)

8. Rockets, air bombs and sparklers cause the most common firework injuries. (UK Government)

9. Fireworks aren't only harmful to humans; in 2021, a Labrador-Staffie got so startled by fireworks that it died. (The Independent)

10. Firework injuries fell significantly in Northern Ireland after 2002 legislation obliged people buying category 2 or 3 fireworks to get a license. (The Guardian)

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
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving

For any other safeguarding support please refer to the safeguarding page of our website which has a wealth of information to support you. [Safeguarding | St Gregory's Catholic High School \(stgregoryshigh.com\)](#)

Mrs McKenna

## BACK OF THE NET

Excellent start to the new year by our amazing sports teams. Each team has competed well and showcased many skills and talents that make our St. Gregory's community proud!



Duke of Edinburgh



New year means a new start! The Duke of Edinburgh award starts this term - for more information speak to Mr Parry.

### Netball Umpires

Well done and thank you to our Y9 netball umpires. The girls are now officially England Umpire qualified and successfully umpired the Warrington Schools Y7 netball tournament at Bridgewater.



PE Department



Produced by the St. Gregory's Media Team



## 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