



May the peace of Christ be yours
this Christmas

From the Headmistress, staff and
Governors of Saint Gregory's

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

We have now reached the end of this term and I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

Today we said goodbye to a number of staff - Mrs Mackrell, Mrs Barletto, Mr Quirk and Mr McDermott. We are sad to see them leave and wish them well. The leaving of Mr McDermott is an end of an era. Mr McDermott has been here for 24 years and he will be greatly missed. Our loss is Christ the King's gain and I know Mr McDermott will be a wonderful Headteacher.

I would like to thank the PTFA and all parents for the lovely messages that arrived this week in the staffroom, it was appreciated after what has been an unprecedented term.

The Carol Service this week was wonderful and I would like to thank all the students and staff involved, especially Miss Townsend, Mr Psirides, Mr Robinson and Mrs Hawkins.

I will be writing to you to clarify what we know about the arrangements for the start of Term 3.

I would like to end this term with the following blessing until we meet in 2021.

Continued...

Dates for Your Diary

Mon 4 Jan	INSET DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS
Tue 5 Jan	Y12 and Y13 study leave begins
6, 7, 8 Jan	Y7 CATs
Mon 11 Jan	Y12 and Y13 mock exams commence
Thu 14 Jan	Y9 Virtual Parents' Evening
Thu 28 Jan	Y9 Virtual Options Evening
Fri 12 Feb	End of Term 3

When we return: A

May the roads rise up to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back,

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

May the rains fall soft upon fields

and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

I hope you have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas.

Best wishes

A Cusack, Headmistress

Bath & North East Somerset Council is consulting on the proposed schemes for co-ordination of admissions and the admission numbers to all maintained schools and academies for the 2022/23 school year.

All the consultation documents will be available by using the link below from 11 December.

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/public-consultations-school-admissions>

The consultation starts on 11 December 2020 and will end on 31 January 2021.

To respond to this consultation please send your comments by email to:

admissions_transport@bathnes.gov.uk

Alternatively you can write to The Admissions & Transport Unit, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Change of Date - Year 11 Mock Exams will now Commence on Monday 22 February

In order to support our Year 11 students we have decided to move their mock exam assessments to 22 February. We will send a full timetable for these exams after the Christmas break.

THE LANGUAGES CORNER

French:

Personne ne peut nier que + verb(subjunctive)... = nobody can deny that

Nobody can deny that holidays are expensive/ studying can be difficult/ living in the countryside can be boring

Personne ne peut nier que les vacances soient chères.

Personne ne peut nier que faire des études, puisse être difficile.

Personne ne peut nier qu'habiter à la campagne, puisse être ennuyeux.

Mandarin:

恭喜发财 (gōngxǐ fācái)

Have a prosperous New Year!

German:

Useful reflexive verbs
sich verstehen = to get on with

Ich verstehe mich gut mit meinem Bruder.

I get on well with my brother.

Wir haben uns gut verstanden.

We got on well.

Ich denke, wir werden uns gut verstehen.

I think we will get on well.

Spanish:

tiene memoria de pez – he/ she has the memory of a gold fish – has a bad memory.

PARENT GOVERNOR

The Governing Body currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Applications from parents and carers with education related work experience or knowledge would be especially welcome. Details regarding the duties and nomination process will be sent out by email. If you do not receive your copy shortly and are interested in applying, please contact the school office.

Closing date: 4pm on Friday 15 January 2021

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

The Governing Body also has vacancies for Foundation Governors, who are practising Catholics appointed by the Bishop. For further information, please contact the Clerk to Governors, clerk@st-gregorys.org.uk

John Eddison, Chair of Governors



Saint GREGORY'S
Bath

We are recruiting for talented and enthusiastic colleagues to join our supportive and friendly school team.

Clerk to Governors

We require a confident and enthusiastic administrator to join us on a part time basis for this busy and varied role. This is a flexible role with some remote working.

Knowledge of the clerking process would be a distinct advantage, however, is not essential, as training can be provided where needed.

Teaching Assistant

Our Teaching Assistants work at the heart of our provision for pastoral and academic care, offering support, guidance and care to our young people, particularly to those who need it most.

We are seeking exceptional candidates who are excited by the prospect of taking on this highly rewarding and valued role within our school community.

Cover Supervisor

We are looking for an enthusiastic and adaptable individual to join us as a Cover Supervisor to oversee the work of planned absence by colleagues and support teaching and learning across the school.

This is a varied and interesting role that requires confidence and presence to educate our students in the absence of their teacher and presents the opportunity to work with our students across all subjects.

Visit www.st-gregorys.org.uk to apply

St Gregory's is an equal opportunities employer, committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our students and expect all staff to share this commitment. An enhanced disclosure from the DBS is required for all successful applicants.

Art at St Gregory's



These pieces are work done by Eva Jessica F in Year 7 during the last two terms. She is an exceptionally talented student to create such sophisticated pieces in year 7. Well done!

Mrs Bowden, Head of Art and Technology

Learning Focus 3

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.

Don't leave revising for a test or exam until the last minute!

<https://youtu.be/2k52Vfon5oY>

This video explains the process of retrieval learning

Learning is difficult – you need to try and develop a habit of long term revision – not last minute cramming. Which can lead to minds going blank.

We have all had that horrid feeling when you get into a test and forget everything. You may then hear the answer and suddenly remember. This is because you have encountered the information but haven't secured it in the long term memory.

Make revision a part of your weekly homework routine.

FLASH CARDS -Flash cards can be a very useful way to help you learn a topic. Make them useful! Question on the front or a key word with an answer/definition on the back. You can then revisit these and use them to test yourself or ask your friends/family to test you.

THE LEITNER SYSTEM – this is an excellent technique to help you focus on areas you can't remember. Move cards between boxes depending on whether you know the answer or not. You will then revisit them at different time intervals to see if you can still remember them. Move them back if you cant!



doodlemaths



Doodle Star Champions of the week:

Year 7: Szymon K (123 stars)

Year 8: Freddie F (214 stars)

Year 9: Logan S (94 stars)

Congratulations to these students for completing so many doodle stars this week. Well done!

Chaplaincy Thoughts for the Week

Elf workshop levels of creativity at break/lunch in Chaplaincy



Throughout the season of Advent at break and lunch times I have led numerous workshops and sessions encouraging creativity and design for all things Christmassy. Students have been creating their own mugs, bracelets and other gifts which may be coming your way on 25 December! They have painted tealight holders, lanterns and other Christmas decorations, both for our Chapel and to bring home. Finally, so many students spent hours and hours delicately creating wonderful snowflake paper decorations which we have used to fill the school hall and make it feel as festive as possible. Truly elf-spirational!



'Save the Children' Christmas Dress Up Day'



As you know, last Friday 11 December as a school we participated in Save the Children's annual Jumper day fundraiser. However, we took it up a notch again by encouraging our young people and staff to dress up as Christmassy as possible. It wasn't just about the jumpers, it was however one felt they could encapsulate Christmas. There were some amazing efforts, including a group of friends all going out and buying the same jumpers, tinsel galore, a Year 8 becoming a manger and I even made an attempt at being Joseph (albeit there were far too many guesses of Jesus, Moses, John the Baptist and even Mary!). Thank you for your kindness in supporting this worthy cause. The final total raised is in excess of £450.

Window Decorating Competition



At the beginning of Advent I challenged tutor groups to really go all out in their base rooms (especially as they are stuck in the one room for the majority of their day), and make the room a little Santa's grotto. In particular, we wanted the windows of the rooms to be decorated and reflect the imagination and creativity of our students and staff, so that they would enjoy the experience but also passers-by who may see the outer windows of the school. I promised a prize for the best window and they have truly risen to the challenge. Here are a few of the windows and rooms that look stunning. In the end I had to pick two tutor groups, which have been announced earlier today.





You may also have seen whilst passing the school in the dark that we have tried a little subtle evangelisation on the gateway building. Nativity projectors and lights are incredibly hard to come by, but we have managed to put a tree, lots of lights and some snowflake projections up which hopefully spread a little festive spirit on the morning and evening commute.

Christmas Hamper Appeal



Mrs Baker's Tutor Group delivering donations to Julian House

Thank you ever so much for your kindness and generosity in supporting our Christmas Hamper Appeal again this year. The Christian charity and understanding of how tough times are for many in our community has been reflected in the masses of donations we have received. We have shared them with our contacts in the local community, with Julian House and others who are incredibly grateful this Christmas.

An alternative Christmas message for 2020

The final thing I would like to share with you is a poem I came across which we used as the final reflection in our liturgy earlier on. The writer really captures the themes of the season and how we can ensure they are living in our thoughts, words and actions. May you all have a happy and holy Christmas filled with love and blessings. Take care of one another.

Hope, Comfort and Joy by Rob Otton, Nov 2020

The people were angry,
 There was no joy or cheer, they knew that Christmas would be very different this year.
 People were confused, they felt a real sense of gloom.
 "There is no way," shouted someone "I'm doing Christmas on Zoom".
 Christmas is a time for love and affection, how can that happen if we lose our connection?

One voice shouted,
 "It is not going to work"
 Then everyone started shouting and going berserk!
 Just as the noise was becoming quite loud.
 A small voice of reason came right out of the crowd.
 "Listen up everyone, and try to calm down"
 "We understand the frustration all over the town"
 "It is clear that this year it will not be the same"
 "But it doesn't mean that Christmas has to be lame"
 Just think about Christmas and what it is all about
 And again, all the people started to shout.
 "It's about Crackers" "Snowmen" "Toys" "And a mince pie"
 "And Santa bringing presents with reindeers that fly"
 With that the crowd began to think thick and fast of all of the Christmases they had enjoyed in the past.
 The small voice of reason spoke up once more "So, when we strip Christmas back what lies at its core?"
 The town thought hard, with all of their might, a bright voice shouted out,
 "It began with a light"
 "The light of Immanuel, God now on the earth,"
 The courage of young Mary who'd just given birth.
 The comfort from Joseph who stood by her side,
 The Joy of the angels, filling the skies!
 The delight of the shepherds, tears in their eyes
 Included in history, brimming with pride,
 As they looked at that baby lying in a manger
 The hope that they found in this new-born saviour.
 "A star that shone brightly, which guided the way"
 "and led wise men to that first Christmas day."
 So, when we think of this story it is not about crackers, or bizarre random presents in bright shiny wrappers.
 It's not about Santa, or even mince pies, it's not about snowmen with coal used as eyes.
 And it might be a bit different from years gone before but Christmas has love running right through its core.
 Such Love from heaven, such love in this boy, such Love and hope, and comfort, and Joy.
 "That's right" cried a voice, "We don't need to be close, to show love to the people we care for the most"
 "We can draw them a picture"
 "Or give them a call"
 "We could write them a letter"
 "Or wave from the wall"
 "We can sing carols through the window"
 "That will make them feel better"
 "I could gather some pictures of us being together"
 "We can pile up our presents and send them by post"
 "And I suppose we could Zoom call during our roast"
 "So this Christmas time lets strike the right tone"
 "and make sure that nobody feels alone"
 "Yes Christmas may very well be different this year but we can still send out our love, hope and cheer.
 So don't hold back or show any resistance, just shout out your love, even if it's from a distance.

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain