

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Governors

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support at this complex time. I hope the guidance shared this week will help strengthen our understanding around the tiers and what we can and cannot do; can you please reinforce the key messages at home as this will support the work we are doing in school with all our young people.

Announcements have been made this week about the changes to the summer GCSE and A Level exams. We are awaiting further details and will ensure that this is clearly communicated to students, parents and carers when we receive them.

Another virtual first is being created this week and I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation and creation of our first online Carol Service. Please save the date, Thursday 10 December, and join us remotely.

I would like to thank everyone for their participation in our Year 12 Parents Evening. Our new virtual parents evening system has maintained that vital home school link and offers us options for the future. Feedback has been positive and the virtual parents evening has been welcomed by many as it cuts down on travel and supports family life and commitments.

The last day of term, Friday 18 December, will be a Mufti Day for students as a reward for all their hard work and the resilience they have shown. We are so proud of our students - they are a joy to teach.

As a community our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, friends and colleagues of everyone who was affected by the tragic accident at Wessex Water's Bristol water recycling centre in Avonmouth yesterday. Please remember them all in your prayers.

Best wishes.

A Cusack, Headmistress

Dates for Your Diary

Fri 18 Dec	End of Term 2—1.30pm finish for students
Mon 4 Jan	INSET DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS
Tue 5 Jan	Y12 and Y13 study leave begins
Mon 11 Jan	Y12 and Y13 mock exams commence

Next Week: Week B

If you are off work because you have Coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating or shielding

Tell your employer if you have Coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating or shielding.

If you cannot work from home

You should work from home if you can. If you cannot work from home you might be able to get:

- Test and Trace Support Payment
- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)
- New Style Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit

For further information on the above, please visit the Government advice page at :

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-what-to-do-if-youre-employed-and-cannot-work>



Contact Details

If you have recently changed any of your contact details (telephone numbers, email addresses) please inform obrayc@st-gregorys.co.uk



Mrs O'Bray, Office Supervisor

Welcome to School Gateway



We are now using School Gateway, an essential tool to keep you informed about what is going on at school. It keeps everything in one place, behind one login, so you can easily keep in touch.

Please download this app to your phone (it's free) as it will help us improve communication with parents.

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/ Google Play or on your phone go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android).
2. Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications".
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school.
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

As soon as you have got the system set-up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you will receive notifications/alerts as normal.

Nut Allergies



Please be aware that we have students and staff with serious nut allergies. We would therefore ask that you do not include nuts in packed lunches and snacks, eg chocolate and cereal bars.



Merry Christmas from the PE Faculty— use the link below to access the St Gregory's Christmas 'Health' Advent Calendar.

<https://www.st-gregorys.org.uk/2020/12/st-gregorys-health-advent-calendar/>

Dr Frost Maths



Well done to those of you logging on to Dr Frost, completing challenges and Trophies and improving your maths.

December's top ten are:

Whole School Leaderboard

Name	Points
Zarek B (Year 7)	2182
Nishon B (Year 8)	1345
Alexander S (Year 8)	1240
Florence B (Year 8)	1203
Mario M (Year 10)	1020
Oliwia K (Year 8)	529
Leo I (Year 8)	508
Isaac R (Year 7)	497
Mindy C (Year 12)	493
Freya E (Year 7)	488



Soirée de Noël

St Bart's Church, Bath

For the past two years, we have been taking part in the French Christmas Carol Service at St Bart's Church in Bath with some of our students reading in French during the service.

Students in Year 10 and 11 who study French GCSE usually attend the event, however this year is different and the service is online and one of our students is taking part. It was released on Wednesday 2 December at 7pm but it can still be seen if you follow the link below. It lasts 35 minutes and is a joy to watch.

En attendant de meilleurs jours, je vous souhaite à tous de très bonnes fêtes de fin d'année, un joyeux Noël et une bonne année 2021.

Madame Lemee, Head of MFL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=682MasmhUvY>



Year 7 MEP After School Club will be cancelled on Tuesday 8 December.



Foreign Language Christmas Card Competition ANY LANGUAGES BUT ENGLISH



Year 7 to Year 9 – COME ON – SOME OF YOU ARE GREAT ARTISTS!

Open now! Deadline: Monday 7 December 2020 - 17:00 – **HAND TO MFL OFFICE OR A LANGUAGE TEACHER**

This is a national competition open to schools in all regions in England

Learn about Christmas traditions in different countries by taking part in our Christmas Card Design Competition!

Routes into Languages West Midlands will be sending out Christmas e-cards to our contacts and would like to invite students from Reception to Year 9 from schools in England to participate in our Foreign Language Christmas Card Design Competition.

We would like the students to design a card which shows the Christmas traditions of another country. Pupils should research and design their card using, if they wish, a variety of materials.

Entries can be submitted in any foreign language – **NB entries containing English language will not be accepted.**

Each card should be **no larger than a sheet of A4 paper** and must be completed by hand, but any form of materials can be used – felt tips, paint, fabric etc. Judges will be looking for originality of illustration as well as accuracy of language and content.

The winning entries from Secondary will be used as our Christmas E-cards for 2020. The winner will receive a £20 Amazon voucher.

The winning entries may also be used on our social media and in publicity materials in future. We will only ever use the year group and school name of the winners in any publicity, **not** the name of the student.

Each entry MUST be clearly marked on the back with the pupil's first name, year group, teacher and school, as well as any necessary information about the language(s) chosen (i.e. if it is a less widely learned language) to facilitate judging.

Please note that entries cannot be returned, we advise making a scanned copy for pupils who wish to retain their work. In the event of insufficient entries of good quality, no prize will be awarded; the Judges' decision is final.

The deadline for submission of entries will be Monday 7 December 2020. Please note any entries submitted after this date will not be included and we are unable to extend the closing date for individual schools.

Online Safety from Mr Foley

We are fast approaching Christmas and the state of the country is far from being normal. As a school community we have experienced this abnormal way of working, with year group bubbles and individual students needing to self-isolate. This has put a lot emphasis on using the internet for school work but also for entertainment and socialising.



Therefore it is still important to be vigilant when using the internet and not fall prey to the many dangers and pitfalls. The St Gregory's community plays a role in keeping everyone safe and strives to make sure that every student is kept informed about issues related to safety online. Remember while online: -

- Explore together
- Provide regular reminders and breaks
- Talk about online safety little and often
- Help your child identify trusted adults and who can help them if they are worried
- Be non-judgemental
- Talk about how their online actions can affect others
- Parental controls
- Linked family phones
- Different platforms to maintain social contact
- Direct your child to age-appropriate information about relationships and sex

Information on OMEGLE (Chat Room)

It has recently come to my attention that on a Chat Room called OMEGLE, there have been some strangers indecently exposing themselves. This is very concerning and I have reported this to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection command). The National Crime Agency is also investigating and taking action where needed. In terms of blocking/preventing access to the site, like all websites of this nature, this is not possible. OMEGLE states on its site:

"OMEGLE video chat is moderated. However, moderation is not perfect. You may still encounter people who misbehave."

After further investigation and from my understanding, OMEGLE adds a note saying you could be in an "unmoderated section", so it is doubtful if any human moderation exists! My advice to you all is to talk to your children and suggest they do not go onto this Chat Room. Please report any issues that you come across either to the police direct or through CEOP.

This link button can be found on our website in our Online Safety section under the Parent Information Tab.



As parents/carers you can block a website within the settings of the device you are using. This obviously varies for each device, so you will need to do some research on this. The following links provide advice: -

- [ParentInfo](#)
- [Internet Matters](#)

We have produced a useful [guide](#) providing further details on what steps parents and carers can take to support their child during this period, together with a comprehensive list of online resources and tools to help keep your children safe online. There is also more information on our [school website](#).



doodlemaths

Doodle Star Champions of the week:

<u>Year 7:</u>	Johnny P (141 stars)	Olivia B (107 stars)
	Nico B (144 stars)	Jeremiah S (123 stars)
	Szymon K (117 stars)	
<u>Year 8:</u>	Kieran H (99 stars)	Alfie L (149 stars)
	Henry D (145 stars)	Ruby B (147 stars)
<u>Year 9:</u>	Logan S (106 stars)	

So many amazing stars this week.

Well done!

THE LANGUAGES CORNER

French:

En somme= in short, all in all

All in all I have to work hard to succeed

En somme, je dois travailler dur pour réussir

All in all we must do more to beat the pollution

En somme, il faut en faire plus pour combattre la pollution

Mandarin:

一路平安 (yìlù píng'ān)
Have a safe and pleasant journey!

German:

Useful reflexive verbs

sich streiten = to argue

Ich streite mich nicht oft mit meinen besten Freunden.

I don't argue often with my best friends.

Ich habe mich letzte Woche mit meinem Bruder gestritten.

I argued with my brother last week.

Spanish:

Es una rata – He/she is stingy with money.

Car Parking/Student Drop Off

Please do not drop off on the main site or at Odd Down Football Club. We are also aware that cars are stopping on double yellow lines around the entrance to Combe Hay Lane and on Sulis Manor Road at the beginning and end of the school day which is creating a hazard and putting students and other road users in danger.

Students can be dropped off at Odd Down Park and Ride or in neighbouring roads where it is safe and legal to do so. Thank you for your co-operation.



Chaplaincy Thoughts for the Week

Christmas Dress up Day

Next Friday 11 December we are fundraising for the charity 'Save the Children' by taking part in their annual Christmas Jumper Day. However, we will take part by allowing any Christmas dress up, whether that be tinsel in your hair, hats, a Christmas dress, jumper, or even a full elf suit if you are so inclined. We would prefer you to pay the £1 donation online via Scopay but can also receive cash donations on the day.

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you for your kindness so far and for nominating recipients. If you do know someone who would appreciate a pick me up this Christmas please do email myself at robinsonm@st-gregorys.org.uk or the school email on stgregorys_sec@bathnes.gov.uk.

Reflection on the second Sunday of Advent from Julie Kalkowski, Creighton University

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm: 85: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

"The Christian knows that Christ has been working in humanity for twenty centuries and that the person that is converted to Christ is the new human being that society needs to organise a world according to God's heart." - St. Oscar Romero

Today's readings seem made to order for the tumultuous times we are living through. From the opening line of the Prophet Isaiah: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." to the Psalm: "Kindness and truth shall meet..." and finally, to the Gospel with John proclaiming: "One mightier than I is coming after me."

All the readings seem to be specifically crafted to address the reality of our world today. These readings

can assist us as we are preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus into our world. If the events in our world are causing you grief and anxiety, read and reread the opening lines from Isaiah about comfort. So many of us need comfort right now with the pandemic; fear about so many parts of our lives and the health of our loved ones.

These are chaotic, uncertain times and I know the only true north in my life is the peace that comes from God. What do I need to do to stay grounded in God so that I can give comfort to others and not add to their unease and worries? In the gospel, Mark describes how people from "the whole of Judean countryside and... Jerusalem" were traveling to have John baptise them "as they acknowledged their sins." What are my sins that I need to acknowledge during this Advent season? What barriers do I need to dismantle so I can prepare my heart for Jesus'? What is preventing me from becoming someone who can "organise a world according to God's heart"?

Lastly, and this is for all of us who are over-achievers and overly responsible, think back to what John the Baptist said in today's Gospel. John was very clear about what his role was: "I have baptised you with water; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." John was preparing the world for Jesus, our Redeemer. Instead of capitalising on his newfound 'fame', John humbly continued to fulfil the mission given to him. John helps me realise that I do not have to do everything, I just need to do my part. Spending time with God will clarify my 'role' in these troubled times.

I hope you can take comfort from today's readings. Sit with them and let them speak to you. Maybe you will find that during this Advent season, we can all move towards becoming "...the new human being society needs."

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain



Christmas Hamper Appeal 2020

1. Find a box & wrap it in Christmas paper
2. Decide who it's for: E.g. an older couple, family with young children or teenage children, single young person (18-24)
3. Fill the box with a variety of items that will help make Christmas special for the recipient(s)

Christmas & table Decorations
Gifts
Christmas Card
Food such as boxes of chocolates, snacks, etc
Vouchers
Candles, mini trees, etc

You have until Weds 9th December & any hampers ready to go can be brought to the Chapel (labelled)

BATH CAROL TRAIL – free!



This is part of the Bath Carol Trail. For a map of all churches taking part visit the website or scan the QR code below.



St Mary's Catholic Church, Julian Road, is very proud to be part of the Bath Carol Trail around many of the churches in the city. Get the map from <https://bathcaroltrail.wordpress.com/>, then start from St Mary's Parish Centre or the closest church to your house. Guess the carol from the clues in the nativity display, use the QR code and listen to the carol, sing along with the subtitles, then move onto the next church! Aimed at children aged 1-102. Visit the website to see an interactive map of the churches involved and a list of the Carols to help you guess them.



Many thanks to St Mary's Kirsten, Hugh & Nick for their musical/ vocal/ technological/ artistic talents, and for Claire Morrish and her team at Holy Trinity Combe Down.

Year 7 Mandarin

Our Year 7 Mandarin students have been learning and working on topics of 'my name', 'my age', 'my family', dates and greetings. Here are some of the outstanding pieces of work from them:



Learning Focus 1

Each week there will be a different focus to encourage students to think about how they approach their learning. They are suitable for learners of all ages and will hopefully make home learning easier to complete as well.

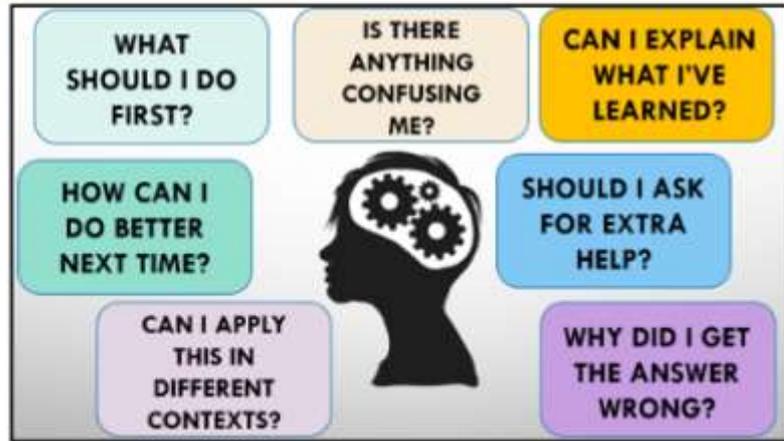
METACOGNITION –

Cognition – your thinking activities and processes

Metacognition – ‘intentionally thinking about how you think and learn.’

In order to develop as learners we need to think about how we have approached a task and how we can use the outcome to help more next time.

Ask yourself these questions to help you think about how you approach your learning.



a slice of



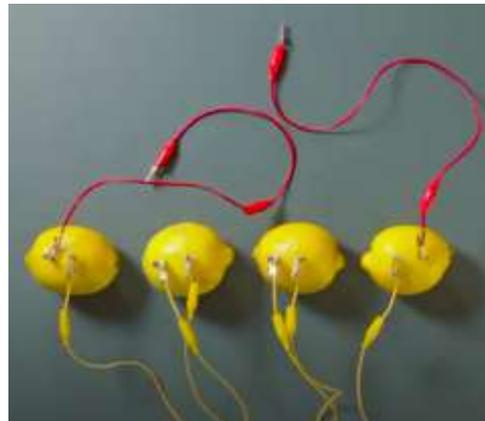
Dear Students, here is this week's instalment of a Slice of Science. It includes an interesting article about how junk food can affect you brain development and a clip showing how to make a lemon battery (try other fruit and veg as well).

Enjoy. The Science Team



Article of the week:

<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/junk-foods-can-harm-teen-brains>



Practical of the week - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNx-bwITATI>

ONLINE

SUBJECT OPEN EVENINGS

Take a deeper dive into the subjects on offer at St Brendan's!

Most students study 3 different subjects so why not come along and find out more? On each evening you will be able to ask subject teachers any questions that you have.

LIVE FROM 5PM

LIVE FROM 5:45PM

MON 30TH NOV	Business	Accounting & Economics
TUES 1ST DEC	Law	Biology
WED 2ND DEC	Maths	Product Design & Design Engineering
THURS 3RD DEC	Music	Music Technology
MON 7TH DEC	Protective Services	History & Politics
TUES 8TH DEC	Sport	Languages
WED 9TH DEC	Creative Arts	Health & Social Care
THURS 10TH DEC	Performing Arts	Performing Arts
MON 14TH DEC	Film & Media	Geography
TUES 15TH DEC	Chemistry & Physics	Religious Studies
WED 16TH DEC	The Ologies: <i>Criminology / Psychology / Sociology</i>	Cheltenham Town FC Player Pathway
THURS 17TH DEC	Computer Science & IT	English



ST BRENDAN'S
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

BOOK NOW AT
WWW.STBRN.AC.UK

ASD Support Service Courses for Parents 2020-21

Date and time	Course	Leader	Description
January 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th- February 2nd, 9th (am)	CYGNET Core	Laura Chard	CYGNET Programme: Supporting Parents of Autistic Children aged 4 - 18
January 7th 10.00am- 12.30pm	ASD Strategies in the Home for Younger Children	Hannah Hobbs and Hayley Brimble	Understanding how ASD strategies can be implemented to support younger children in their home environment
February 3rd 9.30am- 11.30am	Social Scripts	Becca Tranter	Exploring how social scripts can be used to reduce anxiety surrounding new situations and experiences
February 12th 9.30am -12.30pm	CYGNET Sexual Wellbeing	Hannah Hobbs	Supporting parents to understand sexual wellbeing for autistic children
March 2nd 9.00am - Noon	Understanding Girls	Laura Chard	Supporting parents to understand how to support girls on the autism spectrum
March 4th 3.30pm - 5.30pm	ASD Strategies in the Home for Teenagers	Conrad Hein Hartmann and Carol Jones	Understanding how ASD strategies can be implemented to support teenagers in their home environment
March 5th 9.30am - 12.30pm	CYGNET Relationships	Hannah Hobbs	Supporting parents to understand how to develop relationships for autistic children

To further information or to book onto any of these courses,
please contact: asdss@fossewayschool.com



COVID-19 information

A quick guide for parents and carers



Please follow the advice in this guide. Only contact the school if your child is having a test and to let us know the result. Your school will not be able to advise beyond the information given here. **Please remember to only get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.**

YOU SHOULD BOOK A **TEST** IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

a high temperature

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature)

or a new continuous cough

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)

or a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child DOES NOT have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they or members of your household do not need to self-isolate.

Your child can attend school if fit to do so.

What to do if...	Action needed	When can my child return to school?
My child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Book a test for your child Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate Inform school immediately about test result 	If test is negative and child is well enough, symptom free for 48 hours and not advised to self-isolate by test and trace service
My child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Child to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) Inform school immediately about test results Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) 	When child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone

What to do if...	Action needed	When can my child return to school?
<p>Somebody in my household & support bubble has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Household & support bubble member with symptoms to book a test Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate while waiting for test result Inform school immediately about test results 	<p>When household & support bubble member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms and if child has not been advised to self isolate by test and trace services</p>
<p>Somebody in my household & support bubble has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if they test negative during those 14 days Inform school immediately about test result 	<p>When they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. They must self-isolate for 14 days even if they test negative during that time</p>
<p>NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Child to self-isolate for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) - even if they test negative during those 14 days Rest of household & support bubble does not need to self-isolate, unless they are also a 'close contact' 	<p>When they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. They must self-isolate for 14 days even if they test negative during that time</p>
<p>Your child has been in contact with someone who has been identified as a 'close contact'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend school as normal If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities 	<p>Attend school as normal</p>
<p>We / my child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days <p>Travel reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not take unauthorised leave in term time Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Provide information to school as per attendance policy 	<p>When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>We have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school. Contact school as advised by attendance officer/pastoral team Child to shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	<p>When school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p>