



# The Net

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

Issue: 130

Dec 2025

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**19<sup>th</sup> December**

End of term

**5<sup>th</sup> January -**

Start of term

**5<sup>th</sup> January -**

Chester Zoo trip

**13<sup>th</sup> January -**

Shakespeare company visit

**23<sup>rd</sup> January -**

Mock Y11 results day

**30<sup>th</sup> January -**

Menai Trip

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We made it!! It has been another successful half term and it is now the end of the Autumn Term 2025. We are now well underway with preparations for Christmas and our advent journey, and approach the end of the Jubilee Year of the church with the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

It has been wonderful to see our pupils embracing the Jubilee Year and showing what it means for young people to be true 'Pilgrims of Hope.' Whether this be through charity work, reaching out to the local community with support, demonstrating immense levels of talent or simply, and most importantly, through their every day interactions.

I don't think I have ever awarded so many Headteacher Awards in one term, and this is a direct result of the many nominations from staff recognising pupils who consistently go above and beyond to make our school community better for everyone.

This half term has been one of both remembrance and celebration, and these occasions have been marked impeccably. I would like to thank our pupils for making every event so meaningful—from the poignant observances during Remembrance, to volunteering, choir rehearsals, reading at Masses, and sharing ideas for our new reflection garden, which will open in the spring. We have also had pupils training to become Eucharistic Ministers and visiting our primary schools to launch the Faith in Action Awards, which has been truly inspiring. In November, I was delighted to welcome back the class of 2025 to collect their many awards and their GCSE certificates. It was great to catch up with them and hear about how well they are doing now at college and

on their apprenticeships.

One of the many highlights of this half term was our production of Matilda. Audiences were blown away by the commitment and talent of the cast of almost 80 pupils, and as always, the school feels richer and more vibrant during production week. Huge credit goes to our dedicated Performing Arts staff, whose tireless work makes these magical moments possible.

In the background, I am working on some exciting projects to provide better facilities for our pupils, especially in sport and also for extra classroom and specialist learning spaces. I look forward to keeping you all updated as and when things progress.

Now that we have reached the end of the term, it is time to reflect on all of the learning that has been completed in class, the trips, the awards, the ups and the downs and progress everyone has made. Every pupil and staff member now fully deserves a well-earned rest after such a long term, especially our hard working Year 11 pupils who have just finished their mock examinations.

A very special thank you to every teacher and support staff member who continue to go above and beyond to ensure that our pupils are safe, supported and do well here at St Gregory's. Merry Christmas everyone.

Mr McGrinchey!



**Mr McGrinchey**  
Headteacher





Throughout November, the LRC focussed on non-fiction books. Books of the week and displays in the LRC promoted the wide range of non-fiction books that we have, and our non-fiction section had a revamp. It is great to see more pupils borrowing books from this section.

## Festive Activities

December has been full of various festive activities. We had an LRC advent calendar where raffle tickets were gained by returning books with a small book review. 24 book prizes were then given out each day in December including some popular Christmas titles. Well done to everyone who won a book to take home.

## 25 in 2025

Our 25 books in 2025 competition has now come to an end. Several pupils managed to complete it successfully and Samuel K in Year 8 won the prize draw. Well done to everyone who took part!

## Christmas Jumper

We have also has our Christmas Competition of designing a book themed Christmas Jumper. The entries were fabulous – very creative and imaginative! Well done to Gabriela and Cheryl, Lottie and Haroon who won prizes for their designs. Everyone who entered received achievement points for their designs and we have saved a few for a display in the LRC.



## Last week

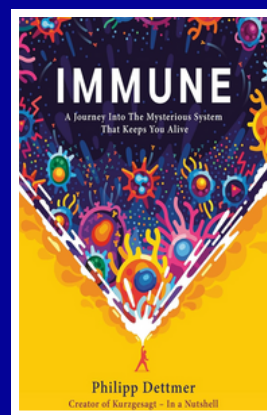
We have ended the year with a 'Find the Elves' activity and a festive film showing.

Myself and Mrs Hennessey wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Mrs Andrews

## NON - FICTION ADDICTION

### 'Immune by Philipp Dettmer'



I really liked this book – especially chapter 30, the dance of the T and B cells!

This book was all about the immune system and I never thought I would learn so much and read all of it! I recommend this book to anyone who likes biology and the complex things in science.

Written by Sophia Y7

## CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

CHRISTMAS

TINSEL

REINDEER

PRESENTS

CANDY CANE

ELVES

BAUBLES

CHARITY

TREE

SNOWFLAKE

SANTA

NATIVITY

GIVING

ADVENT

CARDS

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

## WEAR IT PINK

At the end of last term St. Gregory's staff and pupils all wore an item of pink clothing in support of Breast Cancer Awareness day. Thank you to all those that donated, bought cakes or joined in the raffle. The amount raised was a staggering £1,919.49 - even more than last year. Thank you for all your kind donations.

Mrs McLenaghan



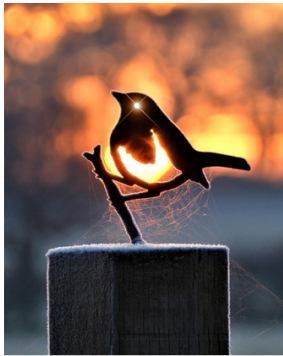


# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Thank you to all those that entered this years photography competition!  
There have been some amazing entries, here are just a few!

1st

## Teachers prize



## Runners up



St. Gregory's High School Media Team

# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Send a photograph that you have taken with 'The Great Outdoors' theme to Mrs Hennessey via email by

**3pm on Friday 12th December.**

The photo that best reflects the theme will win a prize!



# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION





## CHAPLAINCY



Well done to five of our pupils who became Ministers of the Eucharist this term and represented our school wonderfully. These pupils then went on to assist in our Advent Mass. A celebration led by Fr Dave Heywood and Fr John Schofield.



We were lucky to be invited to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School for a Christmas event. Our students spent time with some local parishioners as well as visiting their old classrooms!



A select few from the choir were able to attend St Joseph's Coffee, Cake and Carols event, which raised over £1500 for Claire House.

Thank you for having us!



## MOCK COP CHAMPIONS!

Our pupils took part in the Archdiocese Catholic High Schools' Mock COP event this term, proudly representing India as their chosen delegation. They explored global climate challenges and the specific issues faced by India, working collaboratively to craft a powerful speech on climate impact, mitigation, and adaptation. In the morning, they delivered their speech with confidence, then impressed everyone by asking and answering challenging questions with other delegations. In the afternoon, pupils mixed with students from other schools for hands-on sustainability workshops – from textiles sessions on repairing and upcycling clothes to collaborating on innovative Eco School ideas aimed at reducing carbon footprints. It was an inspiring day of learning, leadership, and climate action. We are proud of our young changemakers!

Mr Frame





## CLASS OF 2025 RETURN FOR AWARDS EVENING

Thank you to all who attended this Mass in honour of the Class of 2025. We are immensely proud of our pupils and all they have achieved so far, and we look forward to seeing the remarkable things they will accomplish in the future.



## YEAR 9 PUPIL PUBLISHES HIS OWN BOOK

We are incredibly proud to celebrate a fantastic achievement by one of our Year 9 pupils. Alfie has written his very own book – and not only that, he has had it professionally printed and bound.

Writing a full book is an impressive accomplishment at any age, and Alfie has shown real dedication, creativity and determination in seeing his project through from idea to finished publication. Holding a professionally bound copy of his own work is something he should be extremely proud of.

This is a wonderful achievement and a great example of what can be accomplished with passion and perseverance. Well done, Alfie – we can't wait to see what you do next!



## STEM WINSTANLEY TRIP



Well done to those pupils that attended the STEM trip to Winstanley Collect this term.  
Mr Poland





# MATILDA



Our high school pupils recently took to the stage to perform Matilda Jr, and the results were nothing short of outstanding. From the moment the audience entered the theatre, they were completely entranced by the energy, talent, and professionalism on display. The performances were amazing, showcasing the pupils' hard work, confidence, and creativity. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved in bringing this wonderful production to life.

Here are just a few pictures from the production we would like to share with you.





# MATILDA







## Cast Interview with the Media Team

Interviewers - Oliver Y7, Keanne Y9, Isabella Y10, Bertie Y9, Jacob Y10

Photography - Keeley Y10, Oliver Y7, Elizabeth Y10

### Interview 1 - MsTrunchbull

**1. Please tell me your first name and the name of the character you are playing in Matilda.**

"I'm Lucas and I am playing Ms Trunchbull." "I'm Orla and I'm also playing Ms Trunchbull."

**2. In just a few sentences, can you tell me the storyline of the play?**

Orla - "A little girl is born. She is quite smart and special but her parents don't appreciate her and how amazing she is. She goes to school and meets a lovely teacher."

Lucas - "And she meets a horrible teacher who bullies all the children."

Together "Which is us!"

Orla - "The story really shows how important it is to embrace being unique and special."

**3. Describe your character in 3 words.**

"Evil, scary, intimidating and I know this is more that you asked for but emotionally unstable!"

**4. How do you handle stage fright or nerves?**

Orla - "I don't really get stage fright anymore as I have done a few productions, so I'm used to being on stage. We both actually have been in all of the productions, and I feel that you do get used to being on stage."

Lucas - "I do still get stage fright and obviously some people jump in and work through the nerves. I overthink! But I have realised that I can use that and push myself forward. I don't think about what other people might say or think of my performance, as long as I am proud and happy with what I am doing."

**5. We obviously know that you are both nice! But have you enjoyed playing the villain?**

Orla - "I love it, its obviously very different to how I normally am, so its a nice change."

Lucas - "For me, I have enjoyed using my loud voice! Ms Trunchbull shouts all of the time its really fun to project and act evil and scary and see other peoples reactions!"

**Want to find out more? Visit the website to hear the full interview for Matilda, Ms Trunchbull, Bruce, Miss Honey and Mr and Mrs Wormwood!**

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



## **RE - ESSAY COMPETITION**

We had some really strong entries in the recent essay competition, and we would like to thank all that entered. Here are our winners!

Keanne Y9, Xaelani Y9, Leyla Y7, Anji Y10, Elizabeth Y9, Lottie Y7

Each of our winners won a voucher. Well done again to everyone who entered and a new essay Competition is coming SOON in the New Year!

Mrs Hanrahan



# THEATRE EXPERIENCE

## Year 9 Theatre Experience – Kindness by Voices of the Holocaust

Our Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to watch Kindness, a powerful performance by the theatre company Voices of the Holocaust. This cross-curricular event encouraged our young people to engage thoughtfully with a challenging and important topic through the art of storytelling. Following the performance, students took part in an inspiring Q&A session with the founder of the company, gaining deeper insight into the stories, themes, and history explored in the production. It was a moving and thought-provoking experience that helped our pupils reflect on the importance of empathy, understanding, and—above all—kindness.

Mrs Chappel



## SVP COMPETITION

**Thank you to all the pupils who submitted a pumpkin carving entry at the end of last term. SVP have now chosen the winners -**



Winner of the scariest pumpkin -  
Maria 9J



Winner of the funniest pumpkin -  
Amelia 7P



Winner of the most artistic -  
Brodie - 7J



Runner up -  
Jude 7P



Runner up - Angelika - 7P



## AGED 13-25 AND LIVING IN ENGLAND OR WALES?

### HAVE YOUR SAY ON POLICING NATIONALLY

The IOPC Youth Panel wants to hear your views on policing in your community and the police complaints process.



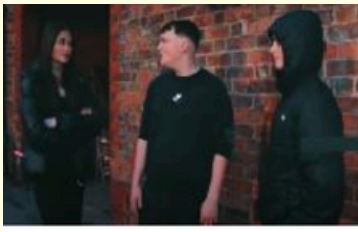
**Take the  
survey  
now**

**Deadline 11th January 2026**

Responses will be used to produce national recommendations for change for police forces, PCCs and partner agencies.



**IOPC** Independent Office for Police Conduct **LEADER UNLOCK**



## IN-VISION PROJECT



**INTERESTED IN ACTING?**  
**THIS IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO  
SHOW-OFF YOUR ACTING  
SKILLS!**



Warrington Youth Services are putting together a new short film to highlight and educate young people around ASB issues in Town Centres.

If selected you will work with Kitchen Sink Live you will have the opportunity to script write, assist with the filming, act within and assist with editing the short film and will be invited to attend the film premier.

If you would like to be involved and have parental consent, please contact:

[Paula.Matthews@cheshire.police.uk](mailto:Paula.Matthews@cheshire.police.uk)

Providing your name, age and parent/carer contact details

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

### Emotional Wellbeing Support from the Mental Health Support Team in Schools

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is an NHS service which works in Warrington schools to support their pupils' emotional, behavioural and mental health and wellbeing. The MHST helps young people build resilience and teaches skills so they can take care of their own mental wellbeing.

The service is made up of a number of mental health professionals who can offer;

- One to one sessions and group support to help deal with issues like worry, panic or low mood

Schools take part in a half-termly consultation to put up to 6 pupils forward for additional support. The MHST can help with most things but if more specialised support is required, they will be able signpost onto other local services that can help.



We would like to warmly welcome the newest members of the Mental Health Ambassador Team:



## Introduction to Christmas and mental health

You might be thinking how can 'the most wonderful time of the year' affect my mental health?

Christmas could affect your mental health in many ways and be difficult for anyone, at any point in their life but especially if you're struggling for the first time this year or you may have found Christmas difficult in the past, and you're reminded that you're dealing with it again this year.

You might enjoy Christmas but not be able to celebrate it the way you'd like. Or perhaps you find some aspects enjoyable while others feel stressful.

Christmas is a hard time for most people so you're not alone in your feelings.

### **Christmas can affect your mental health in various ways, including:**

- Feeling stressed due to other challenges happening in your life.
- Experiencing loneliness or feeling left out when everyone else seems happy, but you're not.
- Feeling frustrated that you can't enjoy Christmas the way others do.
- Putting too much pressure on yourself to meet expectations of what Christmas "should" look like.
- Finding comfort in looking forward to Christmas but struggling with feelings of emptiness once it's over.
- Feeling apprehensive about the New Year and what it might bring. Wishing to celebrate with someone who's struggling, which can be emotionally challenging

These challenges can make the festive season feel overwhelming, but it's important to remember that everyone's experience is different, and it's okay to seek support if you need it. See the tips below to help you cope during Christmas, find ways to support others and discover useful contacts and resources for finding support at Christmas.

### **Coping tips**



Try to include as much of your regular routine in your Christmas plans as you can.



If you're going to be somewhere unfamiliar, think about what you need to take to help you cope.



Think about if you really need to do everything and consider cutting out the things you don't want to do.



Plan ahead as much as possible to help relieve stress.



Remind yourself that Christmas won't last forever.



Take time out to do something to forget it's Christmas or distract yourself.



Experience your feelings, they're always valid.



Think about making Christmas plans in advance so you have things to look forward to.



Be kind to yourself, take the pressure off and focus on your wellbeing.



If something is too much for you, set boundaries and say no without feeling guilt.



Make a note of the support services that are open over Christmas so you are prepared if you need to ask for help.



Be open with family or friends to agree ways to make Christmas plans free or low cost.



Find other ways to connect such as online by social media or on FaceTime.



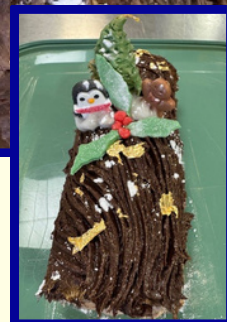
Look for free local offers or events.

# CHRISTMAS BAKES

Here are just a few of the lovely festive bakes from this term!

Mrs Cross

Yule Log - Y10



Gingerbread - Y9



Christmas Krispies - Y8





## Bluebells

The leaves are shiny and the  
bluebells sway,  
A delightful beginning to my day.  
Underneath the sun's warm  
embrace, it blooms,  
Then peacefully slumbers through  
autumn's glooms.

Precious petals waltz in the gentle  
breeze,  
Cerulean hue sparkling with such  
ease.  
Among the muted tones, it's beauty  
gleams,  
In the moon's soft glow, slowly flow  
sweet dreams.

During my busy schedule, I do try,  
But I soon forget; days swiftly slip  
by.  
Within the hustle and my daily race,  
I fail to handle you with tender  
grace.

An ample load; A weight on my  
shoulders,  
Yet yours equivalent to large  
boulders.  
I complain while you suffer silently,  
I, now reap what I sow, the irony.

Ceramic pot; cracked and beyond  
repair,  
Reflects the drought of love I could  
not share.  
Each fragile bell, a whisper of  
despair,  
Our broken promise hanging in the  
air.

Because of my neglect, your light  
did cave,  
Regret washes over, a roaring wave.  
I wish you would bloom like you did  
once more,  
I miss seeing your petals swiftly  
soar.

I accept if it is I, you despise,  
And to you, I truly apologise.  
For this tragic ending in our story,  
I'm sorry.

The leaves did shine and the  
bluebells did sway,  
You delightfully brightened up my  
day.

Anyh, Y10



## Y8/9 FOOTBALL

Well done to your Y8/9 girls on an outstanding performance against the Whitby High school in the Cheshire Cup, winning 7-3. Shoutout to Kamila for scoring a hat trick.



Well done to our Y8/9 girls on a phenomenal performance in the English School's Cup, having won 16-0. The girls showed tremendous teamwork and skill. They now go through to the next round of the competition. Shoutout to Jessica in Y8 who scored a double hat trick of 6 goals!



Well done to our U14 girls football team on winning all three games yesterday to qualify for the county finals!



Well done to our U13's getting through to the last 16 of the Cheshire Cup with a 2-1 win v The Grange



## Y9 FOOTBALL

Congratulations to our Y9 football team on their victory against Great Sankey High School. Well done everyone!



## MAN OF STEEL

Congratulations to Breeze for his award as Man of Steel at the annual Warrington Wolves Awards Evening. We are so proud!

