

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying a huge well done to our students; this week online learning launched for the sixth form following their assessments and staff have been so impressed with the attendance, engagement and effort that students are showing towards their online learning. I have been most impressed by students willingness to engage with staff, be that their tutor, subject teacher, Mr Ackland or myself; we want to maintain as open a channel for communication as possible with students at this time to ensure that we can quickly act to support anyone struggling academically or personally. Equally, we just love to hear from you to find out what you are up to, so please share your news with us.

Parents will, from this week, receive a weekly attendance report showing attendance to live lessons. This is again, part of our commitment to open communication and working collaboratively with all invested stakeholders to ensure that remote learning can be as effective as possible and allow students to continue to improve and succeed. If there are barriers to your attendance, please let us know so we can try to resolve these for you.

We met this morning in our assembly to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and reflected on this years' theme – Be a light in the darkness. It is my commitment to the community of the New Sixth to endeavour to always work hard to rise to this challenge and I task you to try likewise; to choose optimism when the odds are against you, to exercise compassion and kindness rather than being quick to anger, to focusing on how we can support and uplift others rather than being self-interested.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and encouragement for The New Sixth and I wish you all a happy, health and safe weekend.

Mrs Lucy Staves, Director of Sixth Form

Dates for your Diary

February

Fri 12 Feb	End of Term 3
Mon 22 Feb	Start of Term 4—Week A

Big Garden Birdwatch

29th – 31st January (click on the heading)

Linked with the Big Schools Birdwatch, the Big Garden Birdwatch is asking you to spend an hour noting down every bird that you see in your garden, in a local park or from your balcony. All you need to do then is contact the RSPB and let them know what you saw.

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!

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 Mon 22nd Feb.
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)



Travel The World From Your Computer



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

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

Chaplaincy Thoughts

Whilst being conscious of how much we are throwing your way in terms of wellbeing/support ideas and recommendations; I believe we can never share enough with you. One person's love is another's pet hate. A strategy for coping with stress that person A uses, is no use to person B...and so on. Some of you may have come across *probablytomfoolery* on various social media platforms. His content is often comedic, challenging and always thought provoking.

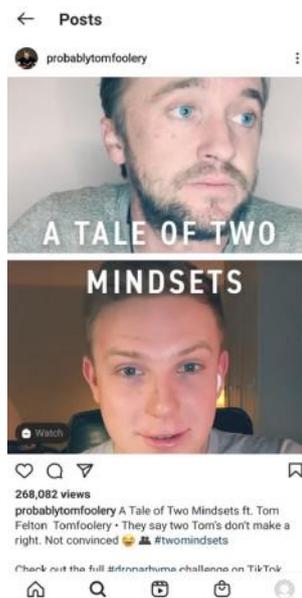
A recording he first performed last year during lockdown is particularly relevant and worth listening to - it's called ***A tale of two mindsets***. What's striking about it is that we've probably all been in both mindsets at one point of another. We have friends and people close to us who fit one of the two sides of the performance, and in its engaging rhythm it captures some reality to the cogs, barriers and paths we travel each day. My favourite quote from the poem is this: ***"I'd rather be an optimist proved wrong than a pessimist proved right"***.

How do you see *yourself* in that phrase?

Secondly, 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."*

What is holding on to us and making us feel chained up, holding us back, or drawing the energy out of us? 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?

Matt Robinson, Chaplain

Motivational webinars

The team at GCSEPod are once again thrilled to be collaborating with Cameron Parker, a renowned motivational speaker for schools and colleges.

Through this collaboration we are recommending his free webinars to your students to support them with the issues they face during this latest lockdown.

Including practical tips on how to use GCSEPod that Cameron will be incorporating into his sessions.

Cameron will host these fast paced, high energy student webinars, focusing on motivation, managing stress, avoiding burnout and staying focused.

Students can register for the webinars via the links below:

Student Webinar – Stress to Success - GCSEPod – 23rd of February - 6pm to 7pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D7YDLM5EQ--jRCNOJ6K47w

Student Webinar – Student Event - GCSEPod – 3rd of March - 5pm to 6pm https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_osYf0fjXRXGIZGoINc3VaA

Students can remain anonymous and parents can watch with them as Cameron makes goal setting, coping strategies and building confidence seem easily attainable.

PROGRESSION

Opportunities

STEM & Medical Sciences Work Experience

Ages 12-18 | 'Live Online' or In-Person at UCL



Register now for a unique opportunity to work alongside experienced engineers, doctors, psychologists, vets and others this term.

Students can choose to attend 'Live Online' before Easter or in-person later in April.

<https://investin.org/pages/stem>



Norland Unwrapped – 17 February 2021

Norland Nannies are delighted to announce their next session of Norland Unwrapped will take place on 17 February, 5-6pm.

The session will focus on the prestigious Norland Diploma which teaches students all the practical skills they need to be an outstanding early years professional.

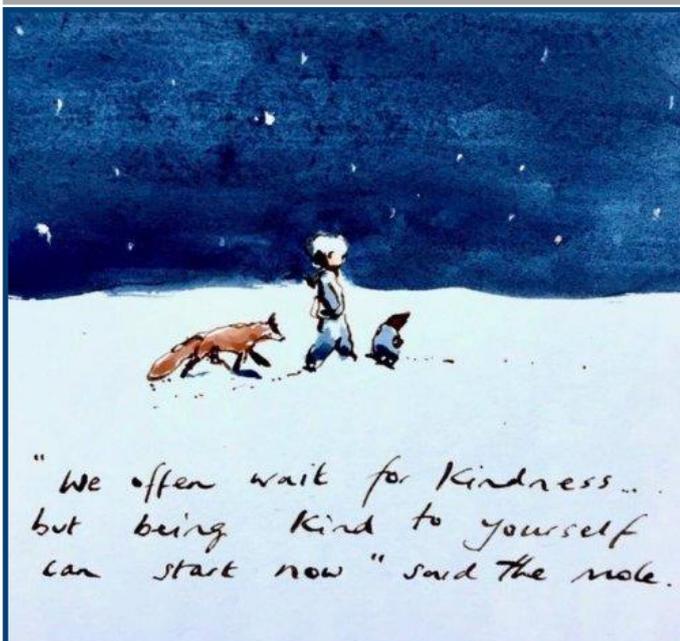
Students can register for the event via the Book now button here: **Book now**

Norland are still accepting applications for 2021 entry. Details of how to apply: [on their website](#)

REMEMBER:

Don't let cost put you off, you can consider applying to the school for a Bursary to support.

The very beginning of understanding the art of kindness is to learn how to be kind to yourself, not just on your good days, but every day. *Quote taken from "The Boy, The Mole and the Fox" by Charlie Mackesy*



New School day Timetable

School day during remote learning

Time	Activity
9.15-9.30	Online tutor programme (Y13 – Mon/Weds, Y12 – Tues/Thurs)
9.30-10.15	Lesson 1
10.15-10.30	Break
10.30-11.15	Lesson 2
11.15-11.30	Break
11.30-12.15	Lesson 3
12.15-12.30	Break
12.30-1.15	Lesson 4
1.15-1.45	Lunch
1.45-2.30	Lesson 5
2.30	End of online learning

PROGRESSION

More Opportunities

Goldman Sachs

Is a multinational investment bank and financial services company and is a brilliant addition to any Personal Statement or CV.

They hold an event every year, which is usually for selected applicants. This year, with changes to access, the application is much easier and it's not just for people thinking of courses in Finance.

More information can be found on the website:

<https://www.goldmansachs.com/careers/students/programs/emea/pre-university-womens-event.html>

Applications should be sent here before the deadline date of Friday, 26 February:

https://goldmansachshr.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_daiBRPLO5vAabHf

Email Mrs Parker for help with your application or if you have any questions:

parker@st-gregorys.org.uk



10 Things you probably didn't know about Apprenticeships :

1. You can get a degree while earning
2. Employer recognition
3. The choices are widespread
4. 90% of apprentices stay in work
5. You can be any age over 16
6. Fully funded qualification
7. Holiday pay
8. Different progression opportunities
9. You can study at work or college
10. You don't feel as though you are still in education

Apprenticeships



To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2021, Babington is hosting an information session to explain the world of apprenticeships!

Join the online information session to find out how an apprenticeship could benefit your future?

Jamie Dobson, Candidate Engagement Resourcer at Babington will be discussing:

- ◇ The benefits of apprenticeships
- ◇ Our large range of programmes designed to help kick-start careers
- ◇ Tips on how to make your CV amazing
- ◇ Interview advice and preparation
- ◇ Free, online courses to help boost your employment chances
- ◇ Q&A Session

[The World of Apprenticeships: Online Information Session | Babington](#)

Click on the above link to view details.

Our Pastoral Team are always on hand if you are worried about a young person - whether that is home learning or wellbeing related - please let us know. If you have any safeguarding concerns or would like to talk in confidence to a member of the team please email talk2someone@st-gregorys.org.uk and a member of our pastoral or safeguarding team will be in touch.

Kindness during the coronavirus outbreak



Get involved with acts of kindness during lockdown:

- Call a friend that you haven't spoken to for a while
- Tell a family member how much you love and appreciate them
- Make a cup of tea for someone you live with
- Arrange to have a cup of tea and virtual catch up with someone you know
- Help with a household chore at home
- Arrange to watch a film at the same time as a friend and video call
- Tell someone you know that you are proud of them
- Tell someone you know why you are thankful for them
- Send a motivational text to a friend who is struggling
- Send someone you know a joke to cheer them up
- Send someone you know a picture of a cute animal
- Send an inspirational quote to a friend
- Send an interesting article to a friend
- Contact someone you haven't seen in a while and arrange a phone catch up
- Spend time playing with your pet
- Reach out to call a friend, family member or neighbour who is experiencing loneliness or self-isolation
- Donate to a charity
- Donate to foodbanks
- Offer to skill share with a friend via video call - you could teach guitar, dance etc.
- Offer support to vulnerable neighbours

Students and Staff:

Share your lockdown stories: have you learnt new skills, taken up a new activity/hobby, carried out an act of kindness or baked something other than banana bread?

Do you have any motivational quotes you would like to share?

Email me:

kincha@st-gregorys.org.uk

Mrs Anne Kinch

Sixth Form Administrator

Wellbeing

Year 12 & 13- Wellbeing Packs

Look out for your 'Wellbeing Packs!' We are sending out 'Wellbeing Packs' for all students in Year 12 & 13 next week.

We hope you enjoy looking through the booklets and indulging in the treats. Make sure you are taking time to rest & 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.

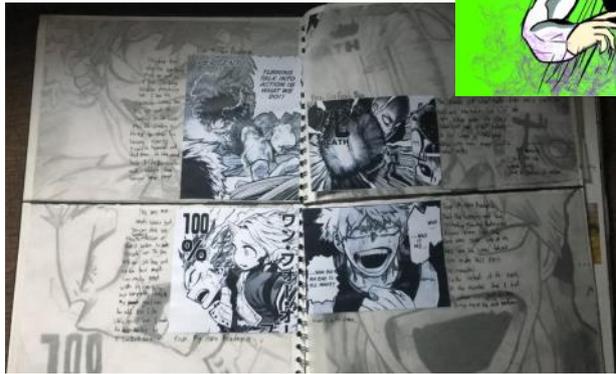
Mrs Hawkins-Brown

PSHE Lead



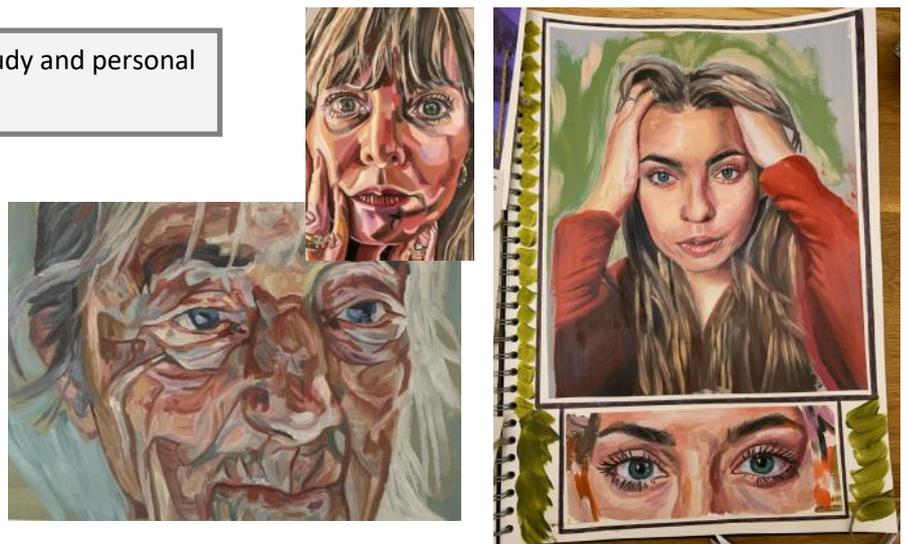
A LEVEL FINE ART SHOWCASE

Here's 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!

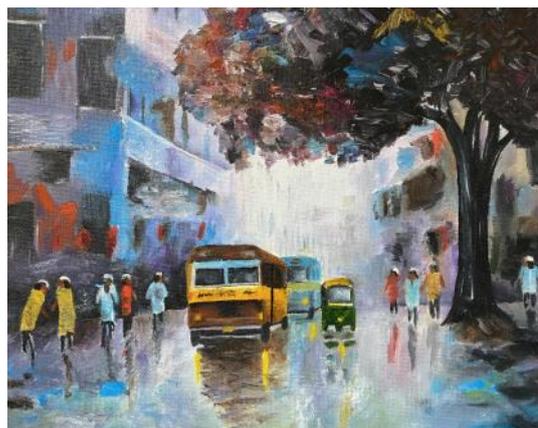


Digital Art & Sketchbook work
by Matthew O y12

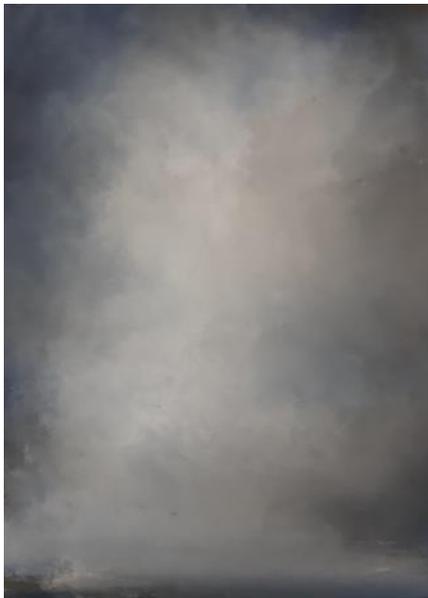
Sketchbook work (painted artist study and personal responses) By Ella B y12



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

