



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

5 January 2024

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

As we draw closer to the Epiphany and the moment the three Magi brought their symbolic gifts to Christ the King, it is a good time to reflect and make some promises to start something new or stop doing something which no longer serves us. In assemblies this week, I have set the school the new year challenge to have a social media or gaming detox.

While there are enormous benefits to social media, there is also a body of research which links poor mental health to social media and gaming use. Dr Aric Sigman, psychologist and renowned author, has written about the effects of screen time on children and teenagers: according to Ofcom the average UK 16 -24 year old is now 'spending more time on media and communications than on sleeping' So my social media/gaming detox invites St Gregory's students to try to switch off their screens for the month of January and do something else instead - take up a new hobby, rediscover an old interest that they no longer do, get outside and be physically active or just spend some time being bored - there's nothing wrong with that!

It might help if groups of friends pledge to detox together - if a friendship group avoids spending hours gaming or using social media to connect, it will help avoid FOMO and perhaps even help the friendship group establish new, healthier ways of connecting with each other moving forward. Parents and carers are the first educators and role models for their children, so perhaps you can also think about your technology use: can meal times be spent together without phones or laptops at the table and can you 'unplug' for a few evenings and spend quality family time doing something you all enjoy?

In other news, I congratulate Year 13 as they start

Dates for Your Diary

3-12 Jan	Y13 mocks
Thu 11 Jan	PTFA Pre-loved uniform sale 3.30-6pm Y9 Options Evening in school 6-8pm Y9 MEP afterschool session cancelled MEP trip Parent Information Evening 5pm
Tue 16 Jan	Y10 Work Experience Parents' Evening 5.30-6.30pm
25 - 27 Jan	Beauty and the Beast performance, 7pm
Thu 1 Feb	Y11 Parents Evening 4-7pm
Fri 9 Feb	End of Term 3

Next week: B

their mock season; Exam Invigilators have commented on how well prepared and mature the year group has been which is also testament to the sixth form team's hard work with the students.

I wish you a wonderful Epiphany weekend ahead and hope for peace, joy, happiness and health for our whole community in this new year.

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



25 - 27 January 2024

Tickets are now available for this year's spectacular show via [ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-gregorys). Please use the link below to book your tickets:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-gregorys

Chaplaincy thoughts for the week...

Advent: Carol Services, Christmas market and more - Merry Christmas and a happy new year! As mentioned in the final newsletter of last term it was a whirlwind of an Advent for us all - it seems like so long ago now. With time constraints I wasn't able to share any of the pictures from our Carol Service and Christmas Market with everyone. Here are a few that captured the spirit of the season in our liturgical services as well as fundraising, generosity and creativity with the dress up day, Christmas market and hamper appeal.



We can now also share that the Christmas Market and retiring collection from the Carol Service raised £1,188.86 for **Julian House**. Our Christmas Dress Up Day raised £631.72 for **Save The Children**. Thank you all so much for supporting your children, our fundraising and the mission of the school.

Chaplaincy thoughts for the week continued on the next page...

Parent and Family Prayer

Our next time of prayer in St Gregory's, when parents and families are invited to join us, is Tuesday 6 February at 8.00am.

'Fiducia Supplicans' - Pope Francis approves blessing of those in same sex couples

At the start of the Christmas holidays a new document entitled 'Fiducia Supplicans' was released by the Vatican giving approval for informal blessings of same-sex couples by clergy in the Catholic Church. Introducing the document, prefect Cardinal Victor Fernandez of the Dicastery for Doctrine of the Faith explained that the declaration is *"based on the pastoral vision of Pope Francis"* who has repeatedly encouraged the Church to listen and walk with those who feel on the margins of the Catholic Church. The recent synod on synodality again bringing this to the fore, *'In different ways, people who feel marginalized or excluded from the Church because of their marriage status, identity or sexuality also ask to be heard and accompanied. There was a deep sense of love, mercy and compassion felt in the Assembly for those who are or feel hurt or neglected by the Church, who want a place to call "home" where they can feel safe, be heard and respected, without fear of feeling judged.'*

The document aims to respond to requests to 'bless those in irregular situations or same sex couples without officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church's perennial teaching on marriage.', indeed as Cardinal Fernandez explains, it is for us to "consider a broadening and enrichment of the classic understanding and pastoral meaning of blessings". Within the four chapter document is a theological and pastoral reflection on blessings in scripture and how we approach today. It encourages a sensitivity and pastoral approach to those who are seeking the Lord in faith and with all his love and mercy, as Fiducia Supplicans explains, "When people ask for a blessing, an exhaustive moral analysis should not be placed as a precondition for conferring it". There is a clear distinction included in Fiducia Supplicans and clarified by the Vatican Dicastery for the Doctrine of

Mon	Break – Shared Prayer Lunch – Display Board Creation
Tue	Break – Lectio Lunch - Display Board Creation
Wed	Break - Rosary Lunch - Display Board Creation
Thu	Break – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Lunch – Meditation

the Faith on the fourth of January, between "Liturgical and ritualised", "This Declaration remains firm on the traditional doctrine of the Church about marriage, not allowing any type of liturgical rite or blessing similar to a liturgical rite that can create confusion... it is solely the response of a pastor towards two persons who ask for God's help. Therefore, in this case, the pastor does not impose conditions and does not enquire about the intimate lives of these people. Does it make sense to deny these kinds of blessings to these two people who ask for them? Is it not more appropriate to support their faith."

Mark O'Toole, Archbishop of Cardiff and Bishop of Menevia, responded to the declaration, "I warmly welcome the desire and intention of the Holy Father to encourage and challenge us to be close to all people irrespective of their personal circumstances... I invite all in the Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Diocese of Menevia to read and reflect on Fiducia Supplicans carefully, so that they are aware of the parameters in which clergy may impart a blessing to others who seek it from them. Such blessings should not take place within the liturgical or sacramental life of the parish, but "in other contexts, such as a visit to a shrine, a meeting with a priest, a prayer recited in a group, or during a pilgrimage... I pray that this Declaration will encourage all of us to show ever more clearly that the Church is a loving mother, who desires to bring the closeness and compassion of God to all His children. May it give consolation and encouragement to those who seek the Father's blessing, to draw closer to Him, and to discover more deeply the beauty of His Son Jesus, in the life of our holy mother, the Church".

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain

Year 8 Kintbury Retreat Residential - Last few places (1-3 March)

We still have a few places left on the first residential retreat opportunity for your children in Year 8 to go along to the amazing St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury. We have booked the entire centre for the weekend of Friday 1 - Sunday 3 March. The cost is £110 which includes transport, all meals, insurance and activities over the weekend. Retreats are designed to give our young people an opportunity to step back from everyday life, there is very limited signal (so encourages a digital detox!), and instead take part in a fun programme of activities, games, prayer and reflection. Kintbury is a huge manor house set in the middle of the beautiful Berkshire countryside, an ideal space for peace and quiet whilst offering outdoor activities such as archery and rope courses, as well as indoor enrichment games and more.

To sign up please pay a deposit of £30 on the School Gateway App.

Year 10 Kintbury Retreat (7-10 March)

There are a number of spaces still available on the Year 10 Kintbury retreat in March, which is a shared experience with other schools across the country. Many of your children have been to Kintbury in Year 8 and 9, or on the Lasallian Camp in the summer term. Each retreat experience is unique with different schools attending and is open to any student who may or may not have already been along in the past. If you are interested in your child attending please secure a place by paying a £50 deposit on the school Gateway app towards the final amount of £225.

We appreciate December and January are tough times to be asking for payments. Our finance department are happy to discuss longer payment plans and financial assistance can be discussed confidentially.

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain

Recommended Reads

This week's recommended book is provided by Mr Foley from the Computer Science department. It is called 'I swapped my brother on the internet'. This and all of the other departmental recommended books can be found on the school website, under 'School Life' and then 'Academic Life'.



I Swapped My Brother on the Internet by Jo Simmons

Everyone has dreamed of being able to get rid of their brother or sister at one time or another – but for Jonny, the dream is about to become a reality with SiblingSwap.com! What could be better than someone awesome to replace Ted, Jonny's obnoxious older brother?

But finding the perfect brother isn't easy, as Jonny discovers when Sibling Swap sends him a line of increasingly bizarre replacements: first a Merboy, then a brother raised by meerkats, and then the ghost of Henry the Eighth! What's coming next?! Suddenly old Ted isn't looking so bad. But can Jonny ever get him back?

Performing Arts Enrichment Timetable

Term 3 - 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor Time 8.30am-9am				
Contemporary Vocal Group (Band) Ensemble Pod with Mrs Sterlini	Year 7 Singing DRST with Mrs Sterlini	Contemporary Vocal Group DRST with Mrs Green	Senior Choir DRST with Mrs Sterlini	Lower School Voices (Y7-8) DRST with Mrs Sterlini
			String Sinfonia MUS with Mrs Smith	
Break Time 11.10-11.25am				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Flute Salad Ensemble Pod with 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 MUS with Mrs Avison	Junior Dance company DAST with Susannah	Beauty & The Beast MUS with Mrs Richards & Mrs Sterlini
Beauty & The Beast Dance Team DAST with Mrs Pearson	Symphony Orchestra DAST with Mrs Sterlini	GCSE Dance Practical support DAST with Mrs Pearson	GCSE Dance Written support DAST with Mrs Pearson	GCSE & A level Drama Practical support DRST with Mr Psirides
Tech Club DRST with Mr Psirides & Austin	GCSE Music Composition MUS with Edgar	GCSE Drama Written support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	Year 7 Drama Club DRST with Maddie & Sammy	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After school 3.10-4.30pm				
	Beauty & The Beast Band DAST with Mrs Sterlini	Beauty & The Beast HALL with Mrs Pearson, Miss Tate, Mrs Sterlini & Mrs Richards	Beauty & The Beast HALL with Mrs Pearson, Miss Tate, Mrs Sterlini & Mrs Richards	GCSE & A level Drama support DRST/DAST with Mr Psirides & Mrs Richards
	GCSE & A level Drama Practical support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate			



Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a restful, joyous and peaceful break.

Although all the celebrations may be done, we'd like to keep it going a little longer, so this week there are some New Year's Science activities for you to try, including a Lego ball drop and DIY party poppers.

The article this week delves into the Science of Snot – it is the cold and flu season after all - be good to know what snot does for us!



The Science Team

- Article of the week - <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/lets-learn-about-snot>



- Practical of the Week – <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/new-years-eve-stem-activities/>

B&NES Libraries

Events & Activities

Lego Lab Get creative with Lego	Monday - Saturday Bath Central Library
Art in the Library Care Leavers Lens - photography by young people who have been in the care of B&NES Council	Monday - Saturday Bath Central Library
Sensory Space For young adults with sensory needs. *Book online.	Monday - Saturday Bath, Keynsham & Midsomer Norton Libraries
Board Game Saturdays Drop in and play with our great selection of games	Monday - Saturday Bath, Keynsham & Midsomer Norton Libraries

Bath & North East Somerset Council
 Improving People's Lives

ROAD SAFETY

BE BRIGHT BE SEEN BE SAFE

Music Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor: Contemporary Vocal Group BAND	Break: Flute Salad Lunch: Symphony Orchestra After School: School Production Band	Tutor: Contemporary Vocal Group (all) Lunch: Brass Band	Tutor: Senior Choir (Y9+) String Sinfonia	Tutor: Lower School Voices (Y7-Y8)

Why join?

Exclusive trips, concerts and more!





Term 3 PE Enrichment Clubs start on Monday 8 January



Day	Club	Where	Year Group	Girls or Boys
Monday	Fish Trampolining	Gym	Y7 – Y13	Boys & Girls
Monday	Bath City Football	Astro	Y7 – Y8	Boys
Tuesday	Netball	Courts	Y10 – Y13	Girls
Tuesday	Football	Astro	Y10	Boys
Tuesday	Basketball	Courts/Gym	Y10 – Y11	Boys
Wednesday	Hockey	Astro	Y7 – Y9	Girls
Wednesday	Football	Field	Y9	Boys
Wednesday	Football	Astro	Y11	Boys
Thursday	Fixtures	Various	Various	Girls
Thursday	Football	Astro	Y7	Boys
Thursday	Football	Field	Y8	Boys
Thursday	Basketball	Courts/Gym	Y8 – Y9	Boys
Friday	Football	Astro	Y7 – Y9	Girls



All clubs are from 3.15pm - 4.15pm
There will be no lunchtime clubs until 15 January due to exams
Please register on School Cloud for ALL clubs
Please speak to a member of the PE Team if you have any questions



Year 10 Work Experience Evening - Tuesday 16 January 2024

This evening will add information related to the initial letters sent out in September and November 2023.

The evening will start at 5.30pm in the School Hall and will last approximately one hour.

The evening is to inform parents, carers and students regarding the Year 10 Work Experience week planned for five working days from Monday 8 July – Friday 12 July 2024.

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:

Ca me rend heureux(se) / (ça me rendrait/ ça m'a rendu)

It makes me happy / (it would make me/ it made me)

Quand je sors avec mes amis en ville; **ça me rend heureux**

Si j'allais aux Etats Unis en vacances, **ça me rendrait heureux**

J'ai passé les vacances de Noel en famille et **ça m'a rendu heureux**

Spanish:

Las palabras se las lleva el viento – actions speak louder than words (literally words are carried/taken away by the wind)

Mandarin:

一笑解千愁。(Yī xiào jiě qiānchou. 'one smile undoes 1,000 worries') — **A smile dispels many worries.**

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.

Saint Gregory's Bath
PTFA
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.

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.

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.



Date of absence: 26/01/2021

Reason for absence: Terry missed the bus today.

Please report your child's absences as soon as possible

Attachments

ATTACH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

You can upload a maximum of 5 attachments, each up to 250mb in size.

SUBMIT CANCEL

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

- 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.
- 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.
- If you need to use the phone to call home at any time come to the studio, **NOT the main office.**
- 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.
- 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.



Youth Project

After school drop-in
at Roundhill

Tuesday 3.30pm - 5pm

Friday 3.30pm - 5pm

Gaming, toast and Chill



Roundhill Hub



FIND THE SPARK PLAY THE GAME

Sunday 14th January 2024 - 10am-11:30am
Combe Down RFC - BA2 5DE



CHALLENGE YOURSELF TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR

JOIN US FOR A FUN INTRODUCTION TO RUGBY.
GIRLS AGED 11+ AND WOMEN WELCOME
SIGN UP HERE TO GET INVOLVED: 



BATH BASKETBALL



New community-based basketball club in Bath
looking to provide basketball experiences for all!

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Junior sessions with elite coaching from our Director of Basketball - Antonio Wilburn and our Community Coaches.
- The **ONLY** National League Basketball team in Bath. Come and support our Senior Mens team when they play on Saturday nights at Prior Park College.
- Coaching, officiating and volunteering opportunities if you'd like to get involved.

Visit our website and social medias below to keep update with all things Bath Basketball.

Junior Basketball Sessions:

Age Group	Time	Venue
Boys School Years 10-13	Monday 7:30-8:30PM	King Edwards School
Mixed School Years 5-9	Sunday 9:00-10:00AM	Founders Hall, University of Bath

**PLAY
WATCH
GET INVOLVED**

bathbasketball.info@gmail.com

 [@bathbasketball](#)  [bath basketball](#)  [@bathbasketball](#)  www.bathbasketball.co.uk

skills CONNECT

Employment & Skills POD

Skills for Work Volunteering Opportunities

Do you want to gain experience but struggle to find opportunities?

Gain skills and experience for work through volunteering with a range of charities in different sectors.

Many opportunities can lead to paid work and charities can offer references for future employers.

 **Wednesday 31st
January**
 **Bath Central
Library**

 **10am - 12pm**
 **FREE**

Drop in to this **FREE** event
to talk to local charities offering volunteering opportunities.

 EmploymentSkills_Pod@bathnes.gov.uk

 www.achieveinbathnes.co.uk  [@AchieveBathnes](#)





The Employment and Skills Pod is funded and managed by the West of England Combined Authority, led by Mayor Mayor Dan Norris, and delivered by Bath and North East Somerset Council in partnership with Skills Connect.