

#### Newsletter

www.st-gregorys.org.uk

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

8 December 2023

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

Advent is such a special time for us: in the scripture, we are asked to keep watch, wait and stay awake! The four advent candles represent hope, faith, joy and peace. It can also be a time of transformation. Our homes, schools, places of work and streets become transformed with decorations, Christmas trees and a festoon of twinkling lights. We are also encouraged to look inward and, in preparation for Christ's coming, consider what may need transformation in our own lives. It's a good time to pause and reflect on our year, our actions and our goals, especially those we set ourselves when we started back to school in September.

This week, I transformed into a Bake Off Judge at our school Christmas Bake Off competition and it was a joy to see so many incredible entries on display in our Food Technology room. With so many wonderful bakes to choose from it was hard to judge the Headteacher's Prizewinners but congratulations to Alice G (1st), Nora K and Zara D'S (2nd) and Luke Q (3rd) and congratulations to all who entered. See below for further details of all



winners and some pictures of our fabulous entries.

Last week, I had the pleasure of representing St Gregory's at historic moment when the church bells of St John's returned after being restored over the last few months. It was

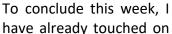
remarkable seeing their transformation and they will hopefully be hung in time to peal out at Christmas and ring for another 160 years. A tenth

#### **Dates for Your Diary**

| Thu 14 Dec | Carol Service at St John's Church—6pm<br>(Mince pies and mulled wine from 5pm) |
|------------|--|
| Fri 15 Dec | End of Term2—Students finish at 13:30  |
| Tue 2 Jan  | Term 3 begins  |
| Thu 4 Jan  | Y9 Parents' Evening online   |
| Thu 11 Jan | Y9 Options Evening in school 6-8pm   |

#### **Next Week: A**

bell has been commissioned to mark the 160 year milestone in the church's history. It was a momentous occasion and I was delighted to be part of it.





the idea that spirituality is about transformation. It was wonderful to pray with a group of parents in our Parent Prayer group this week where we reflected on the passage of time and the process of waiting. We prayed for all those in our community who need our prayers in this season. In Advent, try to find some time to be still and to stop in all of the busyness and preparation in the leadup to Christmas. You may find a way for transformation to take place in moments of calm and quiet: challenges may turn into opportunities; you find a way to become an instrument of God's peace and love; grace will enter your heart and mind if you keep them open and receptive.

I look forward to seeing many of you next week at our Christmas Carol Service. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Melissa George (BA Hons, MA, PGCE)
Headteacher

#### Chaplaincy thoughts for the week...

#### **Christmas Dress Up Day & Lunch**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Dress Up Day this week; we raised over £500 for Save The Children. So many students made an extra effort to look festive, with plenty of lights, tinsel and messages of joy adorning costumes. There were also a lot of Grinch outfits the character seems to have made a return to people's focus again. Sadly, no outfit has managed to outdo one from three years ago when a Year 8 student went above and beyond creating a costume that captured the entire nativity. I would share the picture, but that student is now in Year 11 and may not remember her enthusiasm as fondly anymore! It was great to see everyone sharing Christmas lunch together, with lots of singing along to Christmas classics and big participation in our lunchtime quiz.

#### Advent Week 1 – Hope

The first candle on the Advent wreath is the candle of **hope** and there was a defiant sharing of this message earlier this week in Kyiv with the illuminating of the main Christmas Tree in the centre on the feast of St Nicholas. It is the first time that the ceremony has taken place on 6 December due to Ukraine changing their Christmas dates to fall in line with the Gregorian calendar, rather than Russian orthodox dates, whilst still in the midst of war. When president Zelensky signed a law earlier this year moving Christmas from 7 January to Mayor of Kyiv 25 December, he spoke of although no food courts, markets or large intimidate Ukrainians witness the tree light up for the first time.

#### Chaplaincy Timetable

Mon Break - Shared Prayer

Lunch - Christmas Arts & crafts

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Tue Break - Shared Prayer P3 - Reconciliation Service

Wed Break - Lectio

Christmas Crib setup in Bath City Centre

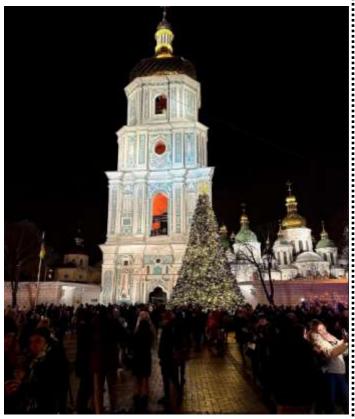
**Hamper Deliveries** 

All Day – Rehearsal for Carol Services Thu

6pm – Carol Service, St John's

P1/P2 – School Carol Services Fri

P3/P4 - Christmas Market



and former the "relentless, heavyweight champion, Vitali Klitschko shared this successful struggle for their identity" and "the desire message with those gathered, "I would like to of all Ukrainians to live their lives with their own congratulate each of you, Kyiv residents, especially traditions, holidays,". Question marks had been children, those who came to St Sophia Square raised as to whether the ceremony would be able today, on the holiday, on St Nicholas Day. Every to take place this year due to the continued ban on year, on St. Nicholas Day, we light the lights on the large gatherings - Kyiv recently being hit by more country's main Christmas tree. There are different attacks. However, the power and symbolism of opinions about whether it is worth doing this in hope and light in Advent shone through, and times of war. Putin and his barbarians want to and drive celebrations took place, thousands of locals depression, deprive our children of their future and assembled in front of the Church of St Sophia to moments of celebration and joy - but they will not succeed!"

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain

## THE GREAT ST GREG'S CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF



'Tis the season to be jolly, and our school's Christmas Bake-Off competition certainly added an extra sprinkle of joy and sweetness to the festivities! The ovens were fired up, the ingredients were gathered, and our talented contestants turned their kitchens into a winter wonderland of delicious aromas and holiday spirit.

A round of applause for our spirited participants who brought their A-game to the baking arena. Seventy-one of you in total! From gingerbread houses that could rival Santa's workshop to mouth-watering yule logs and Christmas cakes that transported us to a winter wonderland, each creation was a testament to the creativity and skill of our student bakers.

Our esteemed panel of judges, consisting of Mrs George, Miss Waldron, Miss Auburn and our six form ambassador, Hannah B, faced the deliciously difficult task of choosing the winners. We were thoroughly impressed by the passion, creativity, attention to detail and dedication shown by all contestants. Kudos to everyone who took part!

Choosing the awards was very difficult, with a dazzling display of fondant snowflakes, edible glitter, fantastic piping, intricately crafted gingerbread houses, amazing cake structures and surprise bursts of holiday flavours and aromas. The event was not just about the competition; it was a celebration of our school community coming together to share joy and create lasting memories. We also sold the bakes with the help of my wonderful GCSE KS4 students and raised nearly £400!! The money will go to the Technology Department and will continue to support our student's education to buy resources and equipment.

#### To our winners:

Congratulations on your well-deserved victories! Your talents have not only brought joy to the school but have also earned you special prizes.

Head Teachers award: Thank you to Mrs George for coming to the food room and judging all the competitors. Mrs George was overwhelmed with the incredible skills talent and effort everyone put in. In her exact words "I have never seen anything like this". Mrs George has awarded the following students the Headteacher's Award: 1st Alice. G 7Y, 2nd Zara. D-S & Nora. K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Luke. Q 7E

#### Other Categories:

Other Categories:
Ginger biscuits: 1<sup>st</sup> Henry H 11.O, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lydia G 10R, 3<sup>rd</sup> Amelia K-P 8S
Best Cupcake: 1<sup>st</sup> Max E 10.S, 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles M 7S, 3<sup>rd</sup> Selina T 7R
Best Christmas Tree: 1<sup>st</sup> Dilys H 7E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dante L 10.S, 3<sup>rd</sup> Julia 7R
Best Christmas theme: 1<sup>st</sup> Auden C-W 7S, 2<sup>nd</sup> Matilda 9E & Martha 7G
Best Taste: 1<sup>st</sup> Isaac T 10.E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam B Yr10.O, 3<sup>rd</sup> Archie C 10.R
Best Cake: 1<sup>st</sup> Isabella A 8G, 2<sup>nd</sup> Luke Q 7E
Most Creative: 1<sup>st</sup> Ben L 7E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Henry H 11.O
Best decorated: 1<sup>st</sup> Todd B 10.S, Dilsy H 7E
Best Cookie: 1<sup>st</sup> India A 8B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andreas E 10 B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Koziah M 7G

Best Cookie: 1<sup>st</sup> India A 8R, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andreea F 10.R, 3<sup>rd</sup> Keziah M 7G

#### Staff:

• 1st: Mrs S Wells · 2nd: Mr D Barford • 3rd: M Kestell

A big thank you to all participants, judges and everyone who supported this festive event. I would also like to thank some of our sponsors who donated amazing prizes: Lakeland, Bath for the Air fryer (1st Prize) Cook, Bath for vouchers, not forgetting Miss Waldron and Hannah B. May the warmth of the holiday season linger in our hearts as we savour the sweet success of our Christmas Bake-Off!

Wishing you all a season filled with love, laughter, and plenty of delicious treats.

Merry Baking and Happy Holidays!

#### **Year 9 Bovington Tank Museum Trips**













On Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 December, the History Department took our Year 9 Students on an educational visit to Bovington Tank Museum in Dorset. The trip included three workshops run by the Tank Museum. One of the workshops was a journey to the trenches during WW1 which included a whistle-stop tour of a mock-up recruitment office, the train journey to France, life behind the trenches and a British and a German trench to allow the students to see what life would have been like for the soldiers from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

The students were lucky enough to go inside a Mark IX tank from WW1 and were shown how it would have operated, which is not open to the general public. They were also able to see the only Mark I tank left in the world and they had a session on The Rise of Adolf Hitler filled with artefacts from the period, which was incredibly engaging and gave them some good knowledge for later in Year 9 and also the GCSE course.

The staff from the museum and our school staff were incredibly impressed with their behaviour and engagement on both days, especially considering the longer journeys each way due to bad weather! We are very proud of our Year 9 cohort for representing the school so well. Thank you to all the students and staff who supported the trip for a brilliant two days!



# Saint Gregory's Bath

Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

The Pop-up Uniform Shop will be open on Thursday 11 January at 3.30pm in the Reading Room, before Year 9 Options Evening. No appointment necessary.

If you have any uniform donations they can be dropped off at Reception.

Soirée de Noel : Wednesday 6 December 2023 @ St Bartholomew's church, Bath



Two of our Year 9 students took part in the French Christmas Carols at St Bartholomew's Church in Bath for the Soirée de Noel.

**William and Tess** read part of Luke 1 26-38 story "L'ange Gabriel annonce à Marie". They both were amazing. They spoke very clearly and beautifully in French. They were a credit to the school and the MFL department. It was a beautiful service of songs and readings.

A l'année prochaine. Joyeux Noel et Bonne année.

Madame Lemée Head of MFL



<sup>30</sup>L'ange lui dit : « N'aie pas peur, Marie !
Oui, Dieu t'a montré son amour d'une
manière particulière. <sup>31</sup>Tu vas attendre un
enfant, tu mettras au monde un fils, et tu
l'appelleras Jésus. <sup>32</sup>Personne ne sera
aussi important que lui. On l'appellera Fils
du Très-Haut. Le Seigneur Dieu lui
donnera le royaume de David, son
ancètre. <sup>33</sup>Il sera le roi du peuple d'Israël
pour toujours, et son pouvoir ne finira
jamais. »

## CAROL SERVICE





Thursday 14th December 2023 6.00pm



I hope you are all well. On the run up to Christmas, it can be difficult to find the right presents for family and friends but if you are or know someone who is an avid reader and has a keen interest in science, then I have some of the best science books from the year to recommend to you. These books introduce emerging areas of science, as well as offering new looks at familiar fields.

This week at home, keeping with the festive theme, you will need a balloon and an empty drinks can. This trick allows you to use electrostatic forces to move the can without touching it.

Article of the week – <a href="https://www.sciencenews.org/">https://www.sciencenews.org/</a> article/science-news-favorite-top-books-2023





Practical of the Week – <a href="https://www.experimentarchive.com/experiments/rolling-static-soda-can/">https://www.experimentarchive.com/experiments/rolling-static-soda-can/</a> Enjoy.



The Science Team



This year's incredible Beauty & the Beast Cast are looking to raise funds for Performing Arts opportunities and technical equipment and we are hoping that you, or someone you may know, works for a local business that would be willing to contribute to our raffle.

We already have a donation from Mr B's Bookshop and Great Western Wines. If you are able to donate something for our raffle then please email Mrs Richards at:

richardsc@st-gregorys.org.uk

Look out for tickets in the New Year – it's going to be an incredible show.

## **ROAD SAFETY**

BE BRIGHT BE SEEN BE SAFE

## Music Clubs

| Monday             | Tuesday                   | Wednesday                    | Thursday           | Friday         |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Tutor:             | Break:<br>Flute Salad     | Tutor:<br>Contemporary Vocal | Tutor:             | Tutor:         |
| Contemporary Vocal |                           | Group (all)                  | Senior Choir (Y9+) | Lower School   |
| Group BAND         | Lunch:                    | S                            | 5.1.516.1          | Voices (Y7-Y8) |
|                    | Symphony<br>Orchestra     | Lunch:<br>Brass Band         | String Sinfonia    |                |
|                    | Orchestra                 | Brass Bana                   |                    | 1002           |
|                    | After School:             |                              | A 6                | F-3            |
|                    | School Production<br>Band |                              |                    | 500            |
| 111                | 1471                      |                              |                    | VO.            |

Why join?

Exclusive trips, concerts and more!









#### Doodle Maths / Doodle Tables Champion of the Week

Year 7: Nell C (560 stars) Leno S (313 stars) Keziah M (125 stars)

Zac (171 stars) Jay B (151 stars) Lillie M (103 stars) Year 8:

Naomi F (65 stars) Year 9: Ece G (103 stars) Jacob G (96 stars)

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

#### **Parking**

May I please remind parents and carers of the dangers of parking and stopping on the double yellow lines outside of school. Please do not park illegally as you are endangering the lives of our students, as well as creating We are looking for School Meals Supervisory Assistants difficulties for our bus companies trying to navigate the school and local area. There is ample parking at the Odd Down Park and Ride and I would ask that anyone collecting a child from Saint Gregory's utilise this facility and ask their child to make the very short walk there for their collection and safety.



#### **Water Bottles**

Please remember to bring in a named water bottle (for water only) which can be refilled in the Bistro area at appropriate times. NB: You may also like to think of this if you have a long journey home.





#### School Meals Supervisory Assistant (SMSA)

to supervise students during the break and lunchtime period.

■ 11.00 - 2.40 pm, (there may be scope for flexibility ■ around these hours) Monday to Friday, Term Time Only.

The role is paid at £11.78 per hour.

Please telephone the school office on 01225 832873 or email hr@st-gregorys.org.uk for an application form or visit our website at Vacancies - Saint Gregory's Bath (st-

gregorys.org.uk)

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our students. The successful candidate will require an enhanced DBS check.

#### **Language Corner**

#### French:

En somme ....= in short, all in all All in all, I have to work hard to succeed En somme, je dois travailler dur pour réussir All in all, we must do more to beat the pollution **En somme,** il faut en faire plus pour combattre la pollution

#### **Spanish:**

Es una rata – He/she is stingy with money

Mandarin:一路平安(yīlù píng'ān) Have a safe and pleasant journey!

|            | Whole     | School Production: Beauty & T   | he Beast – Term 2 Rehearsal Schedule     |              |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Mon 11 Dec | Lunch     | Dance Numbers TBC               | Dancers                                  | Dance Studio |
| Tue 12 Dec | Lunch     | Finale                          | Whole cast (singing 'two hearts)         | Drama Studio |
| Fri 15 Dec | Lunch     | Finale                          | Whole Cast (Singing 'two hearts)         | Drama Studio |
|            | Christmas | Holidays - Learn all your lines | & practice musical numbers for Act 1 & 2 |              |

### **Lunchtime Netball Clubs**



- Year 7 Tuesday
- Year 8 Thursday
- Year 9 Friday

Please come to the gym as soon as you have had your lunch and change into your trainers!



### **Absences**

## Reporting Absences Feature on the Class Charts (parent) App

Please use the Class Charts app to notify the school if your child is going to be absent. The absence telephone line is still available, however we would prefer you to use this app if possible. This should not only be easier for you, but will allow the school to be more efficient when recording student absences. Once we have acknowledged the absence, you will receive a confirmation email to the account that is registered in the app.

If your school has decided to allow parents to report absences, you will see the Absences tab when viewing pupils from that school.

Selecting this tab will display a list of absences that you have reported, once you have reported them. This includes when the absence took place, the reason for the absence and who acknowledged your absence report.

To report an absence, click on the Report new absence button.



Next, enter the details of the reported absence into the form provided.

You can also include up to 5 files in your absence report as supporting evidence. To do this, click on the Attach supporting evidence button and select the files of your choice.

Click on the Submit button to send your pupil's absence report to their school. The absence can be edited and deleted until it has been acknowledged by a teacher.

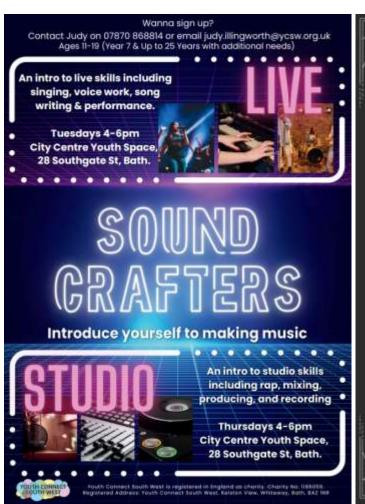


| Perfo   | rming Ar  | ts Enrichn  | nent Time  | table  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
|   |   | Term 2 2023   |  |  |
| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   |
|   |   | Tutor Time 8.30am-9am   |  |  |
| Contemporary Vocal<br>Group (Band)<br>Ensemble Pod with<br>Mrs Sterlini | Year 7 Singing<br>DRST with<br>Mrs Sterlini                               | Contemporary Vocal<br>Group<br>DRST with Mrs Green  | Senior Choir<br>DRST with Mrs Sterlini   | Lower School Voices<br>(Y7-8) DRST with Mrs<br>Sterlini                |
|   |   |   | String Sinfonia<br>MUS with Mrs Smith  |  |
|   |   | Break Time 11.10-11.25pr  | n  |  |
| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   |
|   | Flute Salad<br>Ensemble Pod with<br>Mrs Holden                            |   |  |  |
| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   |
|   |   | Lunch time 1.30-2.05pm  |  |  |
| Guitar Ensemble Ensemble Pod with (Guitar Teacher)                      | Beauty & The Beast DRST with Miss Tate & Mrs Richards                     | Brass Band<br>MUS with Mrs Avison   | Junior Dance company<br>DAST with Susannah   | Beauty & The Beast<br>MUS with Mrs<br>Richards & Mrs<br>Sterlini       |
| Beauty & The Beast Dance Team DAST with Mrs Pearson Tech Club           | Symphony Orchestra DAST with Mrs Sterlini GCSE Music                      | GCSE Dance Practical support DAST with Mrs Pearson GCSE Drama Written                     | GCSE Dance Written<br>support<br>DAST with Mrs<br>Pearson<br>Year 7 Drama Club               | GCSE & A level Drama Practical support DRST with Mr Psirides           |
| DRST with Mr<br>Psirides & Austin                                       | Composition<br>MUS with Edgar   | support DRST with Mrs<br>Richards & Miss Tate   | DRST with Maddie & Sammy   |  |
| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   |
|   |   | After school 3.10-4.30  |  |  |
|   | Beauty & The Beast<br>Band<br>DAST with Mrs<br>Sterlini<br>GCSE & A level | Beauty & The Beast<br>HALL with Mrs Pearson,<br>Miss Tate, Mrs Sterlini &<br>Mrs Richards | Beauty & The Beast<br>HALL with Mrs<br>Pearson, Miss Tate,<br>Mrs Sterlini & Mrs<br>Richards | GCSE & A level Drama support DRST/DAST with Mr Psirides & Mrs Richards |
|   | Drama Practical support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate                |   |  |  |

### **Beauty & The Beast – Whole school Performance important dates:**

Sunday rehearsals: 14 January and 21 January 10am-4.30pm School production week: Monday 22 – Saturday 27 January

Evening performances: Thursday 25 January, Friday 26 January and Saturday 27 January at 7pm.







Saint GREGORY'S Bath

## After School Sports Clubs - Terms 1&2

| 7&8<br>n City<br>tball   | Year 7<br>NETBALL<br>COURTS  | Year 8&9 NETBALL COURTS                         | Year 10&11<br>HOCKEY<br>ASTRO  | Year 7,8&9<br>GIRLS<br>FOOTBALL  |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|
|  |                              |   |  | ASTRO  |
| FISH AMPOLITATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE | Year 10&11<br>RUGBY<br>FIELD | Year 7 RUGBY FIELD Year 7/8/9 GIRLS RUGBY ASTRO | Year 8&9<br>RUGBY<br>FIELD   | 137  |
|  | MPOLIIVIIVS<br>Year 7-13     | FISH RUGBY  MPOLIIVING FIELD  Year 7-13         | FISH RUGBY RUGBY MPOLINING FIELD FIELD Year 7-13 GYM GIRLS RUGBY GIRLS RUGBY | RUGBY RUGBY RUGBY  MPOLITION FIELD FIELD FIELD  Year 7-13  GYM  GIRLS RUGBY  RUGBY  FIELD  FI |

- Please meet at the changing rooms, must have PE kit and appropriate footwear
- Sports Clubs start on Monday 11 September
- Please note Trampolining & Bath City Football club are paid clubs



#### St Gregory's Breakfast Club

#### Open every day

**Time:** 08:15 — 08:30

Cost: Free

Who: Open to all students



#### **Nut Allergies**



Please be aware that we have students and staff with serious nut allergies. We would therefore ask that you do not include nuts in packed lunches and snacks, eg chocolate and cereal bars.



