

If you are reading this, you are probably wondering about what life here at St. Gregory's is like, whether you may be a parent who is considering sending your child here or a pupil-to-be with many questions about our school community.

I understand that due to restrictions to protect against COVID, your preliminary understanding of what life is normally like will be different to that of previous and future parents and pupils, so I hope that with my 4½ years of experience here at St. Gregory's, I can provide you with a good insight.

My name is Thomas and I am the Head Boy here at St. Gregory's, I work in partnership with both staff and student leadership groups along with the Head Girl: Emily, as well as our deputies: Luke and Eleanor. We are a vital organ within Student Leadership, we take the concerns of the students and develop solutions to these problems, which we then take to the staff Senior Leadership Team to discuss how to actually implement these decisions. This year, we had a delayed start to normal activities due to the reopening of school and focus on our examinations in the summer, however we are optimistic that we can make some significant progress this year, even if it cannot all be made in school due to the current circumstances of the pandemic.

You have probably heard many times that St. Gregory's is a special school, and based on my own journey, I certainly can say that I have had a very good experience of high school here at St. Gregory's

The staff are welcoming and supportive, the pupils are respectful and our Catholic Ethos is the beating heart of our community, if anything makes us special, it is this. Our Catholic faith is what drives us to go above and beyond the simple course of studying to get exams. We are a school that nurtures its students and helps each other to grow and flourish, as shown by the countless acts of kindness and charity performed by those within our community.

Furthermore, I have always felt welcome here and that I have been provided with plenty of opportunities to get help, be it help with my studies from the LRC staff, my teachers or through emotional support, which is available from our mental wellbeing support team. All you have to do is ask and our school **will** listen to you and help you with whatever struggle you are fighting, and that is one of the key reasons why we, as St. Gregory's students wear our blazers with pride and dignity.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to our school family community and supporting you through your journey.