### ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



SEAL it with RESPECT!

May, 2021

'ONE FAMILY... INSPIRED TO LEARN.'

**ISSUE 104** 



#### DATES FOR TOOK

Monday 7th June Start of Term



7th to 18th June

Stationery packs available via School Gateway App

28th June - 16th July Y5 and Y6 Transition Events

Monday 5th July New Parents' Evening

Thursday 15th July Prom

Thursday 22nd July End of Term

Thursday 12th August GCSE Results Day

Monday 6th September Start of Term

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD**



It has been another exciting half term and one where we have been able to slowly return to some aspects of normality as the national guidance changes.

This week we say goodbye to our Y11s with a leavers Mass and assembly. We will be sad to see them go, but are excited to see how this great year group will progress to their next stage of education and careers. They have demonstrated how to overcome adversity by the manner in which they have dealt with the pandemic, which has been incredibly tough. I am confident that they will be equipped to take on all future challenges successfully.

I want to pay a special tribute to our whole staff family again. Every colleague has taken on all challenges and dealt with them exceptionally well, whether it be working around restrictions in school, managing a new method of examinations for Y11 or supporting the most vulnerable in our community. I am so proud of their efforts to 'stand up and be counted'.

Finally, I would like to say how wonderful it is to be working in strong partnership with our local parish, St Joseph's. St Joseph's is a pillar of our local community and one cannot exist without the other. I strongly advise all in our community to pay a visit to St Joseph's whenever you can and find out about the great service and support that is offered by our local parish.

I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term and look forward to completing our academic year successfully when we return in June.

Ed McGlinchey

#### **STAFFING**

#### Welcome to:

Miss Clark Miss McDaid Attendance Mentor Receptionist

Farewell to:

Miss Majithia

Science Teacher (Maternity Leave)

Mrs Chappell Receptionist



After 16 years of service to St Gregory's Mrs Chappell moves on to work in the NHS, having left a great impression on everyone who has entered our doors, greeting them

with a warm welcome and a friendly smile, and immediately putting visitors at ease. We wish her all of the best for the future and thank her for all she has done.

#### **ENGLISH NEWS**

#### **Sonnet Competition**





Dr McCooey-Heap ran a competition for both her Y7 and Y9 English classes to write a sonnet on a topic of their own choosing. A sonnet is a short lyric poem that consists of 14 lines, typically written in iambic pentameter (a 10-syllable pattern in five pairs) and following a specific rhyme scheme - a challenging task. The topics were diverse and the work produced was amazing.

#### Y7 winners

First Place: Jenith Jeyseelan (7More) with a sonnet about his favourite sport,

Basketball.

Second Place: Macy Griffin (7Kolbe) with a sonnet about her guinea pig. Third Place: Aleisha Gauton (7Fisher) with a sonnet about autumn.

#### Y9 winners

First Place: Sophie Taylor (9Winefride) with a sonnet about the night sky.
Second Place: Maya Khan (9More) with a sonnet about her mother.
Third Place: Grace Connolly (9Kolbe) with a sonnet about rain.
All the poems have been posted on the school website.

Thank you to everyone who took part.







Y7 Winners

Weekend Drama Workshops (see p4)







#### **SAFEGUARDING NEWS**

It has been pleasing to see so many of our pupils back in school and attending on a regular basis. The pandemic has been a challenging time for all and we are very proud with how the vast majority of St Gregory's pupils have coped with settling back into the routines of school. Both the Pastoral and Safeguarding Team continue to provide support to any pupils who are struggling for whatever reason. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child/ward's Pupil Progress Manager.

This term we welcomed Miss Abram to our Safeguarding Team. Miss Abram is our 'Children's Well-being and Life skills Co-ordinator'. She has spent the past few weeks introducing herself to our pupils and delivering sessions on anxiety and body image to pupils who felt in need of this support. In the future, Miss Abram hopes to deliver sessions to parents and carers to help you support your young person as they work their way through the teenage years.



#### **National Online Safety**

St Gregory's prides itself on its pastoral and Safeguarding care. To support us (and you)

in keeping our young people safe we have joined National Online Safety which is a platform that offers support, advice and guidance to teachers and parents with regards to how to keep our young people safe online.

In order to log in please follow the link below and follow the instructions to sign in as a parent.

https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-gregory-s-high-school. Once logged in, you will find a wealth of guides covering topics from 'What parents need to know about scam emails', 'How to set up parental controls to limit age-inappropriate content' to 'What parents need to know about snapchat' as well as many more. There are also parental courses, webinars, explainer videos as well as monthly updates. In addition to this, once you have logged in you will be able to download the app to your smart phone.

As we know, it is more important than ever for young people and families to have easy access to support, particularly with reduced face to face interaction.

ChatHealth - Text support service for parents, carers and teens (11-19 years) is a service that provides a new line of communication as face to face contact is reduced. The service

does not aim to replace face to face contacts, rather increase choice for service users about how they access advice from a health professional. Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's has three secure text messaging numbers:



11-19 Young People's Service – 07507 330101

0-5 Parents Service – 07507 327981 5-19 Parents Service – 07480 635994

The service operates 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.

ChatHealth is not an emergency service, and accordingly parents will be instructed to follow usual advice in seeking urgent medical attention.

#### Website

The <u>Safeguarding</u> page of our website has a wealth of information as well as links to other agencies who can support you.

#### **Attendance and Punctuality**

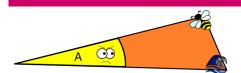
We are very pleased with the attendance and punctuality of the vast majority of pupils at St Gregory's in a year when there has been significant disruption. At St Gregory's we set a target of 97% attendance, this is to ensure that pupils are in school and making the most of their learning as well as to develop good habits for life.

If your child/ward is unwell and unable to attend school then please remember that you **must** contact the school absence line to inform school of this. This should be done in advance of 8.45am and must be done on each day of absence. If school have not heard from you, a text message will be sent to your mobile number informing you that your child/ward is absent – this is part of our Safeguarding procedures.

All pupils should arrive at school no later than 8.40am so that they are ready and in their form rooms by 8.45am. It is important that pupils are in form on time as this ensures a positive start to the day and pupils are present to take part in collective worship and hear notices that are being given out.

Mrs McKenna

#### **NUMERACY PUZZLE**



In triangle ABC the angle at A is the half of the mean of the angles at B and C. Find the size of the angle at A.

Solution on p4

# LITERACY NEWS Word of the Week

This term they were:

Soporific	Unique
Conflict	Monotonous
Ambition	Summary

Thank you to all those pupils who have sent in sentences using the featured words.

'The way the man walked was very unique'

Millie Skelton 7 Julian

'Charlie's **ambition** was to become a famous basketball player.'

Jenith Jeyaseelan 7 More

Miss Mannion's Y7 and Y8 pupils designed some lovely posters focusing on the Word of the Week: Unique







#### **Accelerated Reader**

Our Y7 Accelerated Readers continue to go from strength to strength as they race to finish their Bronze Passports.

Special congratulations to Jack Johnson (7 Winefride) and Melissa Woods (7 Fisher) who have both joined the Word Millionaire's Club. Well done!





#### **Ebook Platform**

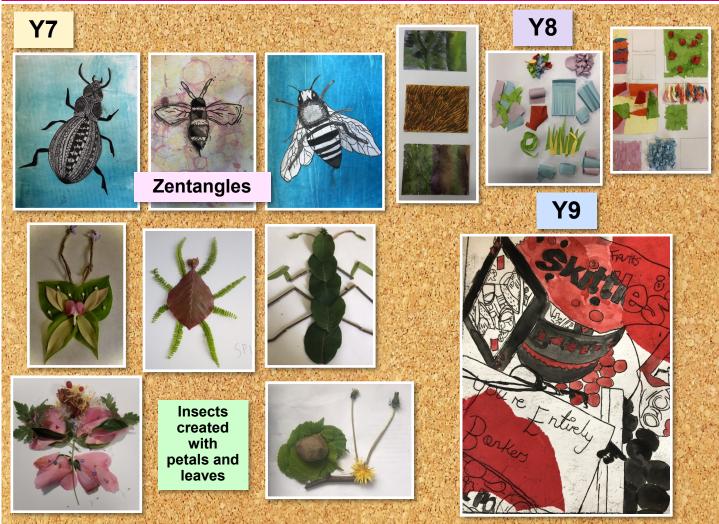
Remember to check out our Ebook Platform. If you have not already downloaded the App, click <a href="here">here</a> or login to RM Unify and from the launchpad click on the Ebook platform tile.

The library catalogue is full of bestselling, popular fiction titles and will offer your children 24/7 access to a digital library. Pupils can have two

books out at any one time. Sign in and get reading!

Mrs Mason and Mrs Huckerby

#### **ART NEWS**

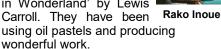


The department are extremely pleased with the high quality work that has been achieved by our pupils this term.

Year 7 pupils have been studying insects. One group looked at the work of artist Abby Diamond and created Zentangle insects. Zentangle art is the creation of beautiful images by drawing a combination of structured patterns typically in pen and ink. Another group took inspiration from the work of Raku Inoue, a Japanese artist based in Canada, who creates intricate insects from petals, leaves and branches.

Year 8 have been responding to the work of David Hockney, one of our most famous British artists and completing mark making and texture experiments using watercolour, collage, paper manipulation and frottage in preparation for completing a final landscape piece.

Year 9 pupils have been creating Still Life's inspired by The Mad Hatters Tea Party from 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll They have been



## St Joseph's Parish Council Art Competitions

#### 'Highway to Heaven' Competition

Congratulations to Isabel Anjo (8 Fisher) on winning the 'Highway to Heaven' Art Competition organised by St Joseph's Parish Council. The competition was to design a logo for their new parish

newsletter with a prize of a £25 gift voucher on offer. Isabel's

black and white landscape study was a worthy winner!

#### 'Design a Banner' Competition



Don't forget to submit your banner entry on the theme of 'Love in Action'. The closing date has been extended to June 7th.

## Royal Mail 'Heroes' Stamp Art Competition

any successes

in the next edition

of 'The Net', but

already winners.

are

all









Selection from Y8 and Y9

#### **LRC NEWS**



Despite Covid restrictions the LRC has been buzzing during Brunch times, with each year group taking advantage of the new books we have been able to buy and enjoying chess and games day!

#### **LRC Competitions**

Winners of the Film and TV Wordsearch David Dalekorej 7 Fisher Chloe Lynsky 7 Kolbe Holli Stone 7Teresa

Congratulations!



they



Y7 Enjoying Games Day Brunch

#### **POETRY SHOWCASE**

An empty husk.
Slowly losing track of time,
Of names,
Of family – new and old.
All becomes a burning memory.
Diagnosis only came about a few weeks
Ago, so what gives?
Hearts stop in joy at any sliver of
memory,
But as times goes on, all thoughts

A losing battle is raging,
And it's obvious who's the winner.
One can only hope for some last
moments
Of pure recall ...
Until all gives way.
Sublime beyond loss.
It gives way to suffering, drifting time
Displaced.
The owner's life soon gone,
But would this be luck?

Become misplaced in time.

All that time spent in pain, Is it really worth it anymore? Burning despair does ache. A desperate plea for help, That can't be understood. It falls on deaf ears, Or maybe it was heard. But the jumbled words of it, Only leads to more confusion.

An empty bliss beyond this world. Confusion has set in completely. A delay in thoughts, speech, Of words no longer recognised. One is left wandering around in a silent World.

A broken crackling record, Libet's delay. Post awareness confusions. And then – a temporary bliss state.

A few years later, It all comes crashing down. (Advanced Plaque Entanglements) A corpse lay there, A thief of a once living being. (Synapse Retrogenesis) "It" still moved, a troublesome feat. But the brain was almost dead.

Stage 6 is without description.
A time in place where a confusion so Thick exists,
That's you forget forgetting.
A place in the world fades away.
And with it,
A library of memories.

Y9 pupil on Alzheimer's

#### **DRAMA NEWS**

Menai takes St Gregory's by storm! On the weekend of May 8th-9th, Y10 GCSE



**Gav Cross** 

drama students took part in a two-day workshop organised by our lovely drama department! Over the weekend, we explored many different dramatic techniques that could help us all with the devising section of our drama course. Due to Covid-19 restrictions.

we were not allowed to go to The Conway Centre, Menai Straits, in Wales, however we were joined by the lovely Daniel and Gav who taught us all many things that we have taken to use in our very own pieces. The weekend was such a lovely experience and we had an amazing time and learned a lot.

Emily Wielebski (10 Fisher)



#### **MATHEMATICS NEWS**

In February half term pupils in Y7 and Y8 were invited to take part in the MEM (Mathematics Education on Merseyside) Maths Challenge organised by Liverpool University. The competition consisted of eight questions on the theme of **Nature**. Pupils had to use their mathematics, logic and communication skills to explain their solutions. Over 540 pupils from 93 schools took part and the Mathematics department are pleased to announce that Toby

McWilliams (8 More) was awarded a 'Certificate of Merit' and has been invited to attend a prize-giving at the University of Liverpool. Well done Toby!



#### **FUNDRAISING**



Macy Griffin's (7Kolbe) mum, won a signed rugby ball for 'Joining the Squad', a new initiative by Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation

to keep children and adults active, motivated and focused. She was surprised at the door by Wolfie, the club mascot.

Macy took the opportunity to donate the £51 she had raised at Christmas by selling hot chocolate reindeer packs for the Foundation! A wonderful example of our charitable ethos here at St Gregory's.

The Foundation tweeted 'Macy on behalf of all of us at the Warrington Wolves Foundation, THANK YOU'

Congratulations to you both!



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#### **GCSEPod**

Our Y11 pupils will be leaving us after using GCSEPod to help them achieve their best possible grade for their GCSEs.

In the next half term Y8 pupils will be trained on how to use GCSEPod, it will allow them to begin their journey to fulfilling their potential. The most ambitious pupils can improve their progress by at least one grade by being a regular user of GCSEPod!

Congratulations to Edward Price (11 Winefride) who watched the most pods and Olivia Burns (9 Winefride) who gained the most diamonds over the last half term. As always, there will be a new GCSEPod in the final half term of the year.

Mr. Jones



#### **Solution to Numeracy Puzzle**

There are many ways to think of the situation but my algebraic solution, using the letters A, B and C to represent the size of the angles, is as follows:

The angles of a triangle sum to 180 so A + B + C = 180 [Let this be equation number 1]

The angles of a triangle sum to 180 so A + B + C = 180 [Let this be equation number 1] The mean of the angles at B and C is  $(B + C) \div 2$  so half of this is  $(B + C) \div 4$  which is equal to A. A =  $(B + C) \div 4$  [Let this be equation number 2]

Multiply both sides of equation 2 by four to find a value for B + C. B + C = 4A Substitute this value of B + C into equation number 1

A + 4A = 180 5A = 180 A = 36

So the angle is A 36 degrees. The angles B and C could take any positive values that sum to 144.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

## **DSL Mrs McKenna ( Deputy Head Teacher)**

Warrington Duty and Assessment Team: 01925 443400 (Working Hours)/ 01925 444400 (Out of Hours)

Safeguarding Governor Mr Roger Harrison.

Cheshire Constabulary :101 ChildLine: 0800 1111