



**This extraordinary issue is published during a worldwide Pandemic and our school's partial closure.**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**All the following are dependant on Government advice on when the school can reopen.**

**Monday 20th April**

Start of Term

**Thursday 23rd April**

Y8 Parents Evening

**Mon 27th April - Friday 7th May**

Y10 Examinations

**Friday 8th May**Spring Bank Holiday  
School Closed**Thursday 7th May**

Year 11 Mass

**Tues 7th May - Fri 10th May**

Y10 Examinations continue

**Week Beginning 13th May**

Mental Health Week - Body Image

**Thursday 23rd May**

Y8 Vaccinations

**Friday 24th May**

End of Term

**Monday 3rd June**

Start of Term

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD**

I write to you at the end of the second week of partial school closure to update you with recent events and plans going forward. It is clear that we are still in the early stages of the lockdown process and schools will remain closed, other than for key workers, for the foreseeable future. Whilst it is sad and just not the same without our wonderful pupils in school, it is also important that we stand firm on observing and practising the strict government and medical advice to slow and eventually stop the spread of Covid-19.

St Gregory's has remained open throughout this crisis with a dedicated team of staff who are on a rota to support vulnerable children and those of critical key workers and we will continue to do this with the good will of our staff and manageable numbers of pupils; so far this support has worked well. I would like to thank all parents for your considerate and thoughtful approach to our own staff who are equally as anxious and feeling as vulnerable as anyone else.

I am extremely proud of my staff who are living out our school mission of **'stand up and be counted'**

and epitomising our motto of **'one family inspired to learn'** through their complete selflessness towards the supporting of others. It is very humbling to see how the community has pulled together and supported each other.

I desperately look forward to the day when we can open our gates and we can return to what we enjoy most, the education and development of young people.

We miss the buzz and the input of our pupils who make St Gregory's the special family that it is.

Everyone at St Gregory's wishes our community a very happy and holy Easter when hopefully we can find the time and space to reflect on resurrection, renewal and optimism for the future.

Mr McGlinchey  
Headteacher

**EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Our emotional health and wellbeing are all the more important as we face this global crisis together.

**#Wellbeing Wednesdays**

You Tube Channel 10 a.m.



Every Wednesday Andy Cope, author of 'Spy Dog' and 'Happiness' is releasing a weekly on-line lesson to promote happiness and positivity. These are suitable for all ages and have activities included.

Why not visit the [Active for Happiness](#) website. They produce a monthly calendar with suggestions of what to do on each day to help your mental wellbeing.

The National Literacy Trust have launched a [Family Zone](#) with activities for pupils up to 12.

**#AudioElevenes**

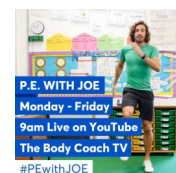
David Walliams is reading from his books every day. You can listen to Neil Gaiman read from 'The Graveyard Book' and

'Coraline' on his [website](#).

Creative? Enter the Pink Pig UK Schools Art Challenge on the theme of 'Community'. Closing date April 30th. See ClassCharts for details.

Join Joe Wicks every day at 9 a.m. on his You Tube Channel- The Body Coach TV.

**#keepwell**  
**#keepsafe**



## DRAMA DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Drama Department would like to sincerely thank all colleagues who have supported our trips outside of the classroom this term. They could not go ahead without you.

### GCSE DRAMA THEATRE VISIT

#### 'A Monster Calls'

*"I do not often come walking, boy – only for matters of life and death."  
The Monster*

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February over a hundred pupils from across all year groups enjoyed a very engaging evening at The Lowry Theatre in Salford to see 'A Monster Calls'. This exceptionally well performed play, adapted by The Company with Sally Cookson as director, was based on the moving novel by Patrick Ness. Themes such as friendship, bullying,

bereavement and truth were played out on the most imaginatively designed composite set. One of the many highlights of the production was the mass use of thick rope hanging to create the tree from which the Monster appeared. The production moved many of us to tears, yet each of us gained something positive from the messages of the story.

It certainly gave us a lot to discuss back in the classroom and Y10 pupils will now use this performance to learn more about production and acting skills as part of their GCSE course. In hindsight, we

feel very fortunate to have seen this phenomenal production, just before The Lowry sadly had to close its doors two weeks later.

#### Writing Competition

**Calling all pupils who attended the theatre trip to see 'A Monster Calls'!** Please look on Class Charts for details of a competition that challenges you to write a review of this inspiring production. Entries are welcome from all Year Groups and will be judged by a range of staff, resulting in at least one prize for each group!



### Y10 GCSE DRAMA RESIDENTIAL



Our pupils made us very proud in the way they gave their all to each task and it was great to witness the creative collaboration with Y10's from other schools.



The Drama department have already booked St Gregory's in for the same time next year. So, if you are currently in Y9 and have opted for GCSE Drama...get the date in diary!

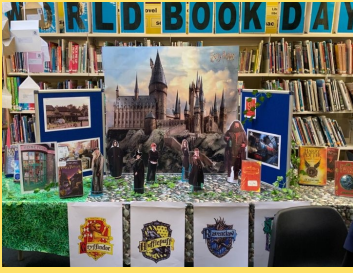
Ms Chappel and Miss O'Connor



On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Y10 GCSE pupils boarded a coach to The Conway Centre, Anglesey for a weekend jam packed with Drama activities. The course is led by the legendary Gav Cross and his team of theatre artists who never fail to inspire and challenge our pupils; this year was no exception. Sessions included: physical theatre; storytelling techniques; scripted drama and a very intense movement workshop.



## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE



World Book Day took place on Thursday March 5th, 2020 with the LRC transforming into J.K Rowling's world of Harry Potter with themed activities and the ever popular cake stall. All money raised from the cake sale will be used to buy books for the LRC.

In form time teachers and pupils read to each other to contribute to the 'Share a Million Stories' initiative and throughout the week group reading and paired reading took place, all contributing to our total of 560 shared stories.



After school, our Annual Team Quiz took place with 10 teams competing. Each team consisted of four pupils

and a teacher. The competition was hotly contested and very close to a tiebreaker but one team emerged triumphant - our Y8 team: Keira Watson, Eleanor Coutts, Dion Josh and Lydia Baldwin led by Mrs Hislop were the worthy winners!

It was an enjoyable day shining the spotlight on the rewards of reading for pleasure. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who took part.



During World Book Day week, the English department ran a 'Shelfies' competition celebrating our love of reading with lists of our favourite inspirational books and Isabel Savage (7Kolbe) was one of the lucky winners from Miss Clare's group. Congratulations!



Mia Joby (7Kolbe) was also the first in Y7 to reach the one million words milestone by continuing the Accelerated Reading Programme independently. A fabulous achievement!

### New books on the way!

Mr McGlinchey has allocated £10,000 to support literacy in school to boost the LRC and the English Department bookstocks. The LRC first order included all the pupil requests from September!



## GEOGRAPHY NEWS

The Geography Department have been busy this term



Two groups of Y11 pupils visited Edale in the Peak District on two separate occasions. Both groups left early at 7.30 a.m. but had different experiences due to the weather. The weather on the first trip was so horrendous the river was deep and fast flowing stopping them going into the river but the second group were able to get

into the river and take samples. Both groups were amazing and fully enjoyed their day in the countryside.

Over 100 Y11 Geographers also went on a trip to Liverpool. The pupils worked hard comparing the quality of life in Woolton Village and The Dingle. The trip concluded with a much deserved hour in the Liverpool One centre.



Y9 pupils have been working on their Ecosystems' projects and have done an outstanding job in leading their own learning and research. Well done!



Check out the [World Book Day](#) site for book related activities.

## HEAD PUPILS VISIT



This term our Head Pupils met with the Headteacher of St Edmond Arrowsmith, Mr Dumican and their Head Boy and

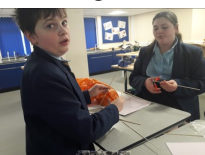
Girl to share important ideas for the development of Pupil Leadership here at St Gregory's.

Our pupils were highly professional and a credit to our school.



## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY STEM CLUB

On Monday nights the Design and Technology STEM Club has been buzzing with pupils working on different challenges.



The structural designs for the 'Egg Drop Challenge' were amazing. Well done to Alfie Dean and

Emma Dean who were judged to have created the most successful design of the night!



The latest challenge with Mr Mitchell was to develop ideas for a bridge structure project.

## PFA



If you are ordering online, please can you consider joining the [Easy-fundraising](#) website and nominate 'St Gregory's Catholic High School PFA' as your good cause. Full details are on the school website.

## FAREWELL TO

Ian Wilcock Assistant Caretaker  
Good luck in your new job

## AILEEN JONES RIP



There is a purpose and a reason for everything and although at the time we could not possibly have been able to foresee the future impact she was to have on the pupils and staff of St. Gregory's, it is with unwavering confidence that I can say it was not fate, chance or coincidence that brought Aileen Jones to St. Gregory's in April 2013, rather part of a greater glorious plan, orchestrated by the good Lord himself.

With many years of experience as a mental health nurse, Aileen was an invaluable addition to our Safeguarding Team, newly formed in 2014 and continued to offer insight, advice and support to both children and staff at St. Gregory's throughout her time here. She was a woman who demonstrated nothing but the utmost integrity and sense of justice, rooted in a firm faith and an absolute certainty that she was doing God's will in following her vocation as a chaplain.

Aileen's work was about witnessing to the gospel and showing the children that it was ok to stand up and sing "Jesus is the Rock who rolls my blues

away", that it was ok to be the first to stand and walk to the front of the Drama Theatre to the priest in the Reconciliation Service. If there is a lasting legacy that Aileen left, it is the school prayer which began as a co-ordinated effort with our federated school at the time and quickly became a solo effort with the tremendous suggestions that our children made towards writing that prayer. She took their words and phrases and crafted them into a prayer that defines what we strive to be as a Catholic Christian community at St. Gregory's. An Archdiocesan Catholic Life monitoring visit acknowledged that 'our mission statement is further exemplified by the school prayer which cites the term community in its fullest sense' and this is what Aileen did for St. Gregory's. She was a key part in forming, maintaining and developing our school community through her work here.

St. Gregory's was always where Aileen was meant to be and her contribution towards the safeguarding of the children here was outstanding. We will never be able to measure the effect of a quiet word of comfort on a child or the advice she gave or the listening ear she lent or the prayers she said with someone. Likewise, with staff; her perspective on life, so shaped by her own experiences, her

unwavering faith and approachability, all made her the person to turn to at moments of crisis.

*Aileen "planted the seeds that are now growing and continue to grow, she watered the seeds to enable them to fulfil their promise, she laid the foundations that continue to develop and she provided the yeast that produced far beyond its capabilities"*

In April 2017, Aileen retired to focus on her own health and at the time in her leaving speech I paraphrased a prayer that we have used many times in school and that I think captures perfectly what Aileen did daily throughout her life, not just at St. Gregory's:

This was Aileen's work at St. Gregory's and she continued to do that work once she had left us. She might have retired from the job here but she never retired from serving Christ and for this we give thanks for a woman who touched all our lives and whom we will dearly miss.

Mr. McLeod



## CHAPLAINCY NEWS



The Upper School Chaplaincy group have all achieved their Faith in Action Gold Award. They have dedicated their time to charity work and demonstrating their faith in our local and school communities. Congratulations.  
Mrs Cotter-Day

## BACK OF THE NET

### Indoor Athletics County Finals

This term our Y7 indoor athletics team represented Warrington Schools' in the County Finals.



The pupils competed against Chester, Ellesmere Port, Macclesfield and Nantwich schools, with some pupils in the first three: an outstanding effort from the team and exceptional performances against high quality opposition.

Our pupils have also been working with Warrington Wolves to improve their rugby skills and strengthening links in order to develop Rugby League for male and female pupils across the school and local community. Mr Dean.



### Elite Athlete visits school



Y10 PE pupils had the amazing opportunity to listen to Anthony Harding, the Junior Silver Medalist at the

Olympic Games in Argentina 2018 in Diving and an aspiring GB Team member for 2024! He talked about his journey and the sacrifices he and his family have had to make to get to the pinnacle of his sport.

## SAFEGUARDING

**Spring Safeguarding Newsletter available now**

**DSL**

Mrs Howard-Rigby (Pastoral 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**