



Saint GREGORY'S
Bath

Newsletter

www.st-gregorys.org.uk

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

5 February 2021

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

Welcome to this week's newsletter which is again packed with lovely features that celebrate student achievement and provide opportunity.

I am delighted that our Anti-bullying Ambassadors will be preparing student lead tutor time next week on how to deal with online bullying. Our Anti-bullying Ambassadors will be joining the Diana Award to complete their official training and I am incredibly proud of all of them. I would like to thank everyone involved to date, students, staff, and governors, for their contributions to our review of our school Anti-bullying policy and we are looking forward to holding our parent focus group—please see Mrs Hawkins Brown's section of the newsletter for details.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to share their feedback with us in our recent parent survey. It has enabled us to gain a snapshot of your experiences of remote learning over the past few weeks whilst offering you an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas as to how we can work together to enhance the provision for families during this period of lockdown.

It is pleasing to see that overwhelmingly students seem to be coping well and feel that they are well supported by school - both academically and pastorally. Over 90% of respondents reported that their child was actively engaging with their learning online, which is outstanding and a real testimony to the hard work and dedication of parents, carers, staff and students. We understand that circumstances for many are incredibly challenging but to know that, as a community, we are making progress, is very reassuring. There are, of course, pockets where students' learning needs and home circumstances are very complex, and we are grateful to those who got in touch to update us on your situation.

As you know, this is a far from perfect situation that we find ourselves in, however, the information that you have provided will help to inform planning over the next few weeks so that we can continue to support students going forwards and enhance their remote learning experience so that it can have the greatest impact.

It was wonderful to receive so many 'top tips' from parents and carers who are going through the same difficulties and we have shared some of these later in this newsletter in the hope that it may help others.

Again thank you so much for the feedback and top tips. Everyone is working incredibly hard and doing the very best they can to support your children. It was lovely to receive so much positive feedback from Key Stage 4 and 5 families I am delighted the Wellbeing Packs posted home where so appreciated. Today's House Day was fantastic, and it is wonderful to see the creativity not only of the students but the staff in creating these amazing opportunities. We plan to have 3 more of these days drop down type days next term as it offers students a change of activity and space away from screens. We are also planning a Careers Day for Year 10 more details to follow. We have truly embraced technology and continue to develop our ideas as to how to make the remote learning experience as successful and engaging as possible.

Have a lovely weekend, stay safe and well.

Best wishes

A Cusack, Headmistress

Dates for Your Diary

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 B



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/>

Revised Times of the School Day

Students are now following a revised timetable of teacher-led lessons, both in school and remotely, for the lockdown period. We will endeavour for the majority of lessons to be 'live' via Google Classroom, according to the normal timetabled lessons for that day. Any absence due to illness must be reported by parents/carers in the normal way. NB: From Monday January 25 Tutor Time is 9:00 am—9:15 am.

Time	Activity
9.00am - 9.15am	Daily online tutor session
9.15am - 9.30am	Break
9.30am - 10.15am	Lesson 1
10.15am - 10.30am	Break
10.30am - 11.15am	Lesson 2
11.15am - 11.30am	Break
11.30am - 12.15pm	Lesson 3
12.15pm - 12.30pm	Break
12.30pm - 1.15pm	Lesson 4
1.15pm - 1.45pm	Lunch
1.45pm - 2.30pm	Lesson 5

Poem of the week from the English Faculty

I Met a Dragon Face to Face
By Jack Prelutsky
I met a dragon face to face
the year when I was ten,
I took a trip to outer space,
I braved a pirate's den,
I wrestled with a wicked troll,
and fought a great white shark,
I trailed a rabbit down a hole,
I hunted for a snark.
I stowed aboard a submarine,
I opened magic doors,
I traveled in a time machine,
and searched for dinosaurs,
I climbed atop a giant's head,
I found a pot of gold,
I did all this in books I read
when I was ten years old.

Year 10 and 11 students are looking at unseen poetry in English over the next few weeks. This poem by Michael Laskey is an example of the poetry.

The English Faculty

Dr Frost Maths

Well done to those of you logging on to Dr Frost, completing challenges and Trophies and improving your maths. A special mention must go to Year 11 who are working so hard on their maths.



January's top ten are:

Whole School Leaderboard

Name	Points
William P (Year 11)	4157
Adam H (Year 11)	3086
Isabel M (Year 11)	2107
Ruby-Mae L (Year 11)	1882
Francesca T (Year 11)	1842
Neha B (Year 11)	1687
Daria A (Year 11)	1669
Lola N (Year 11)	1640
Amelia C (Year 11)	1545
Emmanuel G (Year 11)	1500

THE LANGUAGES CORNER

French:

The verb to KNOW (someone) = CONNAITRE and to KNOW (something) = SAVOIR

Je **sais** faire de la planche a voile et je te **connais** depuis dix ans.

I know how to windsurf and I have been knowing you for ten years

German:

Little words, big difference
leider = unfortunately
glücklicherweise = fortunately
Leider hat es geregnet.
Unfortunately, it rained.
Glücklicherweise war das Wetter herrlich.
Fortunately, the weather was superb.

Mandarin:

万事开头难。
(Wànshì kāitóu nán.
'everything start difficult') — **All things are difficult at the start.**

Spanish:

Echar agua al mar – to do something pointless (literally, to throw water at the sea)

TOP TIPS FROM PARENTS AND CARERS

"Encourage moving in break times, and interacting with your child then, if possible."

"We make sure to get out for a walk every day and in between lessons he regularly runs up and down the stairs. We have also bought some blue light filtering, anti-glare glasses (they cost £11) to help with the red, tired eyes he was getting from being on a screen so much of the day."

"Don't worry about the deadlines, if the topic is tricky, put it to one side and email the appropriate teacher. Then move on."

"Don't helicopter parent them! Give your children the tools and stand back and let them take the lead in their learning. Check-in with them periodically to find out how it is going. Remove any distractions such as X-box controllers and use these as a 'carrot' once they have completed HL. Maintain good sleep patterns. Be positive and enjoy the journey with

"Have lots of simple snacks available that can be grabbed in the 15min breaks, like chewy bars or cheese, crackers and grapes. Make their lunch for them or have something they can whip up in 30min lunch break. Alternatively, get them to make a packed lunch/snack box the night before. Send them out for a walk as soon as 3.00pm comes (to give them time to unwind after the last lesson and before they start on their homework)."

"Check in regularly and encourage them to talk about how they're getting on throughout the day..."

"We have used a daily 'look forward to' treat at the end of the day which helps when days are tougher, e.g favourite movie, play a game, bake a cake, takeaway night, FaceTime friends etc. It's only little things but helps give a focus and something to look forward to."

"All working in the same room."

"Go out for a 20min walk before the school day begins to wake them up!!"

"Encourage moving in break times, and interacting with your child then, if possible."



Safer Internet Day 9 February Design Competition!

We are launching a new #Instagram page and we need your designs!

Next Wednesday is 'Safer Internet Day' and we would like you to design an #Instagram post which explores:

How to Deal with Online Bullying

What you need to do:

- Design your #Instagram post. It could include images, words, short video clips.
- Send it to hawkinss@st-gregorys.org.uk by Wednesday 9 February (next Wednesday).
- There are prizes to be won in all years, so get designing!

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Update

This week, at our Anti-Bullying Ambassador meeting, we looked at the new, proposed Student Version of the Anti-Bullying Policy. Feedback from the Ambassadors will inform the final draft. We also learnt that we have been accepted for our official training from The Diana Award, which will be next term. If anyone else is interested in becoming an Anti-Bullying Ambassador, please email Mrs Hawkins-Brown as soon as possible at hawkinss@st-gregorys.org.uk.

A huge thank you to some of our ambassadors, Milly, Lydia, Patrick, Ophelia, Maria Clara, Maria Andreia, Luna, Harriet and Kyla, who have been planning tutor sessions for next week's 'Safer Internet Day' on how to deal with online bullying. I have been so impressed by the effort and design that has gone into all of their work.

Lastly, please see below details of a Design Competition, open to everyone in years 7-13. Get designing!

Mrs Hawkins-Brown
PSHE Lead

Anti-Bullying Policy – Parent Focus Group

We are currently updating our school Anti-bullying Policy, and would value input from both students and parents. The policy has already been shared with several student focus groups. As a parent or carer, if you would like to be part of a parent/carer focus group to review this policy please send a quick 'expression of interest' email to Mrs Gormley, Headteacher's PA, at gormleys@st-gregorys.org.uk by Friday 12 February.

Contact Details

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



Free Internet for Low Income Families

Mobile phone companies are offering low income families free internet to help students study remotely. For more information please use the link below and also contact your mobile phone provider.

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/guide-to-collecting-mobile-information/telling-about-offer>



The Great St Greg's Cookbook - NEW ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN!

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising initiative last term and bought or contributed to the St Greg's Cookbook. We have raised almost £500 so far and have completely sold out - which is amazing news!

We are now taking orders for a second print run. If you missed out before Christmas and would like to snag a copy of this simply brilliant cookbook, please can you order via Scopay **BEFORE 4pm on THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY**.

If you have contacted us by email about placing an order, please make your payment on Scopay to confirm.

We will only be printing enough to cover orders received so please ensure that your orders are in on time. Delivery/collection arrangements will be emailed out after half term.

Thank you

The PTFA
ptfa@st-gregorys.org.uk



Dear Students, hope you enjoyed last week's activities. This week I have attached a link to a recipe for a green smoothie which is rich in vitamins and minerals, and an article about a mystery that has baffled scientists for a long time – why do Wombats have square poo??

Science Team 

Article of the week - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/29/box-seat-scientists-solve-the-mystery-of-why-wombats-have-cube-shaped-poo>



Practical of the Week - <https://ads.dennisnet.co.uk/Green%20smoothie.pdf>

Chaplaincy Thoughts for the Week

As we come to the end of this term when lockdown has taken over our lives once more, we can reflect on so many positives to help counter the challenges we've faced. As someone who has been in school with one of the hubs I've been in awe of the way students are taking to remote learning and in turn teachers are taking to this alternate way of educating. Against the odds we are past 10 million vaccines given to the eldest and most vulnerable so far. Next week is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes and coincides with the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Pope Francis has released a message for this occasion encouraging us to look after our sick and harbour a spirit of fraternal love:

The celebration of the XXIX World Day of the Sick on 11 February 2021, the liturgical memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes, is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care, both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities. We think in particular of those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects of the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic. To all, and especially to the poor and the marginalised, I express my spiritual closeness and assure them of the Church's loving concern.

The theme of this Day is drawn from the Gospel passage in which Jesus criticises the hypocrisy of those who fail to practise what they preach (cf. Mt 23:1-12). When our faith is reduced to empty words, unconcerned with the lives and needs of others, the creed we profess proves inconsistent with the life we lead. The danger is real. That is why Jesus uses strong language about the peril of falling into self-idolatry. He tells us: "You have but one teacher and you are all brothers" (v. 8).

Jesus' criticism of those who "preach but do not practise" (v. 3) is helpful always and everywhere, since none of us is immune to the grave evil of hypocrisy, which prevents us from flourishing as children of the one Father, called to live universal fraternity. Before the needs of our brothers and sisters, Jesus asks us to respond in a way completely contrary to such hypocrisy. He asks us to stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them (cf. Lk 10:30-35).

The experience of sickness makes us realise our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God. When we are ill, fear and even bewilderment can grip our minds and hearts; we find ourselves powerless, since our health does not depend

on our abilities or life's incessant worries (cf. Mt 6:27). Sickness raises the question of life's meaning, which we bring before God in faith. In seeking a new and deeper direction in our lives, we may not find an immediate answer. Nor are our relatives and friends always able to help us in this demanding quest.

The Gospel frequently makes this clear by showing that Jesus heals not by magic but as the result of an encounter, an interpersonal relationship, in which God's gift finds a response in the faith of those who accept it. As Jesus often repeats, "Your faith has saved you".

Dear brothers and sisters, the commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned.

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain

Free School Meals

Parents and carers of students entitled to Free School Meals should have received an email today with a letter from B&NES explaining the arrangements for vouchers to cover the Half Term break.

Year 11 Progress Reports

Year 11 Progress Reports for Term 3 were emailed to parents and carers yesterday (Thursday 4 February). Please contact the school if you have not received this.

Year 10 Progress Reports will be issued before the end of term.



ELECTRIFIED LINES ARE

ALWAYS ON.

**SO ALWAYS
STAY OFF.**



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 Joseph's Catholic
Primary School Bristol



St Nicholas of Tolentine
Catholic Primary School Bristol



St Brendan's Sixth Form College
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**

Monkton Combe School, Bath
In association with the London College of Creative Media
present

THE LOCK ROCK

COMPETITION 2021

- Record your band's parts separately
- Put them together in a video

FIRST PRIZE

a recording session for your band at the
London College of Creative Media!

Judged by a panel from LCCM

Contact your school's Music Department for further details

Please adhere to current coronavirus guidelines

Closing date - Sunday 7th March

Rules for the Lock Rock competition – February 2021

1. Any style of music will be accepted
2. The song can be an original or a cover
3. The video must contain a minimum of two people performing
4. Performers must be of school age
5. The video should be between two and three minutes in duration
6. The audio can be live takes or an edited recording
7. The audio must be recorded by the band
8. Commercial tracks and/or karaoke tracks will not be permissible
9. The video can be split screen style or something more edited and 'arty'
10. The judging will be based upon the quality and entertainment-value of the overall package, and not on the technical proficiency of the audio or video editing alone
11. All current coronavirus restrictions must be adhered to
12. Entries after 7 March 2021 will not be accepted
13. The judging panel's decision will be final
14. The prize of a recording session at LCCM will take place after the end of Coronavirus restrictions, at a time and date agreed between LCCM, the winning entries' school and the band.
15. The winners will be announced in April 2021

Art at St Gregory's



Here's a marvellous photo showing how Gabriel in 7R has found a worm and drawn it for his Art lesson!



Milly in Year 8 has sent us this beautiful photo taken in the summer



Year 11 students, Nancy and Ella, made some animals out of fruit as part of their child development course with the idea of trying to encourage nursery children to eat more fruit.

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

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