



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

23 February 2024

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

I hope you all had a very relaxing and restful half term break and are enjoying the milder weather. When I see the snow drops, primroses and daffodils emerging from the soil I always feel that Spring is just around the corner. The 18th century poet, Thomas Gray, puts it so well when he writes in *Ode on the Spring*:

Lo! where the rosy-bosom'd Hours,
Fair Venus' train appear,
Disclose the long-expecting flowers,
And wake the purple year!
The Attic warbler pours her throat,
Responsive to the cuckoo's note,
The untaught harmony of spring:
While whisp'ring pleasure as they fly,
Cool zephyrs thro' the clear blue sky
Their gather'd fragrance fling.

With Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday falling in the half term holiday this year, we have returned to school in the Lenten season. This week, students have been encouraged to consider how they can prepare themselves for the paschal mystery of Easter - where we learn about Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension that saves humanity from sin - by committing to pray, give to charity and fast during Lent. We have so many special events and activities planned at St Gregory's to help all of our students to commit to the 'three pillars' of Lent and we encourage families to get involved too. Our Catholic Social Teaching focus for the first week of Lent is 'care for creation' (stewardship) so we have encouraged students to do recycling for their families, actively ensure litter is thrown in bins and make sure they are looking after their environment, both at school and at home. Parents and carers, if you can drop your children off a little further away from school or encourage them to get off the bus one or two stops early so they can walk the rest of the way we would appreciate that too. Every little helps to care for our environment and local community.

In other news, we are delighted to welcome a new cohort of Bath Spa trainee teachers to the family of St Gregory's and wish them all the best for their placement with us. They will be based in the PE, drama, maths, computing and history departments. They arrive with lots of energy, fresh ideas and we know they will be an asset to our school community.

I also had the joy of meeting **Hollie T**, **Mia M** and **Olivia C** in Year 9 this week; the girls spoke to me about their Geography project and read me excerpts from the imaginative diary

Dates for Your Diary

Mon 26 Feb	Child Exploitation Parent Evening 5.30pm
Thu 14 Mar	PTFA Coffee and Cake 3.30pm
Thu 21 Mar	Y8 Virtual Parents' Evening
Wed 27 Mar	Last Day of Term for students
Thu 28 Mar	INSET—SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS
Fri 29 March	BANK HOLIDAY—GOOD FRIDAY

Next Week: B

entries they created based on their learning about Nairobi, Kenya. Mrs Hillier-Brown was so impressed with the work they had done above and beyond the task requirements, as was I. This is another excellent example of students stretching and challenging themselves, doing independent project work and being curious about the world we live in.

The highlight of my week has been interviewing 18 sixth form candidates who have applied to be on the sixth form leadership team. They are all inspirational young people who are already excellent role models and I will be able to announce those who have been elected into positions of responsibility in next week's newsletter.

A date for your diary: our next PTFA 'coffee and cake' event will be on **Thursday 14 March** at the later time of **3.30-4.30pm** for those who couldn't make February's morning meeting. All are very welcome to join; it's a good way to start to meet and connect with other parents and carers and our focus for discussion this time will be our pastoral provision and Behaviour for Excellence Policy. We always welcome feedback from families so please do come along for a cuppa, a slice of cake and to share your views on aspects of school life.

To end this week, I make no apology at quoting Mother Theresa again because she is one of my great inspirations and role models. She says, *"God has created us so we do small things with great love. I believe that great love, that comes, or should come from the heart, should start at home; with my family, my neighbors across the street, those right next door. And this love should then reach everyone."* So this weekend, see how many little acts of Lenten kindness you can do as a family to care for creation and spread love and joy to all you encounter.

Mrs Melissa George (BA Hons, MA, PGCE)

Chaplaincy thoughts for the week ...

This first week of Lent we have been focusing on how we enable the Catholic Social Teaching principle of *Stewardship* through our Lenten actions – fasting, praying and almsgiving. In addition to the daily challenges Mrs George has alluded to, I would like to share with you some of the environment and creation themed reflections we have focused on with your young people throughout the week.

‘What do you hear?’

As spring approaches, there are the tiniest and gentlest signs of new life. As we wake up it isn’t as gloomy as it was only a few weeks ago. The morning call of birds echo through windows. On the journey into school the sides of the road are full of daffodil shoots and the delicate lilac patches of crocuses. Have you noticed any of this? Sadly, they compete with the roar of traffic, horns blaring, vehicles revving and the world rushing forward. In our homes the TV is already blaring, hairdryers cut through the peace or airpods block out noise with noise. Our culture is one of busyness and noise pollution, silence or peace are a challenge. How do we find a balance between the wonder of nature God created for us and the advancement of technology? Do you try to see and hear the world around you rather than dictating it?

‘Slowing down to see’

St Chad of Mercia, was one of four brothers sent to live and study at the monastery of Lindisfarne in the seventh century, all of whom became priests in the Anglo-Saxon Church. The opening prayer for his feast day commends

Chaplaincy Timetable

Mon	Break – Shared Prayer Lunch – Lent Artwork
Tue	Break – Young Volunteer Group Meeting P3 – Class Mass Lunch – Lent Artwork
Wed	Break – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Lunch - Meditation
Thu	Break – Rosary Lunch – Stations of the Cross
Fri	Break – Lectio Divina (Sunday Gospel) Lunch – Lent Artwork

his ‘peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life’ and it was these characteristics which marked his ministry which took place during a time of great turbulence in the English Church. He became the first Bishop of Lichfield, a diocese which covered most of the Midlands meaning Bishop Chad would constantly be travelling around to see the Christians of his diocese. Chad would travel on foot rather than by horse, preferring the closer connection this gave him with both creation and the people of his diocese. His superior tried to force him to travel by horse, but Chad refused because he would no doubt have missed the slower pace of travel through the landscape which walking afforded him. Whether it is flashing by through a car window or pressing up close against the soles of our feet, how we travel through the world shapes how we see it.

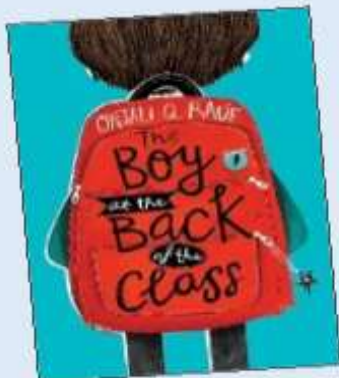
Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain

House Points



Recommended Reads

This week's recommended book is provided by Mrs Hillier-Brown from the Geography department. It is called 'The boy at the back of the class. This and all of the other departmental recommended books can be found on the school website, under 'School Life' and then 'Academic Life'.



The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf

When a new boy joins their class, a group of children try to befriend him. They soon learn that Ahmet is a refugee and has been separated from his family. None of the grown-ups seem to be able to help him, so the friends come up with a daring plan, embarking on an extraordinary adventure.

Summer Exams 2024

All students entered for Summer public exams have been sent details of their individual timetables on 22 February. Information on how to access the online portal can be found below:

Please contact Mrs Quinn Quinnh@st-gregorys.org.uk if you have any questions. Mrs Quinn can also be contacted via main reception.

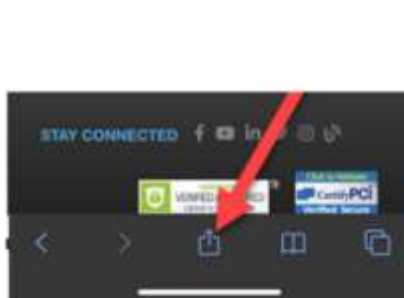
<https://examsassist.co.uk>

Select **Login / Register** then **Login to SchoolWorkSpace**. Enter your email address and as you've yet to login, select **Forgot Password**, a 6-digit pin will be emailed or text to you, enter this into exams assist and you'll be prompted to create and confirm a new password.

The parents / candidates are then advised to save this link as an **Icon** on their mobile device, this Icon would then appear on your homepage so that you don't need to refer to the email on a daily basis.

Creating the icon on an iPhone

Open the link in **Safari** and tap the **Share Button** at the bottom of the screen. Scroll down and select **Add to Home Screen** and then give the icon a new name and then press **Add**.



Creating an icon on an Android.

Open the link in 'Chrome,' tap the menu icon (3 dots in upper right-hand corner) and tap '**Add to home screen**'. You'll be able to enter a name for the shortcut and then Chrome will add it to your home screen.

Year 11 GCSE History Trip to London on 9 & 10 February 2024



On 9 and 10 February, a group of 44 Year 11 students, accompanied by four staff members, embarked on an educational visit to London. The purpose of this overnight trip was to enhance their understanding of key historical concepts in preparation for their upcoming GCSE History exams.

The itinerary was carefully curated to align with the GCSE History curriculum, offering students a hands-on learning experience at various historical landmarks and museums across the city.

The first stop on our itinerary was the Florence Nightingale Museum, where students delved into the fascinating world of Medicine through Time. Through interactive workshops and engaging exhibits, they gained valuable insights into the evolution of medical practices and the work of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.



Following this, our journey continued with a scenic boat cruise down the River Thames. As we sailed past iconic landmarks, including the Houses of Parliament and the Tower of London, our knowledgeable guide regaled us with tales of London's rich history, including the infamous "Great Stink" of the 19th century.

The next destination was the renowned National Gallery, where students had the opportunity to explore masterpieces from various periods in art history. From Renaissance classics to Impressionist treasures, the gallery provided a visual feast that complemented their studies of different historical eras.

After a day filled with exploration and discovery, we concluded day one with a delightful meal at Pizza Express, where students were impeccably behaved.



Day two commenced with a guided tour of the Globe Theatre, immersing students in the world of Elizabethan England. They gained insights into the theatrical culture of Shakespearean times, further enriching their understanding of the importance of theatre in Elizabethan England.

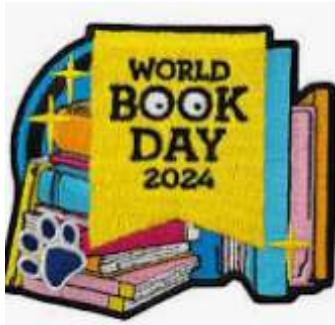
Our final destination was the Imperial War Museum, where students delved into the complexities of the Cold War and explored the Holocaust Galleries. This part of the trip was particularly poignant and emotional, yet undeniably informative, as students grappled with the atrocities of the past, which are essential for their studies of life under the Nazis in Germany.

Overall, the Year 11 History Trip to London was a great success, providing students with a good understanding of key historical concepts while fostering a deep appreciation for the importance of history in shaping the world we live in today. A big thanks to the staff who accompanied us on this unforgettable journey, as well as to the students for their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the trip, you were an absolute credit to the school.



Mrs Sarbatta, Head of History

World Book Day



The English department are excited to announce that we will be celebrating World Book Day together as a school on Thursday 7 March. We would love for as many of you as possible to join the English department and come in fancy dress as a character from a book! There will be prizes given out to the best dressed students in a competition judged by the Headteacher. As in previous years, we will also be running a cake sale with all proceeds going to charity; this year we are supporting a really worthy cause in Save the Children's 'Child Education' appeal. Their appeal funds education for every child because "Millions of children never see inside a classroom. Others drop out due to overcrowding, conflict, or simply because they're a girl and they are forced to. A lot can get in the way of education." We are kindly asking Year 8 to support us in our fundraising by bringing in a sweet treat that we could sell in the bake sale. Every student who donates cakes will be rewarded with House Points! Students are reminded that they are only permitted to come in dressed as a character from a book or they should be in **full school uniform**. Usual sanctions will apply for uniform violations. Students should aim to bring in the book which features their chosen character. Please help us to make this a memorable occasion! We can't wait to see what you all come dressed up as.

Mrs Gemma Duffy, Teacher of English and Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator of English

Wicked



Saint GREGORY'S
Bath

HR and Payroll Officer

Contract type: 30-37 hours per week

(to be agreed with successful candidate), permanent, term time only plus 10 additional days in the school holidays to include 2 INSET Days

Salary: Grade 5 SCP 11-15 £23,018 - £24,634

(actual based on 37 hpw)

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 am start everyday but finish time can be negotiated.

Closing date: Midnight, Thursday 29 February

Interview date: Monday 11 March

For further information and to apply for the position please go to www.st-gregorys.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/

For any queries about the role, please contact the

HR Manager by email

hr@st-gregorys.org.uk



This week Performing Arts students visited the Bristol Hippodrome to watch a performance of Wicked. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. I would like to say thank you to Ms Tate for organising such a brilliant trip.

Mrs Richard's, Head of Performing Arts

Remember to sign-up to Rome!



All Year 10, 11 and 12 students are welcome to sign-up to our exciting residential trip to Rome in February 2025.

It is an amazing opportunity to explore a beautiful city, enjoy some Italian culture and see the centre and home of the Catholic Church.

It is a wonderful trip and all the more important to visit during 2025 which is a Jubilee Year.

APPRENTICESHIPS & CAREERS FAIR

Meet over 100 national and local employers offering jobs and apprenticeships

THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 10AM-2PM

APEX HOTEL
James St W, Bath BA1 2DA

SIGN UP NOW
bathcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships

SCAN ME

Jesus Christ Superstar



The RE department is running a trip to watch Andrew Lloyd Webber's Musical, Jesus Christ Superstar. Letters were sent home last week.

If you have never heard of this then please watch [Jesus Christ Superstar | 2023 and 2024 tour trailer \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

This is what is known as a Rock opera (a musical) which tells the story of the Last week of Jesus' life. It was first made in the 70s, controversially at the time, and has been remade many times. This 2023/24 version is its 50th anniversary tour.

It starts seeing events through the eyes of Judas moving through to his betrayal and then Jesus' crucifixion.

If you want more info come and see me in K12 – it really is an experience not to be missed!

Ms Spindler, Head of RE

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 or 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 an 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

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.

You can also report planned absences such as medical appointments.

Absences

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

West of England Youth Music Residential July 2024



**For musicians in secondary school or first year at university/work.
Grade 5 and above.
Join us for our residential course in Monmouth.
Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra,
Jazz Band,
Chamber Groups**

To book a place:

<https://www.wema.org.uk/register>

Select Music Centres and West of England Music and Arts..

For more information: 01454 863147 | music@wema.org.uk



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!

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.

St Gregory's Breakfast Club

Open every day

Time: 08:15 — 08:30

Cost: Free

Who: Open to all students



Performing Arts Enrichment Timetable

Term 4 - 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor Time 8.30am-9.00am				
Contemporary Vocal Group (Band) Ensemble Pod with Mrs Sterlini	Year 7 Singing DRST with Mrs Sterlini	Contemporary Vocal Group DRST with Mrs Sterlini	Senior Choir MUS with Mrs Green	Lower School Voices (Y7-8) MUS with Mrs Sterlini
			String Sinfonia DRST with Mrs Smith	
Break Time 11.10-11.25am				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Flute Salad DRST with Mrs Holden			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch time 1.30-2.05pm				
GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards	GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards	Brass Band MUS with Mrs Avison	Junior Dance company DAST with Susannah	GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards
Dance Umbrella 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	KS3 Drama Club DAST with Mr Singh
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After school 3.10-4.30pm				
	GCSE & A level Drama Practical support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	GCSE Drama Practical Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	A level Drama support DRST/DAST with Mr Psirides & Mrs Richards

Year 8 Boys' Football Team Success at Writhlington Tournament on 7 February 2024

18 of the Year 8 boys took part in a football tournament at Writhlington School on 7 February as we entered two 7-a-side teams. St Gregory's 'Black' captained by **Joey B** and St Gregory's 'Gold' captained by **Lewis E** were both very successful throughout this tournament, each winning all of their games against other schools (Ralph Allen, Oldfield, Writhlington A & B), without conceding a goal all day.

As a result of their success, we ended up with a St Gregory's final with our two teams facing each other, it was a tight game which ended up with St Gregory's Gold winning 1-0. All students involved showed excellent skill, character and mentality, which made for a very successful afternoon for a talented year group. All students handled themselves brilliantly and with class and it should be an exciting year of football ahead!

Well done to all involved.

Mr Saunders, Year 8 Football Coach



This week there has been some good news for our penguin population. Four new emperor penguin colonies have been identified in Antarctica from satellite imagery. They are of Emperors which are the largest species of penguin, standing at over 1m tall. They live in extreme conditions, collecting together during the height of the Antarctic winter to breed in distinct groupings. The article from the BBC tells of how they were found and where.

The practical this week is inspired by spring being in the air and plants are starting to bloom and grow. You set up a transparent cup or jar with seeds in it so you can see how the seed germinates and grows.

Article of the week – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-68071718>



Practical of the Week – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvYPG0Mqwgw> There is also an Exhibition this weekend at the BRLSI which looks at the brilliance of Engineering, it is free entry—just turn up. More details below.

Exhibition - <https://www.brslsi.org/whatson/brilliantly-engineered/>



Finally, British Science Week is coming upon us very soon. We will be running a range of activities during the week in school, watch this space for more details. There is also an opportunity for you to take part in the poster competition, details in the link below. The theme is 'TIME' this year. We will enter the five best posters from the school to the overall competition.

<https://www.britishtscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/>

The Science Team

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.

Water Bottles



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

Language Corner

French:

C'est chouette! = it is fab/great

Holidays! It is great !

Les vacances ! **C'est chouette!**

French , it is great

Le francais , **c'est chouette!** (

Spanish:

No quiero pagar el pato – I don't want to take the blame (literally, I don't want to pay the duck)

Mandarin:

好书如挚友。(Hǎoshū rú zhìyǒu. 'good book as-good-as close-friend') — **A good book is like a good friend.**

Do you understand what it's like to be autistic?

Do you have some ideas about how the world can become more autism friendly?

Could you share your ideas and experiences to support other autistic young people?

Join us!

**B&NES
SASS**

**AUTISTIC
VOICES
PANEL**



B&NES SASS Autistic Voices Panel



To be a member of the Specialist Autism Support Service Autistic Voices Panel you must be:

- aged 11 - 25 years old and have a home address in the B&NES local authority
- autistic (with a diagnosis)
- able to attend meetings and events online or in person

You do not need any past experience of volunteering or working in groups to apply.

What do the Autistic Voices Panel do?

- The SASS Autistic Voices Panel meet at least three times each academic year (Sept - July)
- The group add their voice and life experience of education to SASS and help us develop our training and support for schools, young people and their families in B&NES
- Keep SASS focussed on the current issues facing autistic children and young adults in B&NES
- When other opportunities are available, they might be asked to attend and speak at local Conferences and events, share their experiences with professionals in film, and contribute to national consultations and research projects.

How does the panel work?

- We will meet a minimum of 3 times a year (maximum of 6) and meetings are held in the afternoons
- We will give you the option of meeting online or in person
- If you cannot attend a meeting, please let us know.
- Before the meeting, you will be sent the agenda and any worksheets.

Who will I be supported by?

- The group is run by SASS. Sarah will contact you and will be at meetings. There may be some more members of the SASS team who join us: we will let you know who is coming.
- If you have specific support needs, please let us know. The Autistic Voices Panel is an open, inclusive and accessible place.

We are happy to support you in any way you need to take part. For the application form, please see:
<https://forms.office.com/r/ZGoHa7UXTH> or please email skeelty@fossewayschool.com for a printable version of the form.

Next meetings:
Thursday 21st March
+ Monday 24th June
2024
3.30-4.30pm