The Net

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

Issue: 135

Oct 2026

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 23rd October
Wear it Pink & End of term
Tuesday 3rd November
Start of term
Wednesday 11th November
Remembrance Parade
Thursday 12th November
Remembrance Mass
Thursday 19th November
Y11 Engage Evening
Friday 18th December
End of term

THIS TERMS NEWSLETTER

Literacy.....2
LRC.....2
Fiction Addiction 2
Chaplaincy.....3
Wordsearch.....3
Wellbeing 4
Drama trip 5
Liverpool trip.....5
Interventions.....5
Poetry 6
Interview with a teacher.....7
Interview with Head Pupils.....7
Careers.....9
Game and craft club.9
Back of the Net.....9

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we approach the end of our very busy first half-term, I would like to start by praising our new Y7 pupils for the outstanding start they have made to life at St Gregory's; they have been incredible. From the respect they have shown during the Celebration of the Word and on retreats to Lowe House, to their conduct around school, their lovely manners, their enthusiasm and their attendance at extra-curricular events, I am so pleased with the start they have made. It was a privilege to share this with you at the recent New Families Mass.

All other year groups have started the school year brilliantly too. The atmosphere around school has been very hardworking, and when I have visited lessons, the level of engagement and the willingness of pupils to get stuck in has been particularly apparent. A special mention goes to Y10, who have adapted to their GCSEs as if they have been doing them for years.

Our Y11 cohort have already successfully completed their first mock exams and are now well underway with their final preparations for their examinations in the summer.

Extra-curricular activities have been well attended this half-term, with pupils taking part in drama clubs, sewing club, a multitude of sports clubs, including darts, science clubs and, of course, showing huge interest in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Pupils have already enjoyed multiple trips this half-term. These include two Geography trips to Liverpool, theatre trips with Drama and English, Youth Rowing and the COP30 environmental group event, also in Liverpool.

Our pupil leadership teams are now fully in place, with Head Pupils elected and delivering an 'Outstanding' assembly for the school. Our Young Leaders are also on duty throughout the school, helping to maintain high standards.

I was particularly impressed by the recent Young Carers training in school. Young Carers are an incredible group of people who are sometimes overlooked in society, and at St Gregory's, we recognise and value them.

Our recent Open Evening attracted a record number of visitors, with those who attended praising the pupils who volunteered to support the school.

It was also lovely to see so many Y10 and Y11 parents attending our GCSE preparation evening.

I would also like to thank everyone who donated, purchased cakes or wore something yellow for our 'Wear It Yellow' mental health fundraising campaign. We raised over £1,000 for a very important cause.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved and relaxing half-term break.



Mr McGlinchey
Headteacher

LITERACY

Literacy Intervention

A huge welcome to our new Year 7 pupils participating in literacy intervention this academic year! Having completed our initial testing, we have distributed over 80 invites to pupils from Years 7-10 offering support with reading and literacy skills.

As these pupils and their parents/carers will be new to our intervention programme, here is some guidance and advice regarding how best to support your child:

- Know when your child will be attending intervention and remind them: Year 7s attend on Monday and Wednesday mornings, Year 8s on Tuesday and Year 9s on Thursday. Pupils should head to intervention instead of form time.
- Encourage your child to use Lexia Power up at home at least once a week. This programme is a motivational and bespoke way of targeting pupils' literacy needs and can be accessed through RMUnify. Pupils with higher usage will make much more progress!
- Dedicate time to reading together as a family. Pupils who read for pleasure at home are much more likely to be proficient in literacy and, if you lead the way at home, they are much more likely to follow your example and read themselves.

We look forward to celebrating your progress throughout the year!

Miss Mannion

LRC

<u>Exciting News!</u>

We had some exciting news in the LRC this half term. The LRC has been shortlisted for 'School Library of the Year' in the Educate Awards! The judges have highlighted the LRC's leadership opportunities for pupils, the use of the space for social and study use and of course reading engagement! We are very proud to be shortlisted and it is absolutely testament to the pupils and their involvement in the development of the LRC.

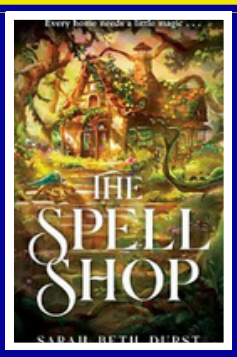
On that note - we have been extremely busy in the LRC this half term – probably our busiest yet! It has been amazing to see so many of our new pupils using the LRC. Well done to 7K who had the most loans in September – 101!

<u>National Poetry Day</u>

We enjoyed celebrating National Poetry Day in the beginning of October. The theme this year was 'Wonder'. We had some excellent entries for our competition – well done to Zofia (Y7), Aleah (Y7), Sophia (Y8), and Joseph (Y8) whose entries won the public vote!

FICTION ADDICTION

'The Spell Shop' by Sarah Beth Durst



A lovely 'read in the rain' book that is heartwarming and easy going with outstanding setting descriptions. One of the best hot chocolate books that has sarcastic plants hidden in the pages.

By Scarlett Y9

<u>Book Clubs</u>

Book Clubs are well under way. Year 9+ Book Club is now on Thursday after school on 'A' week and Year 7&8 Book Club is now on Thursdays after school on 'B' week. We have quizzes, games and crafts all linked to books and after half term we will be starting to read the Cheshire Book Awards books.

Mrs Andrews

CHAPLAINCY

Y7 retreats

It has been great this half term to visit the Animate team on our Year 7 retreats. We have had the pleasure of visiting and working with the team for a large number of years and we wish the team all the success as they head off onto pastures new at Christmas.

New Y7 Family Mass

It was lovely to have Fr Dave join us for Mass this term to welcome our new Y7s and their families to St Gregory's.
Thank you to all those that attended and joined us for our celebration.

Mrs Whitlow

WORDSEARCH

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

PETICHOR

ACORN

LEAVES

AUTUMN

DAMP

SPOOKY

PUMPKINS

SEASONAL

HARVEST

CONKERS

APPLE CRUMBLE

PUMPKIN PIE

FOG

FOLIAGE

CRIMSON

WELLBEING

As the leaves change colour and the days grow shorter, autumn is a great time to check in with ourselves and think about our mental health. Starting a new term can bring excitement, new opportunities and friendships, but it can also feel tiring or overwhelming at times.
This term, we're focusing on small steps to support our emotional wellbeing, build resilience and **remind ourselves that it's okay not to feel okay all the time.**

This term we have welcomed many new members to the Mental Health Ambassador team. We are very excited to have 10 Y7 pupils who successfully applied for the role. We warmly welcome Lotte, Freya, Eva, Mariella, Ariana, Tayana, Nisha, Mike, Jack and Poppy.

Wear it Yellow:



A huge thank you to all parents, carers, staff and pupils in our school community who supported us on Wear it Yellow day on 9th October, to raise money for charities who champion young people's mental health. It was amazing to see the effort so many went to in wearing yellow and both donating and buying cakes. A massive shout out to all of the Mental Health Ambassadors who worked their socks off that day, helping out in the cake sale over break and lunch, and spreading a little sunshine with the positive messages they wrote and shared with staff and pupils throughout the day. Also, a special mention to Freddie, who kindly crocheted yellow hearts to be sold on the day. There were smiles all round ad we raised a magnificent: £1205.33 which will be split between Young Minds and local charities, which will be chosen by the Mental Health Ambassadors.

Ahead of the Game- Know your Team:



We were very lucky to have Paul Leighton from the Warrington Wolves Foundation come into school to deliver some mental health training to staff members on knowing your pupils, recognising the signs that someone might be struggling with their mental health and how you can help.

Young Carers:

Aimee and Roz joined us for Celebration of the Word, helping raise awareness of what a young carer is, increasing empathy and understanding among our pupils and helping to reduce the stigma people may feel is attached to being a young carer. This was a huge success and generated some good discussion among pupils. We are looking forward to working closely with Warrington Carers Hub this year.

Our Wellbeing Quote of the Term

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."
Remember: You don't need to have everything figured out. Focus on one small, positive step at a time. Whether it's asking for help, trying something new or simply getting through a difficult day, every step counts!

Embracing the Autumn Change

As the weather gets colder and the evenings become darker, you might notice changes in your

mood, energy or motivation. You may feel more tired than usual or find it harder to get going in the morning. There's no need to worry if you experience these feelings occasionally. Changes in routine, daylight and sleep can affect how we feel.

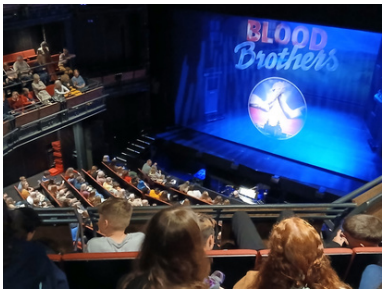


Try these simple ideas:
Get outside during daylight, even if it's just for a short walk.
Keep a regular bedtime and aim for enough sleep.
Make time for hobbies and activities you enjoy.
Stay connected with friends and family.
Be kind to yourself on days when things feel harder.
Remember: Small habits can make a big difference to how we feel.

A Final Thought for Autumn
As we move through the autumn term, remember that everyone's journey is different. Some days will feel easier than others, and that's completely normal.
Celebrate your progress, look out for one another and remember that you never have to face difficult feelings alone.
Be kind to yourself. Be kind to others. Keep talking. Keep growing.

Mrs O'Kane

DRAMA - BLOOD BROTHERS TRIP



GCSE Drama pupils enjoyed an exciting trip to see a live production of Blood Brothers this half term. Their behaviour was excellent throughout, and everyone had a fantastic time experiencing this powerful and engaging musical. Ms Chappel

LIVERPOOL GEOGRAPHY TRIP

The Geography Department took over 130 Y11 pupils to Liverpool to complete their GCSE Human Geography fieldwork this half term. Pupils represented the school beautifully and did an excellent job of collecting all the necessary data needed for their GCSE work.

INTERVENTIONS

Interventions in Literacy and Paired Maths are underway for this half term. We are extremely proud of all the pupils who have taken part and we look forward to celebrating their continued progress throughout the year.
Mrs Austin







POETRY COMPETITION

Our winning poems from National Poetry Day -

Poem by Zofia Y7

My friends whose laughter lights my way,
The ocean's breath at break of day.
Sunrise that paints the waves in gold,
Sunsets where stories infold.
To wonder far where worlds begin,
Where distant shores and cities spin.
Then lift my gaze beyond the blue,
To start and space and endless view.

Poem by Sophia Y8

When a white glow illuminates the sky,
Sometimes I glimpse those opaque, opal eyes
Orbs like mirrors hidden between crowded trees
I hold my breath – a rare moment to seize.
How do you do it? Silent stalker of the night,
How do you hide in plain sight?
You haunt the woods, swift and silent
Whilst the breeze is soft and compliant
No cry is heard, no branch will bend,
Your hunt begins where whispers end.
How do you do it? Silent stalker of the night,
How do you accomplish such noiseless flight?
The presence of an owl brings wonder to my world
I love to watch these elegant wings unfurl
A hoot is heard, a spell so enchanting
A symbol of wisdom, creature so inspiring!
How do you do it? Silent stalker of the night,
How does a deity like you live in the absence of light?

Poem by Joseph Y8

A beautiful phenomenon is the Egg Nebula,
A star on the brink of death.
Its shell is gone;
Shining searchlights to find help through the fog.
The silence surrounds,
All hope is lost.
In the last moment,
A cry is sent – but not heard.
The yolk time is up and like fire its light flickers;
And goes.

Poem by Aleah Y7

Cherry Blossom Garden

I walk through blossoms soft with light,
the trees are calm and pink and bright.
The aim is still and smells so sweet, and petals fall beneath my feet.
I breathe in slow, I breath out low.
I watch the petals softly go.
They flout down quiet – through the air,
so gentle, calm, and light and fair.
I sit beneath a blossom tree, the world feels calm and free.
A book upon my knee to read, with quiet time is all I need.
No rush, no noise, just peace around,
the garden has a soft, calm sound.
The branches sway so slow above,
a place so calm and full of love.
This is where calm lives, among
the blooms it loves to give.
In cherry blossom gardens I stay, so calm and peaceful all the day.

INTERVIEW WITH A TEACHER - MRS BALDWIN

1. Can you tell us a little about what it's like being part of the Senior Leadership Team, and can you tell us more about your role?

"I am a Senior Assistant Headteacher. When you are part of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), everyone has a different focus. My focus is on teaching and learning, including what happens in the classroom and the school's curriculum. This includes the types of activities that take place in lessons, as well as government requirements. It's about understanding how we can make lessons better, more accessible and more engaging.

I work with the staff here at St Gregory's to make all of that happen. I really like being part of the SLT because it helps me get to know people across the school, and I get to see all the great teaching and learning that goes on here at St Gregory's."

2. How has being able to speak another language impacted you?

"With regard to my career, there are lots of job opportunities! Before teaching, I worked in export marketing, which involved a lot of travelling. This allowed me to gain a lot of experience with other cultures, meet new people and develop my language skills.

From a personal point of view, I think speaking another language makes me very curious. It sparks conversations with people about how I learnt another language and the places I have been.

Of course, all this experience has led me into teaching. I have been a teacher for many years now, and I thoroughly enjoy it."

3.What do you believe the school is trying to achieve with the new system of Yondr pouches, and why is it beneficial for school life?

"There are three things we are trying to achieve with the introduction of the Yondr pouches. Firstly, it's about consistency in behaviour and expectations. The second is creating a calm environment by limiting distractions. Finally, we hope that by creating a phone-free environment for pupils, we are looking after their wellbeing.

Phones are such a big part of all our lives, and for the six hours you are in school and phone-free, you can focus on school, socialising and not worrying about the outside world. Let's focus on what's happening in school, our learning, our development and our friends."

4.How is St Gregory's using technology to support learning?

"I'm going to talk about one of my favourite things when it comes to technology and learning, which is the visualiser! At the moment, you'll probably go into lessons and find that, most of the time, your teacher will use a visualiser. I think it's a great way for teachers to demonstrate the activities that pupils are doing. As the teacher is writing, pupils can see exactly what is happening. I think it's a great piece of technology that has really helped in the classroom environment."

Interviewed by Jess Y10, Caitlin Y10 and Ella Y10

INTERVIEW WITH OUR NEW HEAD PUPILS

Head Pupil Interview Questions

Our interview included:

- Meeval – Head Girl
- Jacob – Head Boy
- Anji – Deputy Head Pupil
- Grace – Deputy Head Pupil
- Will – Pupil Lead for Extra-Curricular Activities and Events
- Charlotte – Student Lead for Personal Development and Wellbeing

Could you describe the qualities you hold that make you a good Head Pupil?

Anji – I think I'm proactive, and I like to get things done. I would also say that I am creative, as I like to think of new projects.

Grace – I am a very good listener, and I enjoy putting others first.

Will – I like to think of myself as respectful and determined to get things done.

Charlotte – I'm a good listener, I'm very approachable, and I'm very ambitious.

Meeval – Aside from speeches, I'm confident in tackling any task given to me.

Jacob – I'm grateful for all the opportunities that I have been given, and I show that through things like service in the school.

What aspirations do you have as a Head Pupil?

Anji – I want to encourage unity at St Gregory's. I'd like to see everyone working together, helping each other and pupils doing things for the wider community as well. It would also be good to see



more rewards for pupils so that all achievements are recognised.
Grace – I'd like to see pupils being able to help in the community more through work experience opportunities, such as having more people come in to talk to them about their jobs, and working with younger year groups to help them with their careers.
Charlotte – I want to create a positive school environment where all pupils feel comfortable enough to speak up and ask for help.
Jacob – I'd like people who don't have the confidence to become Student Advocates or Young Leaders to still have an input into the changes happening in school.
Meeval – Grace and I are working on making the options process easier.

If you could change one thing about school, what would it be?
Meeval – I really like our school, but I would like to reach out to pupils to find out what they want to change. I'd like to get feedback from them and help them make those changes.
Jacob – When I was talking to parents at the school Open Evening, they said they really liked the idea of Young Leaders, but it would be good to get more pupil voice and take their feedback into consideration. So, I would like to advocate for pupils who are not Young Leaders or Student Advocates to make sure their voices are heard.
Anji – I think our school is already a beautiful place, but if I had to choose, it would be to do more things together and have more rewards.
Grace – I would like to see the achievements pupils make outside school recognised more.
Will – I would put more focus on extracurricular activities, as they support learning and pupil wellbeing.
Charlotte – I would want to increase the number of support groups available for specific groups of people. For example, a Young Carers' group where young carers can meet to share their experiences and support one another.

Has becoming a head pupil taught you anything?
Grace – It has taught me to be professional. Being a Head Pupil is different from being a Young Leader because you have meetings with the Headteacher and teachers.
Will – It has shown me what a job interview is like. There were around 30 people who started this process, and I think you have to work hard to get noticed.
Jacob – It's taught me how to work better with people and take on board different views on how things can be done.
Meeval – It has given me more confidence. We present during Collective Worship and speak to crowds of parents at Open Evening, and it's really helped me with my confidence overall.

How has becoming a head pupil impacted you?
Anji – It's had a great impact on me. For example, a presentation I made about Black History Month is being shared in forms. Our Celebration of the Word sessions also mean that we can see pupils face to face.
Grace – I feel like I have got to know more people.
Will – It has allowed me to work towards achieving my goals and has helped me stay focused.
Jacob – It's given me more opportunities to talk to people, including parents, about life at St Gregory's.

What piece of advice would you give to a new Year 7 pupil starting at the school?
Anji – You're not alone, so talk to other people who are new! Also, look out for those people with the yellow stripes on their blazers; they are Young Leaders. If you're feeling lost, scared, alone or just unhappy, they can help you.
Grace – Try out those extra-curricular clubs. I met most of my friends through the Chaplaincy Team.
Will – Do not leave homework or revision until the last minute!
Charlotte – To new Year 7 pupils, I would say: seize every single opportunity that St Gregory's gives you.
Meeval – Be confident. My brother has just joined the school, and I gave him the same advice: talk to everyone, and it will help you make friends.

What charism do you most embody?
Meeval – As Head Boy and Head Girl, we need to focus our efforts on helping other pupils and making sure they are heard, so for both of us, it is 'Service'.
Jacob – 'Optimism', as Head Boy, I don't want to think negatively! And 'Empathy', because I understand that we have all had different experiences, and all our voices should be heard.
Anji – If I had to choose, it would be 'Service' because I want to do my job well and help build our school and the school community as 'One Family Inspired to Learn'.

Grace – I would say 'Young Leader' because I'm part of the Pupil Leadership Team, and being a leader is about listening to others and taking their thoughts on board.
Will – 'Optimism', I have always been a 'glass half full' person.
Charlotte – I think I most embody the charism of 'Service', as I am always willing to get involved and help in any way I can at school, whether that be through the Chaplaincy Team, being a Young Leader or helping in other ways.

What made you want to apply?
Anji – I just wanted to make a difference.
Grace – I have always wanted to be part of the Pupil Leadership Team. I have worked towards this from Year 7 to get to this point, and I have really enjoyed it by making a difference.
Will – I'm passionate about work experience, and I would like to pass that passion on to others.
Jacob – My friends said I should apply. It's a great opportunity, and I'm always encouraging others to take opportunities, so I took my own advice!
Meeval – I have always been the type of person to go for a leadership role, and I have always wanted to make a difference.

Media Team – Harry (Y10), Bertie (Y10), Keanne (Y10), Caitlin (Y10), Maggie (Y10), Jess (Y10), Dominic (Y10) and Ella (Y10).

BACK OF THE NET

Muay Thai

A big congratulations to Logan in Y9 who recently went to Italy to compete, and win in, the European Muay Thai men's amateur cadet 45kg 12-13yrs title. Well done Logan St. Gregory's is so proud of you!

Netball



Three of our Y7's have been selected to play for Manchester Thunder U12s pathway!
Well done to -
Penelope - Manchester Thunder & Cheshire
Rose - Manchester Thunder
Lilly - Manchester Thunder & Merseyside.

They've all worked incredibly hard!

CAREERS - CRONTON CUP

12 pupils took part in the Cronton Cup this term in either a Sport, STEM or Humanities activity. All pupils conducted themselves fantastically throughout and represented St Gregory's to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, we did not come home with the trophy, but the humanities group won the 'escape room and book quiz' section of the day scoring a perfect 60/60. Well done to all those involved!

Games and Craft Club

Our fantastic Craft and Board Games Club takes place every Wednesday after school in F19, and it's becoming more popular!
There's always something creative and fun happening at the club. This term, pupils have been busy making woollen pumpkins, trying their hand at sewing and knitting, and, of course, enjoying a variety of board games.
The club is organised by all the members of our department, and it's wonderful to see so many pupils getting involved. We're also delighted that other members of staff have joined in the fun!
It's a brilliant opportunity for pupils to get creative, learn new skills, enjoy some friendly competition and spend time together in a relaxed and welcoming environment. We look forward to seeing the club continue to grow each week!



Written by St Gregory's Media & Podcast Team.
Team Editor - Keanne Y10