



# The Net

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

Issue: 119

Feb, 2024

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### Friday 16th February

Last day of term

### Monday 26th February

Start of Term

### Thursday 7th March

Y7 Engage Evening

### Thursday 21st March

Y9 Vaccinations & Y8 Engage Evening

### Thursday 28th March

End of Term

## STAFFING

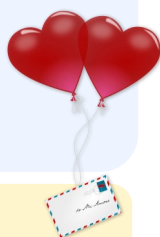
### Farewell to:

**Mrs Wood** – Geography Teacher & Y9 PPM

**Mrs Riley** – Pupil Well-being Counsellor and life skills Coordinator

### Welcome to:

**Mrs Crudgington** – Hall – Art Teacher



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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

The half term has been a time full of experiences, competition, listening and reflecting for our school community. It began with our Y11's receiving their mock exam results and experiencing what it will be like to open their real results in August. Y11 are now motivated to push on and are focused on what they need to do to be successful. They are safe in the knowledge that our staff will support and guide them all the way.

Y10 and Y11 pupils have enjoyed a number of opportunities to experience college life and beyond. Most notably, attending Engineering and Computing experiences at Carmel College.

I am proud to see our pupils go out of school and win a number of events and competitions that they have entered, from 1st place in the Science MOND trophy at Cronton College, to the New Age Curling event in Warrington. Our male and female football teams have also had great tournaments as have our netball teams.

Y9 have been preparing for their options by having taster sessions in many new subjects and engaging in STEM workshops. They will have further opportunities at our careers fair on the last day of the half term when over 30 organisations will come into school to share job experiences.

Our chaplain, Suzie, has been busy with the chaplaincy teams in school and working with our

partner primary schools to provide them with gifts for supporting our positive footprint campaigns - there is a lot of exciting work ahead too!

The pupil leadership team have been busy presenting very good ideas at the Headteacher breakfast meetings. I am pleased to report back that there are many ideas that will go forward. I was particularly excited about a proposal for a celebration of culture day in school which will be a fantastic event for the whole community.

Over the last week of half term, St. Gregory's have been celebrating Chinese New Year with a host of events covering the week, including competitions, activities and a special lunchtime menu.

As a whole school we have been reflecting on the power of guidance that prayer can give us. This is an important reflection as we now head into Lent when we think not what we can give up, but what we can give. As we enter Lent, we think mostly of our charism of 'Service'.

I would like to wish all in our community a very restful half term, in particular my staff who have once again worked tirelessly for the young people of our school.



**McGlinchey**  
**Headteacher**

## LITERACY NEWS

### Word of the Week

Hazardous Exponent

Callous Inaudible

Manoeuvre Euphoria

### 'Star Reading' Testing

This half term, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 11 have undergone a second round of testing on our 'Star Reading' platform. This will help class teachers to offer

appropriate reading support in every lesson. Thank you to our pupils for your hard work and focus with these tests.

### Word Millionaires

We now have a grand total of 34 word millionaires across Years 7 and 8 on our Accelerated Reader platform, meaning that these pupils have logged over one million words read! Well done on your fantastic reading progress. Miss Mannion



## LRC NEWS

### Chinese New Year

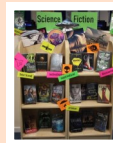
This half term we have enjoyed celebrating 'The Year of the Dragon' for Chinese New Year with our 'Design a Mask' competition. We had some fantastic creative designs!

### Date with a Book

Lots of children have also been involved in our 'Date a Book' event where they have taken a book that has been wrapped up with some hints as to what the book is about on the front. The children have enjoyed their 'blind dates' with a book they might not normally choose!

### LRC Displays

Our displays have included new STEM non-fiction books and Sci-Fi fiction books to link in with Year 8 English learning of Animal Farm. It's been great to see the children exploring these genres.



### Book Clubs

Our Book Clubs have been looking at the Cheshire Book Award books, quizzing, debating and playing games around books. Book Club for Years 7&8 is on a Thursday after school in 'A' week and Years 9, 10 & 11 is after school on a Monday in 'B' week. Mrs Andrews

## FICTION ADDITION

### Danger is Everywhere



The book 'Danger is Everywhere' wrote by David O'Doherty is a very funny book that entices a reader with its bright personality and cover.

This humorous book teaches you all about dangers in the world, dangers such as having a school bag head, knowing when Vikings are about and vampire attacks.

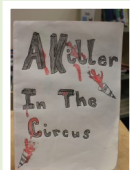
The story ends with the reader getting their DOD level 1 (Diploma of Dangerology).

I would recommend this book for a younger reader in Y7 or Y8.

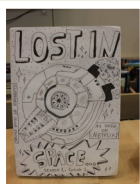
Written by Keeley, Yr8

## NATIONAL STORY TELLING WEEK

We have really enjoyed the journey that the children have been on with the 'Tell it Your Way' competition for National Story Telling Week! National Storytelling Week took place between 27th January - 4th February. We celebrated



by asking our pupils to tell a story in any medium of their choosing - except extended writing! We had many wonderful entries, ranging from stop-motion animation to poetry, from graphic novels to songs.



Well done to Bertie and Lucy who won first place with their stop motion story. We

enjoyed watching and exploring the entries in the LRC over lunchtime - well done everyone!

Mrs Andrews & Miss Mannion





**Interviewed by Quinn  
Y11 and photographed  
by Daniel Y9**

**Please  
can you introduce  
yourself and tell me  
what subject you  
teach.**

"My name is Mrs  
McKenna and I teach Biology"



**What was your favourite lesson at  
school? What topic in that lesson did  
you enjoy the most?**

"That's tricky for me as I enjoyed  
most of my learning, but biology  
and history were my favourites. I  
was torn between what to do at  
university: Biology or History. My  
favourite topic in biology is  
genetics and how we inherit  
characteristics and within History  
we did a topic called Social  
Economic history and it looked at  
how we moved from small little  
hamlets to industrial big towns  
and how our country developed  
into how we live now."

**As a teacher what is your favourite  
topic to teach?**

"It is genetics, as you can tell  
Quinn, when I teach it! It's  
incredible to think these tiny  
genes make us all so different."

**Growing up, what was your dream  
job?**

## MEET THE TEACHER - MRS MCKENNA

"I never really finalised on  
teaching until after my degree. I  
was torn between social work,  
and speech or occupational  
therapy, but I have always wanted  
to work with people."



**If you could  
make one  
change in  
the world,  
what would  
that change  
be?**

"I would love to wave a magic  
wand and make everyone tolerant  
of each other. To make people see  
life from another person's  
perspective because I really think  
that if we can understand another  
person and be tolerant, we would  
live in a much more peaceful  
place."

"I think that people need take the  
time to listen to what other are  
saying. To understand where they  
are coming from, accept that they  
might disagree and sometimes  
have different opinions. To  
respect each other. Tolerance to  
me is such an important word. It  
means that we understand that  
we have a difference of opinion,  
and that is ok."

**What is your favourite song and who  
is it by?**

"Of all the questions you have  
asked me this is the hardest! I  
have such an eclectic mix of music

that I enjoy. So, there is one by  
Harry Styles, 'Treat People with  
Kindness' and I like Coldplay,  
Prince or hard rock as well!"

**As you know, its Children's Mental  
Health Week, can you tell me a little  
more about what our school has to  
offer to help those who are seeking  
support or want to find out more?**

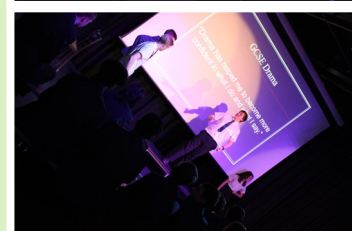
"I am proud to be part of St.  
Gregory's because of the support  
that we give our pupils. Through  
form time & PD you can find out  
more about ways you can find  
help. The screens around school  
always have information and  
updates on and on our website  
safeguarding page, there are links  
to lots of organisations such as  
Liverpool CAMHS. We also have  
a talented team in the Augustine  
Centre who are experienced  
councillors that you can speak to.  
Also, our enrichment programme  
has lots of activities that can help  
with a pupil's wellbeing, but if  
anyone is struggling, they must  
always speak to their pastoral  
support manager, and they can  
direct them to the best place."



## DRAMA—Y9 SHOWCASE & DRAMA RESIDENTIAL

It has been a busy half term in the Drama department with Y11 pupils performing for our Y9 pupils, showcasing what GCSE Drama is all about.

Our Y10 pupils have also visited The Conway Centre, Menai, Anglesey this half term to take part in workshops in preparation for their GCSE exams next year. Well done to all of the superstars that took part. Ms Chappel





## FP&N

Well done to all of our FP&N students this term. Here are just a few of their fantastic bakes.  
Mrs Cross



## VALENTINES WORD SEARCH



Q	R	A	Y	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	S	C
M	O	C	S	X	O	H	X	B	U	D	G	G	P	H
B	M	R	T	L	O	V	E	R	T	A	W	F	S	O
H	A	P	P	Y	B	R	D	A	O	T	F	E	H	C
Y	N	Q	Z	G	O	H	I	W	E	E	Q	B	F	O
L	C	W	V	F	G	U	W	G	F	Y	D	R	C	L
E	E	B	J	F	P	G	A	I	R	L	N	U	I	A
T	R	H	Z	H	S	U	B	F	P	O	Z	A	X	T
T	E	V	E	A	D	W	V	T	Z	V	Q	R	P	E
E	C	X	Q	A	A	E	T	K	E	E	I	Y	J	Y
R	I	C	V	R	R	V	M	R	V	E	L	C	W	M
K	S	S	T	D	T	T	J	O	U	E	L	L	K	P
L	E	T	T	R	J	W	D	S	D	K	H	O	P	E
J	G	B	N	W	H	I	X	E	L	O	Y	M	O	A
F	L	O	W	E	R	S	K	S	Z	M	N	V	C	L

**LOVE  
HEART  
FLOWERS  
CHOCOLATE  
VALENTINES**

**HUG  
HOPE  
HAPPY  
ROSES  
DATE**

**ROMANCE  
FEBRUARY  
GIFT  
LETTER  
LOVER**

## CAREERS

Computer Science and Engineering pupils visited Carmel College to take part in workshops and experience lessons in their chosen subjects. Thank you Carmel College for a fantastic day!

Carmel college also visited St. Gregory's pupils to talk about what subjects they have on offer this term. Thank you again for your visit!



## INDOOR ROWING

Y8 pupils that attended the National Indoor Rowing Championships this term and gave an outstanding performance. Both of our teams placed in the top 6 schools in Warrington and two of our pupils, Jack and Julia, have also qualified to compete in London. Well done Jack and Julia!



## NEW AGE CURLING

Pupils took part in the Cheshire Schools New Age Curling Finals this half term. They achieved joint first place on points scored, and came second overall on points conceded, achieving a silver medal. Their teamwork and attitude also won them the 'Spirit of the Games' award. Well done team!  
Mrs Gallagher



## 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: sername: 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



## POETRY BY ANONYMOUS

### When I grow up

By Anonymous, Y11

When I grow up, I'll go out and earn money,  
I'll get a husband, get a house, and I'll even buy a  
bunny,  
When I grow up, I won't even need to go to school,  
I'll wear my own clothes, wear my shades, and I'll  
always look cool,  
When I grow up, I'll live next door to my best friend,  
We'll see each other everyday the fun will never end,  
When I grow up, I will have all the latest things,  
The newest I phone, one that doesn't crash when it  
dings.  
I can't wait to grow up.

When I was young, I used to get pocket money,  
Now I don't even laugh when I find something funny,  
When I was young, I used to go to school,  
I learnt new things everyday and it was really cool,  
When I was young, I used to see my best friend,  
But now she moved across the country, right to the  
other end,  
When I was young, I used to have lots of cool things,  
Now I have an old phone that doesn't even ding.  
I wish I was young again.

## STEM TRIP LIVERPOOL

Some of our Y9 pupils had a brilliant time visiting Liverpool University for a series of STEM workshops this half term. It was a great opportunity to learn more and see what life is like at university.

Mr Poland





## ART

### Y7—Plastic Marine Life challenge



### Y8—Day of the Dead



### Y9—Alice in Surreal Land



Mrs Wynn

## CHAPLAINCY

In November 2023, St. Gregory's then held a premier involved and especially to the Gregory's Catholic High School night where they raised over children for showcasing their marked Anti-Bullying Week £70 for The Diana Award - a achievements.' with a community campaign charity that specialises in Anti-Bullying resources.

There was a focus on exploring gifts and talents given by God and how to use them for good. The end result was a music video featuring students from St. Gregory's alongside Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School and residents from Woodleigh Care Home.

During Anti-Bullying week, St.

Rachel, whose son appears in the video, said: 'We were delighted to be invited to attend the St. Gregory's evening for their Anti-Bullying week. It was great to see so many of our amazing children celebrating and sharing their gifts and talents. I was so proud of my son for his Irish Dancing clip in the lovely video. A big well done to all

Recently, St. Gregory's Chaplain Suzie Whitlow delivered frames to all of the schools and communities that took part as a special thank you for their help. The frame album designed by a Y7 student at the school. Mrs Whitlow



## SAFEGUARDING

### February Newsletter 2024



Children's Mental Health Week was 5th - 11th February. This year's theme was 'My Voice Matters'. It was chosen to empower young people by equipping them with the tools they need to express themselves and look after their mental health and wellbeing; encouraging them to recognise and speak up about how they are feeling. In helping children to recognise their emotions, we are helping them to develop resilience and cope with all that life throws at them.

Within school, all pupils took part in Collective Worship and form time activities covering the theme and information was sent to both pupils and parents.

For further information and resources that can be used at home please follow the link below. [Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

If you have any concerns regarding your child's mental health please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pupil Progress Manager who can support you. In addition to this support can be found in a number of places including:

[Happy? OK? Sad?](https://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: [Happy? OK? Sad?](https://happy.ok.sad?)

**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/>

Liverpool CAHMS website which has links to many other providers who can offer advice and guidance: [Support Archive - Liverpool CAMHS](https://support.archive-liverpool.camhs)



### Safer Internet Day

Safer internet day is on Tuesday 6th February. This year's theme is 'Inspiring change? Making a difference,

managing influence and navigating change online'. The focus is to encourage young people to use the internet to make change for the better as well as looking at the things that influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.

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.

[Safer Internet Day 2024 - UK Safer Internet Centre](https://saferinternet.org.uk)

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.

<https://www.stgregoryshigh.com/pastoral/safeguarding>

### E-Cigarettes

There has been a significant increase in the use of vapes by children with reports that 9% of 11 to 15 year olds now vape.

You may have seen the recent press release regarding the ban of disposable vapes to try to reduce the number of young people who vape. The full press release can be seen by following the link below:

[Disposable vapes banned to protect children's health - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disposable-vapes-banned-to-protect-childrens-health)

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





## BACK OF THE NET

### Y9 Netball

We are very proud of our Y9 netball umpires, who umpired at the Y7 netball tournament at Bridgewater this term. Their professionalism didn't go unnoticed as PE staff from other schools thanked them for their amazing skills and knowledge. Well done!



Newman, Sir Thomas Boteler and Penketh High. Well done girls!



### Muti

### Sports

Pupils from Yr7 and Yr10 attended a Multi Sports Activity Day at Orford Jubilee Hub last week. The pupils participated in teamwork activities which included tennis, cricket, rowing and football.



### Y7 Netball

Well done to our Y7 netball team who won 3 out of 4 games at

Bridgewater tournament. We are very proud of you!

### Y7 & Y8 Girls Football

Y7 and 8 girls worked brilliantly together to win their football tournament, beating Cardinal



### Y11 Boys Football

Well done to our excellent Yr11 football team in progressing through to the next round of the Cheshire Cup by beating St. Peter and Paul.



Mr Dean

## WINNING TEAM

Some of our Y10 pupils visited Cronton College yesterday to compete for the Mond Trophy by completing STEM challenges. Congratulations to our winning team!

Mr Poland & Miss Crawley



**Contact Details—** Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for you. You can update your contact details in the SIMS parent app. If you do not have the SIMs parent app please contact school enquiry for further information [schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com](mailto:schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com)



**Produced by the St. Gregory's Media Team**

**Edited by George Y10 and Daniel Y9**



*Have an amazing half term break!*

## SAFEGUARDING

DSL

**Mrs McKenna (Deputy Head Teacher)**

Safeguarding Advice: 01925 444140

Social Work Teams: 01925 446257

Out of Hours: 01925 443322

**Safeguarding Governor**

**Mr Roger Harrison.**

Cheshire Constabulary:101

ChildLine: 0800 1111