

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

In my final reflection of 2023, I want to begin by sharing something wonderful that happened on Monday morning. The last week of term can often be very busy and stressful in a school with all of us trying to tie up loose ends and ensure that everyone goes into the holiday season happy, safe and well. At 9am on Monday morning there was a



knock on my office door and three Year 11 girls, Ruby, Skye and Angel, came to show off Ruby's 'flour baby' which she has made as part of the Child Development course. We had a lovely conversation about the baby's name - cleverly named Daisy after Daisy Renton in their GCSE text *An*

Inspector Calls - and how the girls are looking after her. Being a flour baby, she was much quieter than the real thing but the girls were so proud of her and I was delighted to take time out of my schedule to find out about their project. At the end of last week we sadly said goodbye to our Sulis students who were on an exchange from Colegio Arenas in Lanzarote. When I asked them what their favourite memories of their time at St Gregory's were, they all said it was the friendships they had made and the staff support at school that they would remember the most. I know some of our students have plans to visit Lanzarote in the near future to keep in touch with their new-found Spanish friends.

I also visited the Chinese Embassy this week for the Mandarin Excellence Programme Headteachers' Conference where I got to hear about the exciting plans and opportunities to develop the programme further. Out of the 3,458 secondary schools in England, only 80 are part of the Mandarin Excellence



Programme which is incredibly special indeed.

We have enjoyed Praise assemblies this week where students have been nominated for their effort and achievement in their subjects as well as some of our top Literacy House Point earners being entered into a raffle to win an Amazon voucher - congratulations to all students who have done so well this year.

The most significant event of the week, however, was our beautiful Carol Service. Thank you to all of the students, families, staff, governors and special guests who made our Carol Service such a magical occasion this year. It was delightful to join together with one of our partner schools, St John's, to celebrate the season of Advent with such joy and good cheer. I was very impressed by the staff contribution to *Jingle Bell Rocks* too! A special thanks to Fr Christopher and the Parish of St John's for hosting us this year and making us feel so welcome.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We return on 2 January 2024 with Year 13 mock exams beginning on the 3 January, so we wish our Year 13 students all the very best of luck for this important milestone. I will leave you with this closing prayer:

Loving God, help us to be instruments of your light and love by doing one special act of kindness or by being your special instrument of reconciliation this New Year.

May the Christ Candle we light symbolise our desire to bring light into a world of darkness and hope, love and peace into a world of despair.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Chaplaincy thoughts for the week...

Advent 2023

Combining the shortest period Advent can be with the St John's for hosting us. earliest finish our school can have has created a two and wrapping paper. Benjy and Zara in Year 10.

and with the help of the enthusiastic charity reps, themselves without a home this Christmas. tutor groups created thoughtful hampers full of kindness and joy. Donations were delivered to Julian A final prayer for Christmas House Shelter, YMCA, Women's Refuge, Bath Area attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson Play Project, RUH Children's ward and Dementia Care A team of energetic helpers from our Loving God, Chaplaincy team helped Mr Allen and myself drive help us remember the birth of Jesus, around Bath with the gifts, and we were even blessed that we may share in the song of the angels, with a tour of one of the care homes and the the gladness of the shepherds, opportunity to meet some of the residents.

In the first week we enjoyed our Christmas lunch with and open the door of love all over the world. over £500 being raised for Save the Children. Over Let kindness come with every gift two days the school took part in Advent Reconciliation and good desires with every greeting. Services in the school hall, with 150 candles of various Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ size and colour creating a backdrop for 'light and hope brings, in the darkness'. Everyone was given the opportunity and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. to be still and spend some time reflecting on the gift May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy of ourselves and preparing our hearts for Christmas, children, before many went along to the sacrament of and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with reconciliation.

Last night was a huge occasion in our calendar and it was wonderful to see so many friends, family and more come along to our mince pie and mulled wine gathering before moving upstairs to the main event of the Carol Service. Our new Head of Music showcased the immense talent of our young people with some beautiful solos, choir pieces and instrumentals. We hope that the service helped fill your hearts with the reason for the season. Thank you from me to all

of those who have helped make the service such a huge success again: all of our performing arts and RE teams, readers and singers, St John's Choir and Mrs Smith who were as angelic as ever, and the parish of

week period full of Advent preparations for us Our final day today began with two more Carol all. Starting just before Advent, on Christ The King, Services to ensure everyone leaves for the Christmas some of our Chaplaincy students attended Ss Peter holidays feeling festive and ready. It is so important, and Paul parish fayre to sell gifts to raise money for as ever, for us to worship as a praying community and our parish. Over lunchtimes in the build up students the contribution of all made it a rousing end to created a mixture of eco-friendly gift tags, gift bags term. Not to forget the final two hours of the day and Many of our students our annual Christmas Market. A celebration of all the participated in the Lasallian district of Ireland, GB & creativity and generosity of our young people who Malta Christmas card competition, and we had our have planned, created and led their class stalls as part own school art competition with two stunning pieces of this joyous event. There was everything from of art adorning the Carol Service booklet, courtesy of raffles, tombola's, tin can alleys, gingerbread decorating, and so many more food, drink and game stalls to tempt our students to donate well to Julian Throughout Advent students have been creating House. Our total raised from the retiring collection at Christmas Hampers to donate to various charities, the Carol Service was £302.29. Thank you so much organisations and those in need in our local for your generosity; I'm certain your donations will community. Each year group chose a different focus, help the charity ease the pain of many who find

and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate

grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain

Dates for Your Diary

| Tue 2 Jan | Term 3 begins | |
|------------|---|--|
| 3-12 Jan | Y13 mocks | |
| Thu 4 Jan | Y9 Parents' Evening online | |
| Thu 11 Jan | PTFA Pre-loved uniform sale 3.30-6pm Y9 Options Evening in school 6-8pm | |

When We Return: A







Some of the eco gift bags on sale

Christmas Hamper Deliveries at a local Dementia care home



Front Entrance and Christmas tree shining brightly throughout Advent



Nora, Freya & Athira deliver



Online Safety from Mr Foley

Could I, first of all, wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas. Christmas can be a difficult time for many people, so please be mindful of others and remember them in your prayers.

Can I remind you all that, as the holiday season begins, technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it's important we all consider, how we can help keep young people safer online.

St Gregory's community, plays a major role in keeping everyone safe by informing you all about issues related to safety online. Remember the following steps you can take to help keep your child safer online:

- **Explore together**: Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
- Chat about online safety little and often: Talk to them about how to stay safe on new services, and in general. Ask if anything ever worries them while they're online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.
- Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried: This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services. Encourage them to write a list of their trusted adults.
- **Be non-judgemental**: Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.
- Talk about how their online actions can affect others: As your child engages with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
- Parental controls: Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any
 internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by
 visiting your broadband provider's website.
- **Direct your child to age appropriate information about relationships and sex**. It's natural for young people to look for information on relationships and sex online. It's important to understand this and talk to your child in a positive way. CEOP Education, Brook and The Mix provide age appropriate information you can signpost your child to.
- Make sure they know about CEOP. Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to CEOP at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/

You could also read the advice the <u>UK Safer Internet</u> Centre provide.

As parents and 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, guidance and advice regarding matters related to safe usage and monitoring:

<u>Internet Matters</u> <u>Parent Zone</u>

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

Young people can report concerns about child sexual abuse and exploitation to CEOP by visiting www.ceop.police.uk/safetycentre.

All reports are assessed and responded to by CEOP's specialist Child Protection Advisors. If a police response is necessary, this will be conducted in partnership with local police forces.

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

CLICK CEOP Internet safety

<u>Report Remove</u>: is a free tool that allows children to report nude or sexual images and videos of themselves that they think might have been shared online, to see if they can be removed from the internet.

Nude image of you online We can help take it down

<u>Childline</u>: is a free, private and confidential (unless child is at risk of being harmed or harming others) service where CYP (children and young people) can talk about anything to a trained counsellor, online or on the phone.

NSPCC's Report Abuse in Education helpline is a new helpline, commissioned by the Department for Education in response to Ofsted's Everybody's Invited Report. The helpline offers support and guidance to CYP and professionals working with CYP in Education and parents and carers who have experienced or witnesses sexual harassment or abuse in schools. Call 0800 136 663 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

<u>Marie Collins Foundation</u>: MCF provides a range of services, support and resources for children and young people, and their families who have been affected by online child sexual abuse.

<u>Stop It Now</u>: Stop It Now is run by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. Adults can call if they are worried about an adult, child or young person's sexual behaviour. They can call 0808 1000 900 or use their live chat function.



Year Eleven enjoyed celebrating their rewards day on Thursday



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.

Recommended Reads

This week's recommended book is provided by Ms Bowden. It is called 'Meeting Cezanne'. This and all of the other departmental recommended books can be found on the school website, under 'School Life' and then 'Academic Life'.



Meeting Cezanne by Michael Morpurgo

Yannick is excited to spend the summer with his aunt and uncle in the French country, which he has only seen in paintings by Paul Cézanne, but is devastated when he accidently destroys a drawing Pablo Picasso left after visiting the family's inn.



Improving People's Lives

Benefit Related Free School Meals

All School Years

Is your household earned income/take home pay below £616.67 per month?

Is your child missing out on Benefit Related Free School Meals?

If your household earned income/take home pay is below £616.67 per month, (which is equivalent to £7,400 per year) and your child attends a Bath & North East Somerset academy or maintained school then you could be entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals?

Your household income is the figure that Universal Credit use to work out how much Universal Credit to pay you, **not** your actual Universal Credit payment.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year two and receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, you can still apply for the Benefit Related Free School Meals.

Please do not reapply if your child is already in receipt of Benefit Related Free School Meals.

Ways to apply:

Online via the following link: https://
beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

You can ask your child's school for an application form

You can make a telephone application by calling 01225 394317. If you reach our answerphone, please leave a message and we will call you back.

For more details, please visit our website at: https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Qualifying benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods) Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (WITHOUT Working Tax Credit) and have and annual household income (as assessed by HMRC) below £16,190
- Working Tax Credit Run-on which is only paid for four weeks after you STOP qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under PartV1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

SEND Homework Club for students with SEND

Monday to Thursday each week Immediately after Lesson 5, until 4pm

Students should come straight to the Study Room in the Inclusion Department at the end of the school day.

Sessions can be booked through the school Gateway via parents evening/school cloud https://saintgregorysbath.schoolcloud.co.uk/

(Maximum of two sessions per week)

NB: If your child is unable to attend, please cancel your booking as places are limited.

Language Corner

French: Personne ne peut nier que + verb(subjunctive)...
= nobody can deny that

Nobody can deny that holidays are expensive/ studying can be difficult/living in the countryside can be boring

Personne ne peut nier que les vacances soient chères Personne ne peut nier que faire des études, puisse être difficile

Personne ne peut nier qu'habiter à la campagne, puisse être ennuyeux

Spanish: tiene memoria de pez – he/she has the memory of a gold fish – has a bad memory

Mandarin: 恭喜发财(gōngxǐ fācái) Have a prosperous

New Year!

PE - Sports Clubs Terms 3 & 4 2024

The sports clubs are now live on School Cloud to sign up for Terms 3&4.

There will be the following clubs available from the week commencing 8 January:

- Year 7,8 & 9 Hockey
- Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 Netball
- Year 7-9 Girls Football
- Years 7-9 girls Rugby
- Year 7-11 FISH Trampolining coaching
- Year 7-11 Football
- Year 7 & 8 Bath City Football coaching

Please sign up & get involved!



Happy Christmas to you all. We have had a busy term with KS3 Science Club and STEM club being marvellously attended and lots of exciting science going on.

To finish off the year here is an article that delves into the Science of Christmas. There is another set of Christmas themed Science experiments for you to try at home



Wishing you a Peaceful and Joyful Christmas. The Science Team.

Article of the week - https://inews.co.uk/news/science/explained-science-behind-christmas-112819





Practical of the Week – https://www.weareteachers.com/winter-science/

BEAUTY AND EAST

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: Flute Salad | Tutor: Contemporary Vocal | Tutor: | Tutor: |
| Contemporary Vocal Group BAND | Lunch: | Group (all) | Senior Choir (Y9+) | Lower School Voices (Y7-Y8) |
| Oroup BAIND | Symphony Orchestra | Lunch: Brass Band | String Sinfonia | / cm |
| | After School: School Production Band | | A CAR | ور داری |

Why join?

Exclusive trips, concerts and more!

Sports Hall Athletics Results from this Week

Year 7 Boys

| 1. | Ralph Allen | 161 |
|----|--------------|-----|
| 2. | Writhlington | 150 |
| 3. | Norton Hill | 144 |
| 4. | St Gregory's | 134 |
| 5. | Wellsway | 133 |
| 6. | Oldfield | 126 |

Year 8 Boys

| 1. | Ralph Allen | 180 |
|----|--------------|-----|
| 2. | Writhlington | 156 |
| 3. | St Gregory's | 145 |
| 4. | Norton Hill | 136 |
| 5. | Oldfield | 135 |
| 6. | Wellsway | 99 |

Year 7 Girls

| 1. | Hayesfield | 166 |
|----|--------------|-----|
| 2. | Wellsway | 159 |
| 3. | Ralph Allen | 144 |
| 4. | Norton Hill | 134 |
| 5. | St Gregory's | 128 |
| 6. | Writhlington | 115 |

Year 8 Girls

| 1. | Hayesfield | 169 |
|----|--------------|-----|
| 2. | Ralph Allen | 160 |
| 3. | St Gregory's | 151 |
| 4. | Wellsway | 137 |
| 5. | Writhlington | 117 |
| 6. | Norton Hill | 114 |



Year 9 Netball Tournament where the girls came 3rd out of 10



The Year 7 team came 5th out of 9 teams

Well done to all the students that took part in Netball this term. Watch out for the new clubs next term!

Mrs Lawson and Mrs McHale



Year 9:







Doodle Maths / Doodle Tables Champion of the Week

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

<u>Year 7:</u> Ashton N (232 stars) <u>Year 8:</u> Zac (115 stars)

Freddie M (70 stars)

Nell C (178 stars)

Tavonga C (129 stars)

Chris S (57 stars)

Morgan C (70 stars)

Katie P (56 stars)
Jacob G (64 stars)

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.



Lunchtime Netball Clubs

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- 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.

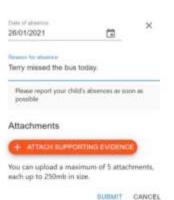
To report an absence, click on the Report new absence button.



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.



| Whole School Production: Beauty & The Beast - Term 3 Rehearsal Schedule | | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| Date | When | Section/ Scene | Who? | Where? |
| Tue 2 Jan | Lunch | Orchestra & Cast | Castle Crew, Beast & Belle, Maurice, Gaston & Lefou | DRST |
| Tue 2 Jan | 3.10 - 4.30 pm | Orchestra | Orchestra | DAST |
| Wed 3 Jan | Lunch | Dance Numbers | Dancers | DAST |
| Wed 3 Jan | 3.10 - 4.30 pm | ACT 1 | Whole cast | HALL |
| Thu 4 Jan | Lunch | ACT 1 | Soloists | DRST |
| Fri 5 Jan | Lunch | Belle Solo's | Belle | DRST |
| Mon 8 Jan | Lunch | Dance Numbers | Dancers | DAST |
| Tue 9 Jan | Lunch | Orchestra | Orchestra | DAST |
| Wed 10 Jan | 3.10 - 4.30 pm | Act 2 | Whole cast | HALL |
| Thu 11 Jan | 3.10 - 4.30 pm | Act 2 | Whole Cast & BATB Band | DAST/DRST |
| Fri 12 Jan | Lunch | Solo's | Castle Crew | DRST |
| Sun 14 Jan | 10 - 4 pm | Run through | Whole cast | HALL/DAST |
| Mon 15 Jan | Lunch | Dance numbers | Dancers | DAST |
| Tue 16 Jan | Lunch | Orchestra | Orchestra | DAST |
| Wed 17 Jan | Lunch | Belle & Beast solo's/scenes | Belle & Beast | DRST |
| Wed 17 Jan | 3.10 - 4.30 pm | Act 2 | Whole cast | HALL |
| Thu 18 Jan | Lunch | Castle Crew musical numbers | Castle Crew | DRST |
| Thu 18 Jan | 3.10 - 4.30 pm | BATB Band | BATB Band | DAST |
| Sun 21 Jan | 10 – 4 pm | Dress/Tech | Whole Cast | HALL/DAST |
| Mon 22 Jan | 9 - 3.10 pm | Production Rehearsal | Whole Cast | HALL/DAST |
| Tue 23 Jan | 9 - 3.10pm | Production Rehearsal | Whole Cast | HALL/DAST |
| Wed 24 Jan | 3.10 - 6pm | Dress | Whole Cast | HALL/DAST |
| Thu 25 Jan | 9 - 12pm | Matinee | Whole Cast | HALL/DAST |
| Fri 26 Jan | 5 - 9pm | Opening Night | Whole Cast | HALL/DAST |
| Sat 27 Jan | 5 - 9pm | Second Night | Whole Cast | HALL/DAST |

- O As you can see, this is a **VERY** tight schedule. Sections will not be revisited more than once until the run up to the show.
- O Please, please, please make sure that you are on your very best behaviour from now until the production because if you receive any lunch time or after school detentions these will take priority.
- O If you need to use the phone to call home at any time come to the studio- NOT the main office.
- O This is a wonderful opportunity to perform. Please spend time to thoroughly learn your lines and fully understand what it is you are saying to your audience.
- o If you can't make any rehearsals, and you have a **very good reason** for doing so then please tell us as soon as possible.

We will try to provide your costume for you, but you may need to source various items depending on the character. We will let you know in due course about your costumes.

Important Dates for your diary:

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.







