



Saint GREGORY'S
Bath

Newsletter

www.st-gregorys.org.uk

A weekly newsletter for Parents, Carers, Students, Governors and Staff

29 January 2021

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

Welcome to this week's newsletter that is packed full of interesting features. I would like to thank Mr Robinson and Mrs Hawkins for the beautiful Holocaust Memorial Service that we streamed via the website on Wednesday evening; I have included the link below. Please do take time to watch this, the testimonies from survivors are so moving. Students will have the opportunity to watch the service in their RE lessons.

www.st-gregorys.org.uk/2021/01/week-beg-25-jan-holocaust-memorial-day-week-b

I am excited about next weeks House Day for Year 7-10 students. Students will follow their normal school day but engage with House Challenges and not have normal lessons. Mr Robinson will join students on Friday morning to explain how the day will work and I am really looking forward to seeing the results of all the challenges. Year 11 students, parents and carers will participate in an Academic Review Day where they will have the opportunity to talk to their teachers. Sixth Form students will continue to work remotely with set work on Google Classroom.

Attached to the email notification of this newsletter is a parental survey. Please take the time to complete the survey. Your voice is incredibly important to us and helps us to review and revise our offer. Heads of Year have been surveying our students' experience so their voice is also heard. We are constantly reviewing our provision and want to ensure that every child at St Gregory's has the best educational experience possible. Whilst the Prime Minister said that the government is working towards 8 March as the day when some in-school learning may start to take place, we have not received any information as to how this will be possible. Therefore I am planning for every scenario and want to ensure we are fully prepared for Term 4.

As January draws to a close I am sure, like me, you are looking forward to that stretch in the evenings and the promise of Spring. We need to seek joy where we can and I hope the competitions we are running and the House Days we have planned will create that. The live lessons are offering our young people contact, support and education and I am so proud of all the St Gregory's staff, their commitment, creativity and resilience. The attendance at live lessons is fantastic and again I could not be prouder of our students, they truly are amazing. I would also like to thank families that have donated laptops and IT equipment. We are truly grateful, as are the families that receive the equipment. If you would like to donate, please do. A top tip for this week is, if you are working from home and you have a lot of demand on your Wi-Fi due to lots of people using it, get an ether net cable and connect directly to your hub. It makes a world of difference as I have found out!

Have a wonderful weekend, let your light shine, and seek joy. This will end and we all need to support each other as the Family of St Gregory's.

Best wishes
A Cusack, Headmistress

Dates for Your Diary

Thu 28 Jan	Y9 Virtual Options Evening
Fri 5 Feb	Y7-10 House Day Y11 Academic Review Day
Fri 12 Feb	End of Term 3
Mon 22 Feb	Term 4 Begins
Thu 1 Apr	End of Term - 1.30 pm finish
Fri 2 Apr	Good Friday - School Closed

Next week: Week A

VIRTUAL TRAVEL DIARY COMPETITION

Each year Saint Gregory's organise over 110 visits to sites both local and international. Although trips and experiences unfortunately cannot happen right now, we can still explore the wider world together and develop our understanding of different cultures.

We invite you to write a travel diary detailing your virtual journey to any place or destination you like. Tell us about what you discovered! You can present this in any format - recorded video, presentation, report, poster, postcards. Give us as much detail as possible and show off your understanding of somewhere different and exciting. There are some amazing prizes to be won for the best entries!

Mr Leaman, Educational Visits Co-ordinator

Rules:

1. Only open to students currently studying at Saint Gregory's, Bath between Year 7 and Year 13.
2. Entries must be sent to leamanm@st-gregorys.org.uk or posted to the school by Monday 22 February.
3. Entries must be clearly marked with your name, tutor group and a contact phone number/email address.



Prizes:

- 1st Prize - National Trust Family Membership for one year (worth £126)
- 2nd Prize - Sony Digital Camera (worth £75)
- 3rd Prize - Attenborough's Planet Box Set DVD (worth £50)
- 4th Prize - Seven Worlds, One Planet DVD (worth £10)



Looking for inspiration? Start by exploring our virtual tour of the world!

Travel The World From Your Computer



<https://www.st-gregorys.org.uk/2021/01/travel-the-world-from-your-computer/>



Charity Swimathon

Since September, Ophelia 9Y has completed a mammoth Swimathon to raise money for Cancer Research and Marie Curie. Overall, she swam 16 kilometres and managed to raise £190! Thank you to everyone who supported and donated. Her fundraising page is still open, if anyone would like to add to this amazing total:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ophelia-hawkins?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=ophelia-hawkins&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=c46713c3adef4ed7981de679695c9beb

Laptops



If you have a laptop that you no longer use, we would like to hear from you!

During lockdown, lessons are conducted online, but not everyone has access to a laptop. If you have one that you no longer need and can donate it to help a St Gregory's student learn from home, we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Gerry Cross by email:

crossg@st-gregorys.org.uk

THE LANGUAGES CORNER

French:

Expression with subjunctive: (and we revisit 2 from week 1 and 2)

Bien que + verb (subjunctive)...= it is important that ..+verb (subj.)

Although I often go/leave; I miss my house

Bien que je parte souvent ma maison me manque

Although I don't go on holiday often, it doesn't make me unhappy

Bien que je n'aïlle pas souvent en vacances; ça ne me rend pas malheureux

German:

Little words, big difference

mit = with

ohne = without

Mit oder ohne Zucker?

With or without sugar?

Mandarin:

愿得一人心，白首不相离。(Yuàndé yīrénxīn, báishǒu bùxiānglí. 'wish get a person heart, white head not one-another apart) — **Long for a heart, never be apart.**

Spanish:

Del dicho al hecho hay un trecho – its easier said than done (literally, there's a distance from word to action)

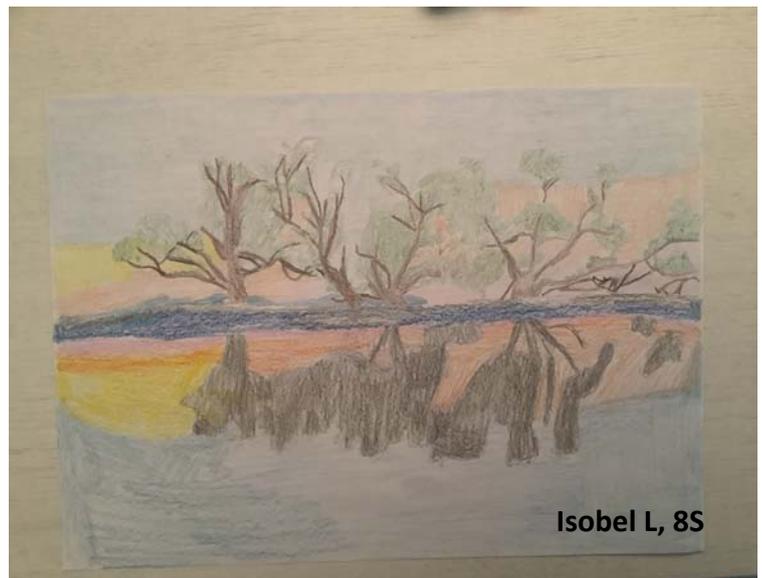
Art at St Gregory's

Final Call for Art Work for the Winter Art Gallery

Calling all budding artists and photographers! Last year during lock down, we were able to showcase the art and photography inspired by the season of spring. Students and parents alike got involved and the pieces sent in were shown on the school web site. As we find ourselves once again in this situation of lock down, we in St Gregory's Art Department again want to encourage students and their families to be creative and celebrate the season we are in. This could be by taking photographs of wintry scenes or by drawing and painting a picture, e.g. a winter robin or a fox in the snow. You could even create a 3D work of Art, perhaps made from objects collected on a winter walk. You might even create a mini sculpture trail that you could photograph! Also, consider the items associated with the season, e.g. muddy boots, warm woollen hats and scarfs, berries and ever-green trees, hot chocolate with cream on the top! The list is endless and if you think long enough there's bound to be a way you could respond visually to the season of winter. We look forward to receiving some beautiful wintry entries soon and then we can share them on our school website. Please send your entries to Mrs Bowden bowdenj@st-gregorys.org.uk by **Friday 5 February 2021**.

Mrs Bowden, Head of Art and Technology

Year 7 have been drawing pictures of their pets and Year 8 have been producing Australian landscapes .



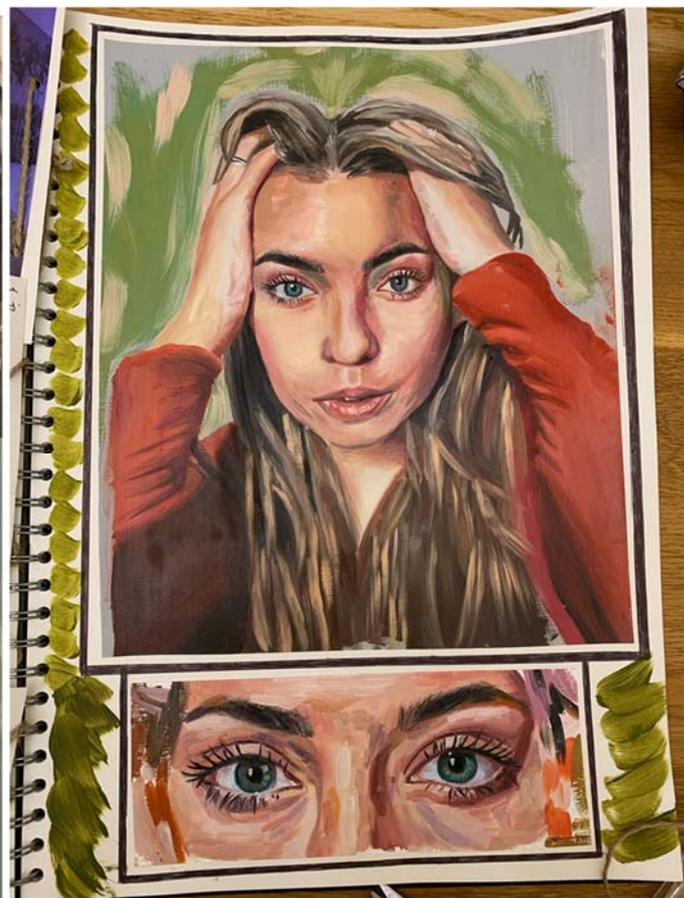
Here is a snapshot of the diverse work being created by A Level Fine Art students in St Gregory's. The Fine Art A Level presents students with the opportunity to respond to project stimuli in a broad range of media. As you can see, our students have chosen a variety of project themes and are busy producing some fabulous Art work!



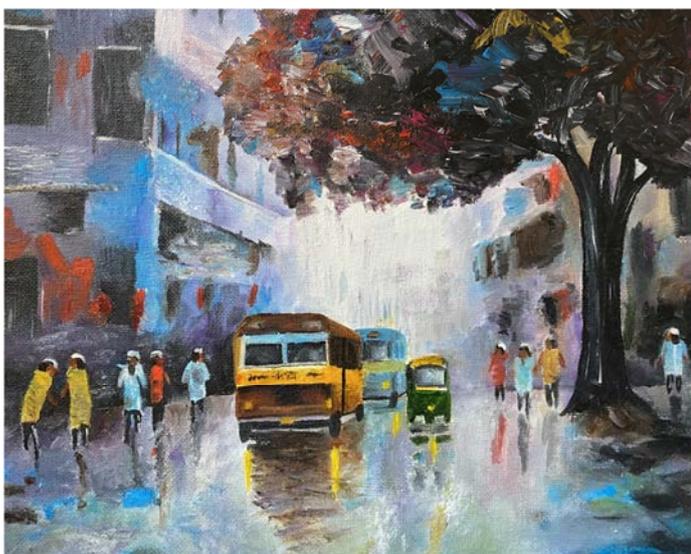
Digital Art & Sketch-book work by Matthew O, Y12



Sketchbook work (painted artist study and personal responses) by Ella B, Y12

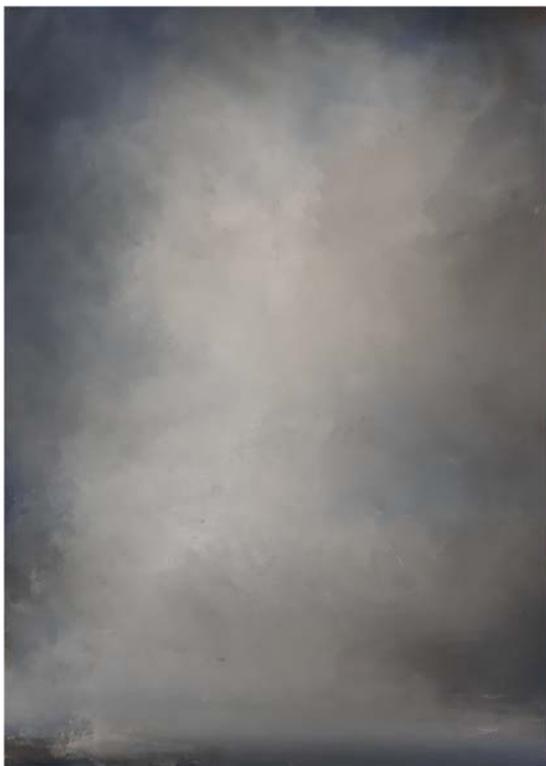


Sketchbook work - artist studies in pastels and paints by Poppy N, Y12





Sketchbook work – artist studies in acrylic and watercolour by Edward C, Y12



Sketchbook work – Misty skyscape in oils and seascape in watercolours by Jemima P, Y13



Portraits and figure studies by Joni B, Y13





doodlemaths

Doodle Star Champions of the week:

Year 7: Lyvija G (183 stars)
 Szymon K (142 stars)
 Jemima A (204 stars)

Year 8: Levi H (119 stars)
 Kieran H (120 stars)

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

Year 10 & 11 – Wellbeing Packs



Look out for your 'Wellbeing Packs'! We are sending out 'Wellbeing Packs' for all students in Years 10 & 11 next week. We hope you enjoy looking through the booklets and indulging in the treats. Make sure you are taking time to rest and take care of yourselves, and of each other. Remember we are always on the other end of a phone call or email, if you need anything.

Sally Hawkins-Brown, PSHE Lead



**ELECTRIFIED LINES ARE
 ALWAYS ON.
 SO ALWAYS
 STAY OFF.**

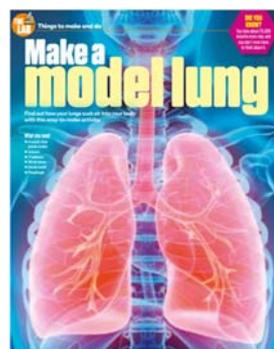


RE on Instagram—If you want to keep up with information and support from the Religious Studies department be sure to follow our Instagram account, stgregorysre.

Dear Students, I hope you enjoyed last week's activities. This week I have attached a link on how to make a model of a lung and another link to NASA's kids website – which has lot of interesting information and activities.

Science Team 

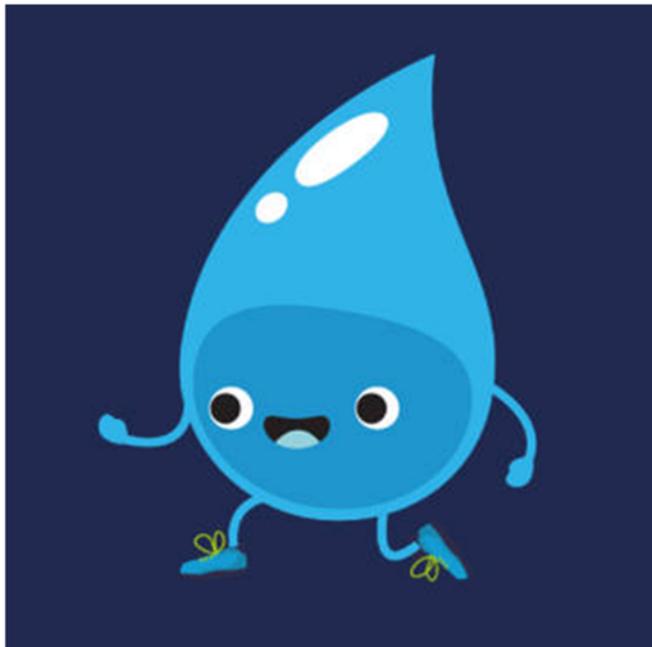
Link of the week - <https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>



Practical of the Week - https://ads.dennisnet.co.uk/subs/2020/TWJ/MAR/32-33_SN17_Paper%20marbling.pdf

Chaplaincy Thoughts for the Week

CAFOD's National Assembly - Water of life



Yesterday, CAFOD broadcast a national assembly to all the Catholic schools in England and Wales entitled 'Water of Life' which we have listened to in tutor time today. Their aim was to show our young people that though we are apart, the world is connected. For us at St Gregory's this was even more real as several of our students were featured in the assembly. We are a global family who are all suffering from the pain caused by Covid-19 and through the power of technology we can pray together, empathise, and learn. CAFOD have invited us to reflect on water, which we know is such a vital part of ensuring our safety from transmission. The assembly took us to a place called Afar in Ethiopia to see the heartbreaking and dangerous daily trip Abdella takes to access water, and gave us an insight into how a young lad called Batainashe is coping with lockdown restrictions in Zimbabwe.

You can watch the assembly at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFTh2FjIF_g or search for 'water of life - secondary assembly' on CAFOD's social media outlets such as YouTube and Vimeo.

Focusing on Human Trafficking and Racial Justice

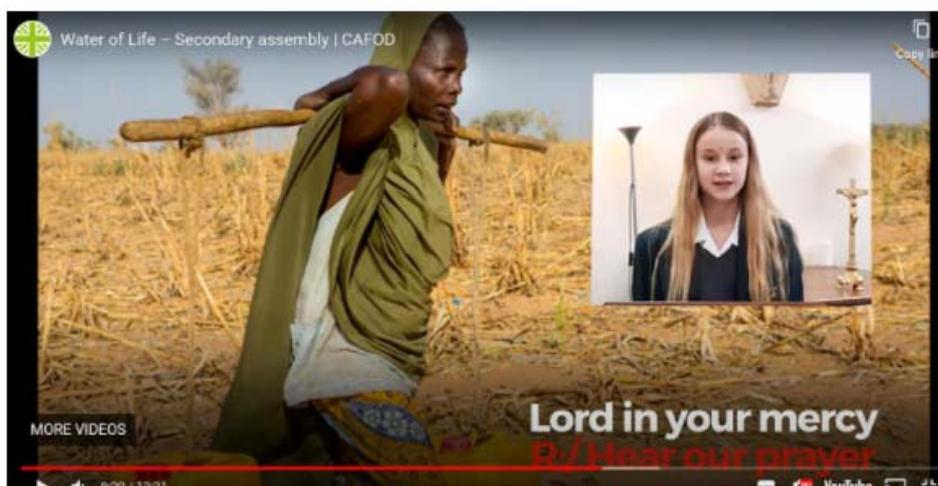
Our school theme in the upcoming week is all about awareness of human trafficking and racial justice. It coincides with the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, one of our House saints. St Josephine was born in Sudan, but spent most of her childhood being bought and sold as a slave, being beaten in the most extreme of ways and becoming the possession of another person - taking away her human dignity. We associate our name and birthday as absolutes of our existence, yet she was traded so much that she no longer knew her own name and was given the name 'Bakhita' by her captors (which ironically means lucky). Eventually she was traded as far away as Venice in Italy, where she found comfort and a home in a religious community.

Italy did not recognize slavery and the courts freed her from a life of human trafficking when she was in her early twenties. She was no longer the possession of the family who had bought her and she was finally free to be herself and speak for herself. Josephine joined the religious order who had shown in practise the love of Christ which we profess as the centre of our faith.

Looking at her incredible story and the disgrace of human trafficking which is still prevalent in society today, there is much we can reflect on. Bakhita held no resentment towards those who had chained her up, "If I were to meet the slave traders who kidnapped me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if it did not happen, I would not be a Christian and religious today".

On a personal note - what is holding on to us and making us feel chained up, holding us back, or drawing the energy out of us? (There are, of course, the obvious answers out there as we continue to live in lockdown!) Somehow, St Josephine found a way of releasing the pain of her past, understanding the role of God in her life. She found the invite to a freedom and embraced God's presence in her life. Can you use your voice and freedom to speak up for others who are still silenced by oppressors? Just as we were reminded earlier in the week with Holocaust Memorial Day, our voice and spreading a message of hope is integral to the fight against injustice in our world.

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain





Diocesan Prayer Link for Schools



During this uncertain time prayer is more important than ever. All of the schools of the Diocese need our prayers and so each week we shall pray for different, specific schools and all who work and learn in them.

This week we pray for:



St Bernadette's Primary School
Bristol



St Bernadette's Secondary School
Bristol



St Patrick's Primary School
Bristol

**Holy Spirit,
be with the students of these schools we pray for this week.
Bless them, their teachers and all who work at the school.
Give strength and grace to their growth, wisdom and
understanding to their search for knowledge and
strength to continue to learn despite the difficulties.**

**Thank you, Lord for the gifts that they all bring to
their community.
May everyone connected with the school remain safe and well.
Amen**

Children's Mental Health Week



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. Students will be discussing this in tutor time, and the theme this year is 'Express Yourself.'

Please use this link, <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/schools-and-youth-groups/>, for some ideas that can be adapted for home learning, with lots of great activities and links to inspire creativity and self-expression, all to support our young people's positive mental health. Why not try some out as a family?

Mrs Hawkins-Brown, PSHE Lead

Online Safety from Mr Foley

Well here we are, a month into the new year and the state of the country is still far from being normal. Everyone is in the same situation and this lockdown has meant school being closed to everyone apart from Keyworker Children and those that are vulnerable. Working remotely is difficult because of the reliance we have on technology and internet access – the more we use the internet the more we need to think about our usage 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 safe usage and monitoring

As parents/carers you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. However, as a parent myself I am fully aware this can be really difficult and daunting to manage because our children know more than we do!

Therefore the following links, provide important information and guidance/advice regarding matters related to safe usage and monitoring: -

[ParentInfo](#)

[Saferinternet](#)

[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](#).

If you have come across anything that seems wrong and not right then it is really important to report them to the relevant authorities – this includes the school but more importantly the police and the National Crime Agency.

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



Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year, The Year of the Ox, is approaching! Here is the news about when this year's Chinese new starts and the wonderful student designed Chinese New Year cards!

2021 Lunar New Year falls on 12 February

The public holiday lasts from 11 – 17 February during which the New Year's Eve on 11 February and the New Year's Day on 12 February are the peak time of celebration.

The commonly known New Year calendar counts from the New Year's Eve to the Lantern Festival on 26 February 2021.



According to the old folk customs, the traditional celebration starts even earlier, from the 23rd day of the twelfth lunar month.



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



ASD Support Service



Telephone helpline

01761 412198 Ext 2

Every Wednesday 9am—12noon