

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this is the final sixth form newsletter before Y13 officially finish their education, I wish to use this space to celebrate this incredible cohort:

Dear Class of 2019 – 2021,

To be the Class of Covid is not something many would wish for and the challenges that have been thrown at you, both personally and academically, have been significant, persistent and have demanded emotional reserves that have tested everyone. You have dealt with the uncertainty of the past eighteen months with maturity and resilience; you have shown understanding and kindness to yourselves, one another and your staff as we have worked to navigate the chaos together. You have acted with optimism and positivity and have allowed yourselves to look forward to your next steps, rather than being consumed with what has gone before, the time and experiences lost.

Above all you have made your staff, your parents, your friends and yourselves proud and, whilst I dearly wish your sixth form experience had been different, it is undeniable that you have grown into young adults that are a credit to us all in spite of or perhaps because of all you have been through.

As you move onto your next steps, do take time to reflect on the lessons learnt over the past two years, not academically, but personally. I hope that when you do you realise that you are, to paraphrase AA Milne, braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you'll ever know. So go and do amazing things and then come back one day and tell us all about your adventures and achievements.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to be your Director of Sixth Form.

**Mrs Lucy Staves, Director of Sixth Form**

## Dates for your Diary

### May

Fri 28 May	End of Term 5 Y13 Leavers Celebration Afternoon Tea
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### June

Mon 7 June	School closed to all Students
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Tues 8 June	Start of Term 6 - Week B
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Mon 21 June	Exams Week - Y12
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### July

Sat 17 July	Y13 Prom
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Wed 21 July	End of Term 6 - 1.30 pm finish
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### JUNE

#### Let It Bloom June

Following on from No Mow May, is Let It Bloom June. Allow the flowers to grow in your garden and leave them be.

**5 - 6 June: The Big Lunch** <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/the-big-lunch-2021/>

The Big Lunch is your chance to celebrate community connections and get to know one another a little better. The big date is 5-6 June – join in online, on your doorstep, or over the fence. It's on. It might be a little different again, but this year there are more reasons than ever to get together for community, friendship and fun. Sign up for your free Big Lunch pack full of tips and ideas on hosting your own event (in whatever way you want to do it) and let's have something to look forward to! The Big Lunch is the UK's biggest annual get-together for neighbours. It's a simple idea from the Eden Project: that as many people as possible across the UK have lunch with their neighbours annually on a weekend in June in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.

#### National Refill Day

**19th June:** Originally a UK only event, 2020 saw National Refill Day go global.

"National Refill Day is a public awareness campaign that aims to create a new social norm amongst the public for refilling on the go – to save money, keep us hydrated and prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles at source!"



# Chaplaincy Thoughts

*This weekend is the great feast of Pentecost when the season of Easter finally draws to a close. It signals the mantle officially being handed over to the disciples, and Jesus sending his Spirit to them so that they will be full of courage and strength. That same spirit and call to spread the Good News of Jesus is handed over to us Christians today, here in Somerset in 2021! The Catholic Bishops of England & Wales have sent a special letter specifically to you young people for this occasion:*



## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

### Letter to Secondary Schools for Pentecost 2021

Dear Young People,

Pentecost reminds us that everything in existence, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of 'God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth'. God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God's revelation of Himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of His love for us in Christ and in His desire to live in us through His Holy Spirit.

'God's Spirit is always and everywhere "the Lord, the Giver of Life", and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation'. As God's children, we call on the Spirit to 'renew the face of the Earth', and as His children, we are called for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God's creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. Consider this: how have we used this gift? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are very aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth.

The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God's gift to us.

For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the need and demand for energy for the benefit of the very poorest, providing our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which significantly reduces the use of carbon-based fuels.

There must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods and freedoms. Pope Francis encourages us to look beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to businesses and political leaders. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play; each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations

## Chaplaincy Thoughts cont'd

for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a big impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-using materials. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change so that we can each reaffirm our vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of great opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the pandemic. Now we have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two of the most important political events this year: the G7 summit in June and the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us to repair and rebuild, provide what is needed for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, 'the Lord, the Giver of Life', whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and 'renew the face of the earth'.

*CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES*

**Matt Robinson | Lay Chaplain**



### **WHOLE SCHOOL MUFTI DAY – THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

Please bring £1 next Thursday in exchange for wearing your own clothes for the day.

If you could wear black and pink colours in honour of the Ben Saunders Foundation, then that would be super!

**Tutors will be collecting the £1 during the tutor session or you can pay online via Scopay at:**

<https://www.scopay.com/stgregorys-bathnes>

This is such a special cause, and we would like to raise as much money as possible for the Ben Saunders Foundation.

Mrs Richards and Mr Robinson

## LETS CELEBRATE

A huge congratulations must go to **Sophie H - Y12** for her incredible achievement of being selected for the Team Bath Netball U18 Squad.

She has worked tirelessly to achieve this goal and it is full credit to her that she is now part of this amazing squad. We wish her well and hope the training goes well and eventually match play for the Blue & Gold!!!

*Mrs McHale*

### **Breadth and depth of exciting young netball talent in South West leads to Blue & Gold setting up new U18 development squad.**

Twenty-two promising young netballers from across the South West of England have been named in [Team Bath Netball](#)'s new U18 talent development squad.

The squad, which will be coached by Chantelle Cox, provides a link between the existing U17 and U19 age groups. Following a period of virtual training they are due to return to on-court sessions at the [Team Bath Sports Training Village](#) during April in line with England Netball's 'return to play' roadmap.

Natalie Roddy, Team Bath's Academy Head Coach, said: "We identified the need for this group as we have so many young talented players coming through, we see these players as the U19s and U21s of the future.

"All of the players selected impressed at our U19 trials and were identified as having the potential to move up to that age group in future. There isn't a set competition structure for U18s, but our aim is to create a match structure that challenges, develops and prepares them for NPL competition in the future."

Many of the players selected supplement their club training by attending a [Team Bath Netball Academy Development Centre](#) in their local area, with ADCs situated in each region of the South West from Gloucester in the north to Cornwall in the south. The talent-development network is supported by [Haines Watts](#), Team Bath's principal partner.

### **Gold DofE Award - Year 12**



Thank you to all who signed up to take part in the DofE Award.

#### **Next steps:**

1. Please make online payment
2. Your child will be signed up to eDofE and attend an online log in session in school
3. Watch the Loom video (the link will be emailed to you) which will explain how to support your son/daughter on completing their DofE Award.
4. Decide which physical, skill and volunteering activity you will be choosing

*Miss E McCarthy - DofE Co-Ordinator*

# EXCITING NEWS / DEVELOPMENTS

## Bath Schools Parliament

On Tuesday this week, Matt, Mrs Staves and I had the pleasure of attending the second Bath Schools' Senate meeting held at Monkton. Following a very successful first meeting with Monkton and St Greg's, we were set the task of running the entire morning for all the other Bath schools in attendance, working alongside two other student ambassadors from Monkton.



After coffee and pastries, we set about welcoming everyone and then broke off into groups to discuss visions and ideas for the future of this exciting Bath Schools' venture. Following feedback sessions, we all reached a consensus through votes and although a bird poo'd in the ballot box, the morning went off otherwise without a hitch!

Lunch (as Matt will advocate) was a triumph - there was even caviar on the sushi! We all ate far too much cake and then returned for a wrap up and to give the result of the morning's voting. It was a hugely productive and sociable event which we were very glad to help run. The Bath Schools' Senate is set to be such a wonderful opportunity for not only Bath schools, but for the region as a whole, as hopefully the bridges and the relationships we forge will make a big difference for all.

Thank you so much to Mrs Staves for accompanying us to the event, and a huge thank you has to also go out to Mr Wheeler (and his amazing dogs!), Ms Cusack and Mrs Youlten for organising and being such a great driving force behind the Senate. Thank you also to Monkton for such an enjoyable day, and thank you to our lovely co-hosts Amisadaï and Emily.

We can't wait for the next meeting!

Nancy A - Y12



# PROGRESSION

## Free Apprenticeship & University Webinars



Join a new UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair on **Wednesday 26th May 2021**, taking place from 12:00 to 18:00 (GMT/UTC). Following the success of our virtual events during lockdown, we are bringing our highly interactive fair back for even more students to experience, with a wide range of universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers joining us. This event will allow you to explore all your post-18 options in one place, with a huge range of exhibitors coming along. Universities will include Russell Group, red brick, modern and specialist institutions, as well as colleges and apprenticeship providers. You'll be able to explore exhibition stands, live chat with admissions officers, student ambassadors, academics and recruitment teams to ask any questions you have, view virtual campus tours, prospectuses and information, and take part in 10 live and interactive webinars in the auditorium.

The event is completely **free of charge** for students, parents and teachers. Our events are designed to make researching your post-18 options really engaging, there will be lots of interactive elements for you to explore virtually whilst at school or at home. The event is ideal for Year 12s to explore all the fantastic higher education and career options available, as well as being a fantastic way for Year 11s to gain motivation and inspiration. We also recommend attending if you are currently in Year 13, and undecided about your post-18 options. The event will allow you to consider the universities you can apply to during Clearing or explore apprenticeships if you are looking to take that path: <https://ukunisearchsouth.vfairs.com/>

### SKILLS BOOSTER EFFECTIVE REVISION

Free online course to help students  
revise effectively for assessments and exams

tutor2u

Discover the secrets of effective revision study with Revision Skills Booster.

The course also provides some handy course notes and interactive revision planners too!

Enrol on the course now for FREE using the link below!

[Effective Revision Skills Booster >](#)

### Engineering in ACTION

ONLINE, June 28th 2021

1.00-3.45pm

We are delighted to announce another afternoon of Engineering in Action for KS5 students, taking place **ONLINE** as a special half-day programme on the afternoon of **June 28th 2021**. Students will hear three inspiring talks:

- **Sam Rogers** - testing and developing a pioneering human flight suit
- **Anna Ploszajski** - exploring designer materials
- **Katie Cresswell-Maynard** - projects which make a difference in the world.

Click on the blue button for more information:

[Find out more and book tickets](#)

# Progression and Opportunities



**The world has had to adapt quickly.  
Can YOU be part of the change?**



**LTSB** is a social mobility charity that develops talented young people personally and professionally, supporting them into life-changing employment with major firms. We've partnered with **NatWest Group** to find passionate young people for amazing **Digital** and **Customer Service** apprenticeships in **Bristol**. **Successful candidates will earn over £19k!**

"If you're a young person who isn't confident in their professional and employability skills, LTSB will take you from zero to hero. They'll help you realise your potential and fill in the gaps, and they do it because they really care."

**Britney, 2020 NatWest Group Apprentice**

## Who?

You're passionate about delivering great outcomes for customers, committed to your future, and know what you can do – you just need some help to get there. LTSB supports 16-24 year-olds who were eligible for Free School Meals, from areas of low attainment, or have faced personal disadvantage.

## What?

A **three-week bootcamp** of personal and professional development, so you can be your best self when interviewing and, if successful, starting the job! Roles available: **Data Analyst, Digital User Experience, Customer Service, Software Developer, Digital & Technology Solutions.**

## How?

Sessions are delivered remotely, so you will need access to a laptop with webcam to participate. (Equipment support available if required.) **Discover more** at [www.leadershipthroughsport.org](http://www.leadershipthroughsport.org), or email [applications@leadershipthroughsport.org](mailto:applications@leadershipthroughsport.org)

# Y13 Leavers

**Year 13**

Are invited to attend a Leavers Celebration event

Taking place on Friday, 28 May 2021

At 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm

In the Dance Studio

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## Lanyards/Locker Keys Recall

Just a reminder that any locker keys (although these should not be in use due to covid restrictions) are to be returned to Mrs Kinch in the LRC on your final day of school please, together with your lanyard if you do not wish to keep it.

## Lunch Cards

### Year 11 and 13 Lunch Cards

Please remember to use up balances on your catering accounts.

If you are returning to The New Sixth in September you will be able to continue using your current card and any balance will carry over to September.

Mrs Millard, Kitchen Manager

## Y13 PROM

Plans are still going ahead to have the year 13 prom on the 17th July, in a marquee on the school field. Your comments from the Google Forms generally asked for a simple prom - affordable, fun, and not too fancy. In that light it's looking like there won't be a theme and the dress code will be smart/casual, not necessarily fancy, year 13 prom but still good enough for a nice dress or suit. We're hoping to have either a buffet or BBQ meal to accompany the music and fun decorations - we're thinking photo boards from year 7-13 etc.

There will be a meeting next term with Ms Cusack to organise everything, so until then keep the suggestions coming (send them to Katie-Rose, Jess S, Eloise or Joni) if you have any recommendations or opinions you would like to voice.

We're hoping this will be a brilliant way to celebrate the end of school and commemorate our time at St Gregs, and we look forward to seeing you there!





### Your Online Mental Wellbeing Community

Kooth.com is a free, safe and anonymous wellbeing support and advice site for young people aged between 11 – 18 years in B&NES.

It is accessible from any internet enabled device.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

### Contact Details

If you have recently changed any of your contact details (telephone numbers, email addresses) please inform

[obrayc@st-gregorys.co.uk](mailto:obrayc@st-gregorys.co.uk)



Mrs O'Bray, Office Supervisor

## Sixth Form Bursary

### 16—19 Bursary Fund

In Sixth Form there is a Bursary fund available to help students pay for Text Books, Stationary and IT, Transport and course equipment. The fund is limited and is discretionary and means-tested for eligibility but does NOT affect the calculation of any other benefits you may be receiving such as Universal credit. If you think you might qualify and have to buy bus fares, uniform or books, **retain your receipts**. If your application is approved by the School Governors these costs can be reimbursed.

Forms and further information can be obtained confidentially from Mrs Kinch, LRC.

## TRAVEL NEWS

**First bus** are providing the following additional journeys at peak times.

**Service 41** - additional journeys from Ambury, Bath Centre dep 08:28 to Odd Down Park & Ride arr 08:38, and a journey from Odd Down Park and Ride dep 15:14 to Ambury, Bath Centre arr 15:24 .

**Service 42** - additional journeys from Royal United Hospital dep 07:58 to Odd Down Park and Ride arr 08:18, and a journey from Odd Down Park and Ride dep 15:14 to Royal United Hospital arr 15:34 .

**Service 172** - additional journeys from Bath Bus Station to Mendip Gardens during the morning and afternoon for school start and finish times.

\*Students are reminded to observe the social distancing spacing on the buses.

\*Students are required to put their masks on prior to boarding the bus, and to wear the mask throughout the journey, in line with government guidance.

\*Students may wish to bring their own personal small bottle of hand sanitiser to clean their hands before boarding transport, and again on disembarking.

*Miss Medcroft, Transport Co-ordinator*

## 2020 Y11 Leavers Hoodies

**Please note this applies to Y11 Leavers in 2020:** As we were able to secure a discount for bulk purchase, a small refund of £2 will be returned to you via your debit or credit card.

Please allow a few days for the refund amount to show on your account.

If your child is enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme, your refund has been processed as a discount on the cost.

Any queries, please contact Mrs Wright [WrightE@st-gregorys.org.uk](mailto:WrightE@st-gregorys.org.uk)

## SCOPAY Issues

**Our online payment system provider is currently experiencing an issue with the SCOPAY app being used on Apple devices such as iPhones.**

**Their development team is investigating the issue and will be in contact as soon as the problem has been resolved.**

**In the meantime they are advising users to make payments via the SCOPAY website [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com)**