



# The Net

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

Issue: 122

July, 2024

## DATES FOR YOUR



**Monday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd Sept**

Staff training days

**Wednesday 4th Sept**

Start of term— school open

**Thursday 19th Sept**

Open Evening

**Friday 18th October**

End of term

## STAFFING

**Farewell to:**

**Mrs McKenna** - Deputy Head Teacher

**Mr McMorine** — Subject lead of DT

**Mrs Cooper**—RE Teacher

**Miss McDaid**—Office Manager

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

I write to you as we complete another hugely successful half term for all in the community of St. Gregory's Catholic High School.

The summer term has been an opportunity for reward and reflection with no better example than that of our Ambition for All Awards Evening. In July, we had the pleasure of presenting many of our pupils with our 'Ambition for All' awards for the incredible achievements that have taken place across the year. Children from every year group and of all ability ranges were rewarded for an array of special talents and demonstrations of going the extra mile. It was great to welcome so many parents to the occasion.

Our sports teams have made St. Gregory's proud this term in all areas, from rugby to rowing, motor racing to new age curling and we have won prestigious academic competitions, most recently the MOND trophy at Cronton College. We have enjoyed trips to Wales, London and Berlin this half term amongst many more.

On Friday 5th July, St. Gregory's had its very first 'World Culture Day' which is another example of outstanding 'pupil voice'. Culture Day was an idea from two Y9 pupils, Teodora and Tia, who put the proposal forward at a Headteacher / pupil breakfast meeting. This day was a perfect celebration of inclusiveness and being 'one family' and encapsulated many of our school charisms.

Our community continues to support important charity work and I would like to offer a huge thank you to our parents, carers and pupils for a phenomenal response to our Healing Little Hearts

charity fundraising days in June and July. Through your kindness and generosity, we have raised £,1500 for surgeons to perform heart surgeries on babies in third world countries.

On Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th July 2024, St. Gregory's was inspected by Ofsted. The inspectors were in full agreement that the best part of St. Gregory's is our young people, who showed all that is good about our school community. The pupils were brilliant during the inspection and really demonstrated what a fantastic school we are.

This term we said a fond farewell to our Y11s who also celebrated their prom at Statham Lodge in what was a wonderful occasion. Y11 are now well prepared for their next stage of life at college or via apprenticeships and we look forward to celebrating their GCSE examination results in August. We are proud of the fine young people Year 11 have become.

Finally and as always, I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of my entire staff team over this busy half term and the whole year. Every member of staff in every role continue to do so much above and beyond for our pupils, making personal sacrifices to ensure that our school community is successful. The whole community now need an opportunity to rest and recharge and I wish everyone a happy and safe summer holiday.



**Mr McGlinchey**  
Headteacher

## LITERACY NEWS

### Word of the Week

Obligation	Uninspired
Ravenously	Infallible
Diversion	Beguiling
Fallacious	

### Lexia Trial

This half-term, pupils across each year group have been trialling Lexia: a platform designed to identify areas of reading need and offer appropriate support. Pupils certainly seem to have enjoyed using the platform! Miss Mannion

would like to thank all pupils and parents/carers involved for their cooperation.

### First Chapters

After the success of last term's competition, 'First Chapters' made a return this term! Having read through the first chapter of a fiction book with their form tutors, pupils once again had the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win a copy of the full text. Congratulations to Brooke Y7, Erin Y8, Gary Y9 and Callum Y10



who are going home with a free copy of a new and exciting age-appropriate novel!

### Summer Reading

Relax with a book in the sunshine this summer! Remember that the eBook platform is available all year round and that you can still take books out of the LRC to enjoy over your break. The Literacy team cannot wait to hear about what you have all been reading when you return to school in September!

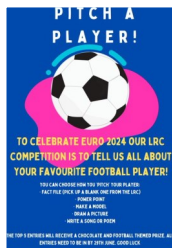
Miss Mannion

## LRC NEWS



During this half term we said goodbye to some of our long-standing Y11 Library Assistants. They

have shown real dedication to the LRC and their contributions to reading for enjoyment have been invaluable. We wish them all the best in their next chapter!



### Pitch a Player competition

There has been a sporting theme in the LRC this half term. To link to Euro 2024, we have had our 'Pitch a

Player' competition, where children presented their favourite footballer as a fact file or presentation. Well done to Lenny, Nataniel, Oliver, Edward and Charlie who won prizes for their entries.

### Reading for Empathy

Throughout June, children have been taking part in the 'Reading for Empathy' challenge, reading lots of different fiction books about issues and challenges that young people face. A particular favourite for older readers was 'Crossing the Line' by Tia Fisher who won the Shadowing Group prize for the Carnegie awards.

### Displays

Displays in the LRC have been promoting other topical books such as the politics books in our non-fiction section and fiction books from different cultures. We also have a Top 10 feature to see which books have been our most popular reads of this year.

As we are at the end of the year, we have been awarding prizes for our regular readers. Well done to Sarah Y7, Jack Y8 and Megan Y8 who were our top EReader users and Mathew Y7 who won our annual Loyalty Card Draw. Mrs Andrews

## PBH

St. Gregory's Poetry By Heart entrants have had some lovely feedback from the judges:

**Emily Y9** - Best in County for the freestyle category.

**Lucy Y9** - Best in County for the classic category.

**Holly Y9** - Commended for the classic category.

Well done to those that entered! You have made St. Gregory's proud.

Dr McCooney-Heap



## SALVATION ARMY

Several of our St. Gregory's staff volunteer at the Salvation Army. This month Mr McMorine spent his last time volunteering before he moves on to his new role.

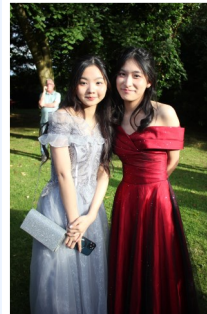


**VISIT THE  
ST.  
GREGORY'S  
WEBSITE  
AND LISTEN  
TO OUR  
PODCAST**



## PROM

Our Y11's had an amazing night at Statham Lodge in June for their Prom. Here are just a few pictures from the night.

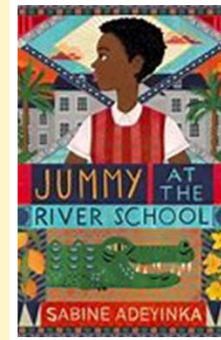


### SAVE THE DATE

Prom 2025 will be on Thursday 26th June 2025, at Statham Lodge.  
Mrs Batty & Mrs Lee

## FICTION ADDICTION

### Jummy at the River



As Jummy arrives at the River School, she makes new friends and has fun midnight feasts. Suddenly, her best friend, Caro,

arrives at the boarding school to work, but can Jummy bring all her new friends to help or will it end in disaster? This modern, new and exciting book is perfect for avid readers looking for an enthralling tale and also for fans of the Malory Towers and other school series.

Written by Elizabeth Y7



## DRAMA

### Drama Club



school every week this half term. It has been wonderful to watch pupils from across the year groups working creatively and their commitment has been very impressive. Their talents will all be revealed on stage in November when they present our next Drama Production. We can't wait!

### Evening Theatre Trip to Liverpool

We had the best evening at the Everyman in Liverpool to see A Monster Calls



with Y9 Drama enthusiasts.

We took a trip along Hope Street to point out the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA), the cosy Unity Theatre, the magnificent Philharmonic Hall and both Cathedrals, before taking our seats in the theatre. The production was an excellent adaptation of Partick Ness' novel and gave pupils plenty of themes to think about and a whole range of theatre techniques to steal for their own performance work when they start their GCSE Drama course in September. Eric found the piano in the bar and entertained us with his musical genius during the interval!

invited audience of family and friends last week. There were six dramas in total, each with their own individual style and content and feedback was extremely positive. The drama department are so proud of how pupils conducted themselves throughout the whole process and particularly how they supported



### GCSE Devised Performances

Congratulations to Y10 Drama pupils who performed thought provoking devised dramas for an

one another during

performance week. We can't wait to see their next performance exams next year.

Ms Chappel

## POETRY BY ANONYMOUS

Tiger, tiger burning bright,  
In the darkness of the night.  
Hunted for your beautiful fur,  
With your loving, knowing purr.

Strolling alongside the stream,  
This mustn't be your wonderful dream.

For you are being killed by  
women and men,

Does this mean we'll never see  
you again?

We all know that you're so  
fearse,  
But you are dead with just one  
pierce.

Out of all animals you are the  
dagger,

Is it hatred or is it anger?

Lurking through the dead of  
night,

Will this be your final fight?  
Innocence lies within your eyes,  
Who made you the main prize?

Tiger, tiger burning bright,  
In the darkness of the night.  
Hunted for your beautiful fur,  
This must be a terrible burr.

By a Y8 pupil

## ARTHOG 20 24

Pupils that attended the Arthog trip at the end of May had a fantastic time and enjoyed lots of adventurous activities.

Mr Mackenzie



## TENNIS / SPORTS EVENT

Our students attended the Birchwood Inclusive Tennis festival this term. They showed amazing team work and resilience during the event, and won gold medals! Well done!

Mrs  
Gallagher



## HALLIWELL JONES

Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Clayson accompanied pupils who took part in a dance during half-time at the Halliwell Jones early in July. The students were amazing and a credit to St. Gregory's High School.



## ST JOSEPH'S SUMMER FAYRE

St. Gregory's Vocal Group  
w e r e  
delighted to  
be invited to  
sing at St.



Joseph's Primary School Summer Fayre on Saturday 29th June. Pupils were brilliantly led by Mr Richards and sang popular tunes with great gusto to an appreciative crowd. Elliot Y10 and Sam Y10 also impressed us with their drum and guitar duo set. Well done to all involved. Mr Richards & Ms Chappel

## POETRY BY ANONYMOUS

Carp

Swimming blissfully through the depths and cruising on the surface in the sunlight.

Immaculate scales and beautiful eyes, to catch this fish would be the best prize.

Carp, why are you so fat? Round like a football and as long as a baseball bat.

Swimming through the lily pads and moving through the weeds.

The fish has no worries and it has all it needs.

The carp is beautiful, eating on my bait.

To catch this beaut, I cannot wait. By a Y8 pupil

## FP & N

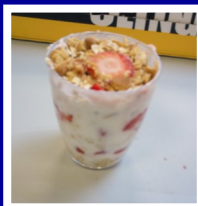
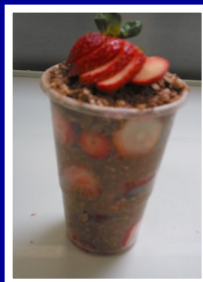
Well done to all of our FP&N students this term. Here are just a few of their fantastic bakes.

Mrs Cross

### Food styling Y9



### Overnight oats Y9



### Yr9 rocky road



### Fruit tartlets Y10



### White chocolate & Raspberry Krispie Bars Y8



## 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 surname: 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 Mrs Andrews



## CHAPLAINCY



### Faith in Action Award Ceremony

This term we took 24 pupils to Lowe House in St Helens to celebrate their work throughout the year as they participated in Faith in Action. We are very proud of all of our students.

### Discovery Days

We welcomed Y5 pupils from local primary schools to visit St. Gregory's and experience what life is like at high school. All of the pupils who visited us were amazing and we enjoyed meeting you all!

### Walking Day

45 St. Gregory's students joined Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Primary School for Warrington Walking Day in June. Our students represented school well and were fantastic examples for the primary school children we walked with.



### Y8 Confirmations

During the first weekend in July, some of our Year 8 cohort were confirmed as they affirmed their faith. The two services took place in St. Oswald's Padgate.

Congratulations to all involved.  
Mrs Whitlow



On the 5th July St. Gregory's celebrated Culture day. Pupils took part in an exciting day of activities as we welcome visitors, staff and pupils to showcase elements of their culture!

Here are just a few pictures from the day.

Mrs Baldwin



# SAFEGUARDING

## Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

HAF is a scheme, funded by the Department for Education, giving children in England who are eligible for free school meals the opportunity to take part in fun, enriching, school holiday activities.

Places on the holiday schemes are available free of charge to children aged 5 to 16 who receive free school meals, but children and young people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to attend. Each local programme will provide delicious, healthy meals, allow children to get active, help them learn new things, make friends and have fun.

To find out more or book an event please follow the link [Find and book HAF sessions in your area | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/haf/sessions-in-your-area/)

## What to do in the holidays with your teen

It can be challenging keeping your teen entertained over the summer. If you're looking for ideas of what to do to get your teenager off their technology and outside during the summer holiday, please click the link for some ideas (some even include chores). <https://lindastade.com/what-to-do-in-holidays-teenager/>

### Stay Safe in the Sun

Hopefully we will see the sun during the summer holidays and whilst we all enjoy the nicer weather, it is important that we 'stay safe in the sun':

- Wear sunscreen – at least factor 30 with a four star UVB rating
- Spend time in the shade between 11am and 3pm
- Check for heat exhaustion – ensure that you move into the shade
- Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water

The NHS website has further advice and guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/>

## Water Safety

It is tempting for young people to go into water to cool off as the weather gets hotter but there are many dangers.

An average of 304 UK and Irish citizens lose their life to drowning every year and there are many more non-fatal experiences. 49% of accidental drowning occur between May – August.

Please speak to your child about staying safe on or around water and follow the advice below:

- When visiting new places, take time to review safety notices.
- Find out what local signs and flags mean.
- Always look out for potential hazards and warn members of your group to avoid possible risks.
- Never use inflatables in open water - although they look fun, inflatable water toys can quickly get caught in the wind and be blown out to sea.
- Always choose to visit a lifeguarded venue.
- Swim with others. It's safer to swim in pairs or groups who can help should anyone get into trouble in the water.
- Be sure everyone in your group knows who to call in the event of an emergency.
- If you get stuck in quicksand or mud, do not stand up. Lie down, spread your weight, shout for help and move slowly in a breaststroke action towards the shore.

Further advice and guidance can be found on the following web pages: [Water Safety Advice \(rlss.org.uk\)](https://www.rlss.org.uk/)

## Staying Home Alone

Learning to be independent is an important part of growing up.



Between work, appointments and other family commitments – every parent may need to leave their child home alone at some point so it's good to have a plan in place.

You might wonder at what age you can leave your child alone at home. But there's no 'one-size-fits all' answer. Every child is different, so build up their independence at their pace – and check in with them to make sure they feel safe.

It is important that you speak to your child about how they would feel if they were left alone and what they would do in an emergency.

The NSPCC advise that a child younger than 12 should never be left home alone.

Below are links to an NSPCC guide about leaving children home alone as well as their website which has a quiz that you can complete to determine if your child is ready to be left alone. [Home or out alone guide \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/home-or-out-alone-guide/)

[Leaving Your Child Home Alone - Advice | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/leaving-your-child-home-alone-advice/)

## Mental Health

There are many charities and

organisations that can help if you or your child is struggling with their mental health.

**The Samaritans** is a charitable organisation that is there to listen to anyone who is struggling at any time of the day. 24th July is Samaritan's awareness day. Throughout July they are running their annual awareness campaign for 2024 to let people know that they can talk to the Samaritan's 24/7. Further information can be found by following the link: <https://www.samaritans.org/support-us/campaign/talk-us/>

For other mental health and wellbeing support, please visit Happy? Ok? Sad? [Happy? OK? Sad?](https://www.happyoksad.org/) 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.

**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 numbers for Warrington are:

- 11 - 19 Young People's Service – 07507 330101
- 5 - 19 Parents Service – 07480 635994

Further information can be found on the website by following the link: [www.chathealth.nhs.uk.](https://www.chathealth.nhs.uk/)

Kooth: offers free online support and counselling to young people aged 11 –18 in Warrington. All pupils at St Gregory's have been given log in details for Kooth and have access to the service.

[Home - Kooth](https://www.kooth.com/)

PAPYRUS: is for young people who are having thoughts of suicide and anyone who is worried about a young person who may be at risk of suicide. Further information can be found on the PAPYRUS' website [https://www.papyrus-uk.org/.](https://www.papyrus-uk.org/)

Finally, I would like to say 'thank you' to our whole community for making St Gregory's Catholic High School such a wonderful place to work. As you will

know by now, I no longer work at St. Gregory's having moved on to a new role in a new school.

I have been fortunate to work with many of our pupils and their families and have always valued the way in which we work in partnership to support our young people – it is what makes the difference for young people. I am immensely proud of the pastoral care that we offer our pupils, far beyond any that I have seen in any other school and for that I must acknowledge the hard work of the staff, especially the pastoral and safeguarding team. I wish you and your families a relaxing summer and the best wishes for the future.

Mrs McKenna

## WATER REGATTA

Pupils participated in the outdoor water regatta in June against all schools in the North West who take part in the Oarsome programme.

We had 2 boats on the water - a boys team and a girls team.

The girls were up first and did a fantastic job of rowing together to get a very respectable time and finished overall in 16th place out of 23 schools.

The boys were then up to row. They rowed in perfect harmony and finished an amazing 3rd place

overall out of 34 schools and in the Warrington area, and finished 2nd out of the 11 schools who took part. I'm sure we all agree, a fabulous achievement.

Miss Heaton

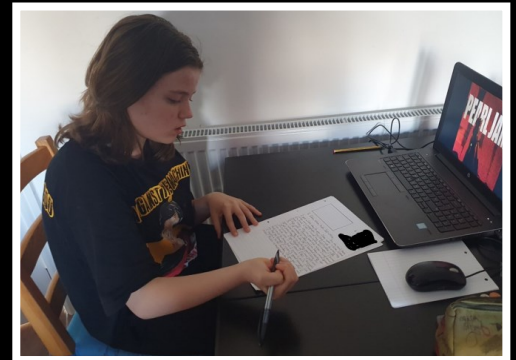


## TICKET PRICES

Recently one of our Y7 pupils, Violet, wrote to one of her favourite bands, Pearl Jam, after she tried to book to see them in concert.

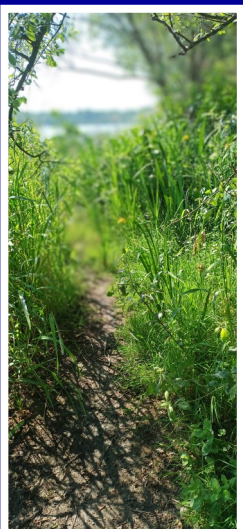
She was shocked when she discovered at the amount that she had saved would not even stretch to half of the ticket cost for one person! She felt so strongly about this, and how the cost of ticket sales will result in many missing out on this experience, she wrote to the band directly, and got a reply!

We are extremely proud of Violet for the "confidence and boldness in expressing her thoughts about the pricing of concert tickets," (Pearl Jam's words.)



## SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

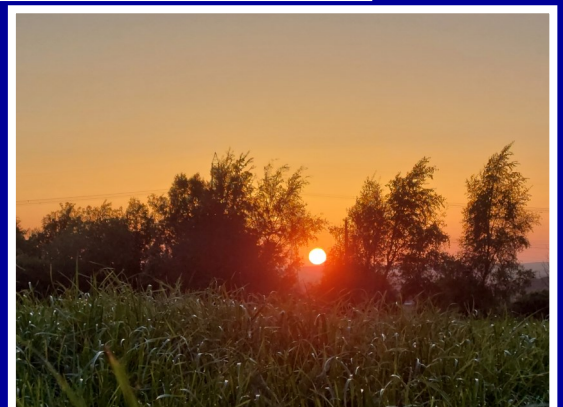
Teacher Choice  
Ayah Y8



1st Place  
Elliott Y7



2nd Place  
Charlotte Y8



3rd Place  
Sam Y8

# CAREERS 2024 ROUND-UP

Our careers team have been arranging events, visits and talks throughout the year for all year groups to take part in.

Here is just a few highlights from 2023 —2024.

## Mond Trophy

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



## JCB Excavator



St. Gregory's pupils have been fortunate to be able to experience a JCB Excavator through Tenstar Simulation. Thank you to Civil Remediation for providing the simulator, and well done to all our pupils that got involved and challenged themselves.

## Careers Fair

St. Gregory's pupils were very excited today to meet stallholders from a range of different businesses and colleges to discuss new opportunities after St. Gregory's. Here are just a few of the pictures from the day!



## National Careers week

For National Careers Week our pupils spent the start of their lessons learning more about the career paths available after they leave high school.



## Chester Zoo

Some of our Y9 pupils visited Chester Zoo for a conservation conference. All the pupils involved had a brilliant time learning more about the work that Chester Zoo does to prevent the extinction of endangered species.



## The Big Bang Fair

Y7 pupils attended the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham. The event aims to inspire the next generation with hands-on STEM activities, experiments and workshops. Pupils had an amazing time talking to inspiring role models and asking lots of questions!



## Cronton College STEM

Y9 pupils had an amazing time at Cronton college at a STEM event this year. Our Engineering Tutors and former students had a blast guiding these bright young minds as they explored the fascinating world of STEM.



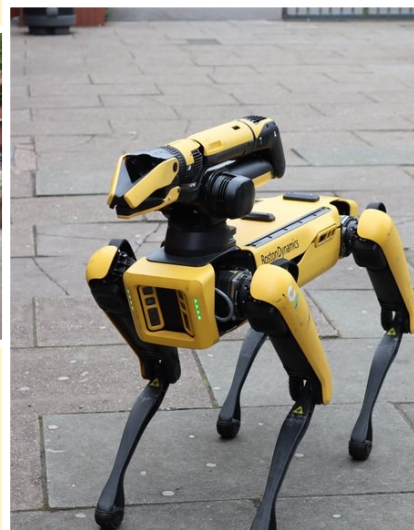
## Army STEM Visit

Pupils from Y7, Y8 & Y9 have taken part in an army STEM workshop on disaster relief. Those that took part, designed and built a robot with the purpose of helping those affected when a disaster occurs.



### Spot the Robot Dog

Our Y8's welcomed 'Spot' the robot. After learning more about how he is used in different industries, a number of pupils had the opportunity to have their own turn!



### Cronton College Trip

Our Y10s had a taster day at Cronton college for a taster day. Here are some of the pictures from the day.



## BACK OF THE NET

### Y8 Football



Congratulations to our Y8 football team on winning the Warrington Schools cup final beating Cardinal Numan 6-2.

### Y7 Rugby

Congratulations to our excellent Y7 rugby team on their quarter



final win against Cowley High School and later in the term in finishing as runners up in the North West Counties Plate

Competition.

### Athletics



Well done to the fantastic 60 pupils who competed in Warrington Town Sports. They represented the school superbly, and embodied many of our school charisms!

### Y9 Rugby



Well done to our Y9 rugby league boys team who finished runners up in the Warrington legends final!

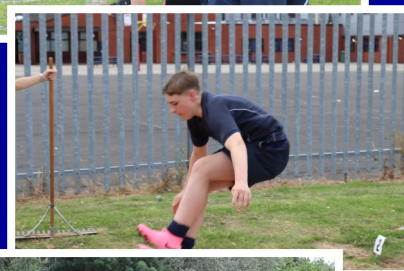
### R187 Assessments



Amazing work from the Y10 sports studies class who successfully completed their R187 assessment and showcased a variety of outdoor skills.

### Sports Day

Here are just a few pictures from sports day 2024!



Mr Dean

**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. Gregor y's Media T eam

## SAFEGUARDING

DSL  
Miss Lavin

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