

## Newsletter

www.st-gregorys.org.uk

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

19 April 2024

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

Welcome back and I hope you all enjoyed a refreshing Easter break. Although the last Easter eggs may have been eaten, we are still very much in Eastertide and this week we have been learning about some of the traditions associated with Easter, such as the origins of where gifting eggs comes from. Eggs have long been associated with Easter and were often gifted to the poor after a long Lenten period where people fasted or gave up eating eggs.

symbolism of an egg, which could represent the closed to students on these days. stone placed in front of the tomb or even the empty tomb where Jesus lay before his resurrection. The Have a wonderful weekend ahead. Easter story culminates in the moment where Jesus rises again, which for many Christians is proof in Jesus' power to defeat death and reminds us of God's omnipotence and Omni benevolence. As we hear in the Gospel, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25).

The grounds are looking particularly lovely too as we come back; the blossom trees are in full bloom and our 'rain garden' in the piazza is also showing signs of resurrecting after a dark, gloomy winter. I want to thank the site team for all the work that took place over the holiday period; when you next arrive in reception you'll see our 'new look' desk area which looks much more welcoming.

It is wonderful to see Year 11 and Year 13 have returned with great energy and determination to get the most out of their final few weeks before they go on study leave. Their teachers are working hard to ensure they are as well prepared and supported as possible.

## **Dates for Your Diary**

Mon 29 Apr	Y12 mock exams begin	
Thu 2 May	Y11 Leavers' Day	
Fri 3 May	INSET —SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS	
Mon 6 May	May Day Bank Holiday—SCHOOL CLOSED	
Tue 14 May	PTFA Coffee & Cake 9.15am—SEND focus	

Next Week: Week A

It is a busy term ahead so do please look at the calendar for events and trips and a reminder that Nowadays, Easter is often associated with the we have an INSET day on Friday 3 May and the early chocolate variety and we also considered the May bank holiday is Monday 6 May so school will be

Mrs Melissa George (BA Hons, MA, PGCE)



## **Exam Invigilators**

Join our amazing Exam Invigilator team. We are recruiting self-motivated Exam Invigilators to assist in the efficient running of internal and external examinations on a casual basis.

As a member of our team, you can expect:

- £12.18-£12.80 per hour plus holiday enhancement
- · Comprehensive training opportunities
  - · Flexible working arrangements
    - · Free on-site parking.

If you would like to discuss the role or other opportunities please contact Miss Jackson, HR Manager, on hr@st-gregorys.org.uk or call the main school switchboard on 01225 832873.

## Chaplaincy thoughts for the week ...

#### Year 10 Young Volunteer Programme at St Bede's, Bristol

The third and final session of our Year 10 young volunteer programme took place yesterday at St Bede's Catholic College in Bristol, led by two of the wonderful team from the St Vincent De Paul Society. With a mixture of former Minnie Vinnies and some who had never been introduced to the work of the SVP before, our young people from St Bede's, St Gregory's, St Bernadette's and St Joseph's were led in a day that captured the very essence of the SVP's mission, 'turning concern into action'. The profile of the SVP and young people has been on the upturn in the last couple of years since the appointment of Sarah Barber (formerly lead for CAFOD's work with schools and young people). Two of the wonderful team, Bethan and Kezia, began the day with a moving reflection to show how we are all connected, before introducing students to the values and mission of the SVP. This year is the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first SVP conference in the UK and our students have been challenged to find ways to mark this by being creative and leading initiatives that encapsulate charity and love. 'See' the need, 'think' of how to address the need, 'do', put it into action.





#### **Praying for Peace**

As our beautiful world continues to fall victim to acts of war and violence, praying for peace seems more important than ever. It's such a sad state of affairs that the mainstay banners on news pages change from one conflict to another, whilst in the background no resolution has been found to the aforementioned conflict. As tensions escalate today between Iran and Israel, may we all take a moment this evening to pray as one for a renewal that begins with seeing our neighbour as a brother or sister.

## Chaplaincy Timetable

Mon Break - Shared Prayer Lunch -Artwork

Tue Break - Young Volunteer Meeting

P3 - Class Mass

Lunch - Talent Show Auditions

Wed Break – Rosary

Lunch - Meditation

Thu Break - Rosary

Lunch - Talent Show Auditions

Fri Break - Lectio Divina

Lunch - Talent Show Auditions

#### Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

> Amen. (Pope Francis)





Dear St Gregory's

Hope you have all had a lovely restful Easter break.

The Article this week is a bit of fun, can 'movie magic' actually come to life? A group of engineers are attempting to make Mechas, these are larger-than-life robots, such as Optimus Prime in the transformers films. But would these giants hold up in real life?

If you would like to have a go at making your own robot, here are some easy suggestions for the practical this week. You will need to source more specialised parts such as a motor and batteries to make these work.

#### Article of the week https://www.snexplores.org/ article/could-we-build-a-mecha





Practical of the Week - https:// www.instructables.com/8-Simple-Robots-for-**Beginners/** 

Talk/Event - 27 April 2024 - this is a paid event unfortunately but at Komedia, in Bath, there will be an exciting show about 'The Magic of Science'. The show invites you to "Experience non-stop action packed interactive magical science experiments that will capture the imagination, a fast-moving and colourful magical science show, packed with mystery, suspense, and heaps of mess!" Link below.

https://komediabath.co.uk/events/128476174-topsecret-the-magic-of-science-2024-04-27-13-30/

The Science Team 🎆





## St Gregory's **Breakfast Club**

Open every day 08:15 - 08:30Free of charge 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 I snacks, eg chocolate and cereal bars.

#### School Shoes

Please be aware that, from this term, if a student does not have the correct footwear they are expected to borrow school shoes from the Pastoral Department. This means that students will **not** be given a green card for missing/broken shoes. These shoes will be sprayed with disinfectant after each use and will be washed regularly. If a student refuses to borrow school shoes they will be placed in Damascus, out of circulation.









Miss Hollywood Acting Assistant Headteacher Pastoral



#### **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.



## **Assistant Cook/Cook Vacancy**

Approximately 20 hours per week **Term Time Only** Contact Mrs Millard, Catering Manager on 01225 832827 for more information

## **Parking**

May we please remind parents and carers of the dangers of parking 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 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, therefore reducing traffic congestion on the school site.

#### **PSHE—Iluminate Tour**

We have invited the 'Illuminate' tour into school on Wednesday 24 April to present to all students from Year 7 to Year 11. The topics they cover are anti-bullying, self worth, life choices and social media. Further information can be found on You Tube at youtube link

Mr Boutland Smith, Assistant Headteacher Wider Participation





## WHAT IS ILLUMINATE?

The vision of the Illuminate Schools Tour is to see young people inspired to live their lives on purpose. Through the use of music, creative media and performance in our lessons, we strive to connect with students. Our aim is to leave them with positive messages and attitudes, which they can take into their school lives and beyond.

Our priority is to work with high schools across the UK using our artists' positive lyrics, ethos and values. The credible approach of our artists and the use of contemporary music attracts the students' attention, which results in them listening and responding in a positive manner.

Through lessons and performances in schools, covering a range of topics from anti-bullying to self-esteem, we hope to inspire good life choices and motivate young people to bring out the best in themselves; to inspire them to keep going and to never give up.

We aim to provide one full day in school, during which we will engage with every year group for a 60-minute session. This allows us to see all five year groups across the day.

During a schools week, we aim to create a productive atmosphere for learning, bringing real focus and attention to contact time with students. Our lesson delivery follows the National Curriculum Key Stage 3 and 4 learning objectives, helping to enhance learning and understanding of P.S.H.E.

The lessons / year group sessions are an opportunity for us to get alongside students in a safe environment. Lessons cover topics such as anti-bullying, self worth, life choices and social media. We encourage students to think about their own opinions and how they have reached that position, as well as sharing with them our personal faith based perspective.

Ten years of experience have shown that for you and your students to gain the most from our lessons, they are best delivered in a school hall. However, if this is not practical, we are happy to discuss alternatives to meet your individual needs.

"You are doing such inspiring work with young people with Illuminate Your City, keep going!" 
Bear Grylls, Adventurer & Television Personality.





## **Online Career Days**

Career days are designed to give students an insight into possible future careers with advice on how to apply to university and an afternoon session of work experience to help them see what the career may be like. Students will receive a certificate confirming their work experience.

Students aged 13-18 can register to join the online days by visiting www.careerdays.co.uk

The schedule is as follows:

- Psychology Career Day Saturday 20 April 2024
- Business Career Day Saturday 27 April 2024
- Architect Career Day Saturday 4 May 2024
- Vet Career Day Saturday 11 May 2024
- Law Career Day Sunday 18 May 2024
- Performing Arts Career Day Sunday 19 May 2024
- Computer Science Career Day Saturday 25 May 2024
- Teaching Career Day Saturday 1 June 2024

Students can visit <u>www.careerdays.co.uk</u> to join a session in their field of interest and will receive a certificate at the end of the day confirming their work experience.

Mr Boutland Smith, Assistant Headteacher Wider Participation



## Sounds of Cinema – The Concert for the People of Bath Saturday 18 May 2024, 7.30pm, The Forum

Students from our school are helping The Forum celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as they perform at a concert of blockbuster movie classics with the city's professional orchestra, Bath Philharmonia, and the Musicians of The Royal Marines School of Music.

Sounds of Cinema is an orchestral tour through the decades of some of the most popular film soundtracks including music by the great

composers for cinema, including Hans Zimmer (Inception), John Williams (Jurassic Park and E.T.), Ennio Morricone (Cinema Paradiso), John Barry (Out of Africa) and Bernard Hermann (Vertigo) and culminating in a symphonic performance of George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue (Manhattan, The Great Gatsby).

To help celebrate this anniversary, Bath Philharmonia are offering the school community half price Band C and D tickets for this concert.

Full details and tickets from Bath Box Office <a href="https://bathboxoffice.org.uk/whats-on/sounds-of-cinema/">https://bathboxoffice.org.uk/whats-on/sounds-of-cinema/</a> about

Use Voucher Code SCHOOL50 to claim 50% off full price tickets in Band C [£30 adults / £5 under 18s] and Band D [£25 adults / £5 under 18s].

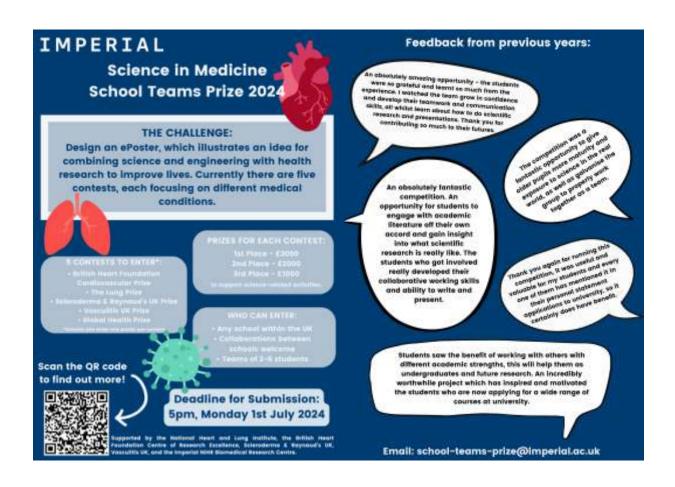
Mrs O Sterlini, Head of Music

## **Equine Visitors**



Some of our students have recently completed a short course with Bath City Football Foundation. These students received a surprise visit from the Mounted Forces to discuss their role in the world of policing. The majestic horses offered an opportunity to interact and be inspired, adding an extra layer of excitement to their learning experience.

Miss Hollywood, Acting Assistant Head of Pastoral



## **Term 5 PE Enrichment** Monday Wednesday Thursday **Friday Tuesday** 3:15pm-4:15pm Girls Football Fish Cricket **Athletics** Rounders Trampolining Years 7 & 8 All Years All Years Year Years 7-13 Cricket Nets Astro/Field Field 7/8/9/10 Gym Astro Cricket Years 9 & 10 Cricket Nets

Please register on School Cloud for ALL clubs
Please speak to Mrs McHale/Mr Brodie/Mr Ackland or Mrs Lawson if you have any questions

Performing Arts Enrichment Timetable							
Term 5 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 Sterlini	Senior Choir MUS with Mrs Green	<b>Lower School Voices (Y7-8)</b> 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					
Tech Club  DRST with Mr Psirides	GCSE Support –written exam DRST with Mrs Richards	Brass Band MUS with Mrs Avison	Junior Dance company DAST	Blood Brothers DRST with Mrs Richards			
Senior Dance Company DAST with Mrs Pearson	Symphony Orchestra DAST with Mrs Sterlini	Blood Brothers Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards	GCSE Support –written exam DRST with Mrs Richards	KS3 Drama Club DAST with Mr Singh			
		Open Rehearsals Dance showcase DAST with Mrs Pearson					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
		After school 3.10-4.30pm					
	GCSE & A level Drama Written support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	Blood Brothers Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards	GCSE Drama Written Rehearsals DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	A level Drama support DRST with Mr Psirides			



# 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: <a href="https://">https://</a>

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: <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals</a>

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.

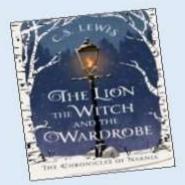
## Music Clubs

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?			W. C

Exclusive trips, concerts and more!

## Recommended Reads

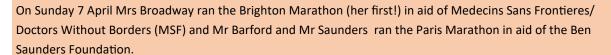
This week's recommended book is provided by Mrs Spindler from the RE department. It is the classic novel 'The Chronicles of Narnia'. This and all of the other departmental recommended books can be found on the school website, under 'School Life' and then 'Academic Life'.



## The Chronicles of Narnia by C S Lewis

While playing, Lucy and her siblings find a wardrobe that lands them in a mystical place called Narnia. Here they realize that it was fated and they must now unite with Aslan to defeat an evil queen. Also containing a deeper meaning, this book helps to introduce children to Christian morality and belief.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STAFF MARATHON RUNNERS!**





It's not too late to sponsor them— here are the links to their fundraising pages:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/antonia-broadway-1710606954223?utm\_medium=fundraising&utm\_content=page% 
2Fantonia-broadway-1710606954223&utm\_source=copyLink&utm\_campaign=pfp-share

https://www.justgiving.com/page/david-barford-1693418494803?utm\_medium=fundraising&utm\_content=page%2Fdavid-barford-1693418494803&utm\_source=copyLink&utm\_campaign=pfp-share



## 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?



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.

## Next meetings: Thursday 21st March + Monday 24th June 2024

3.30-4.30pm

### 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: <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/ZGOHa7UXTH">https://forms.office.com/r/ZGOHa7UXTH</a> or please email skeelty@fossewayschool.com for a printable version of the form.





Support for families and young people with special educational needs Bath & North East Somerset and/or Disabilities (SEND)

Explore the SEND Local Offer to find out what support there is available for young people with SEND and their families. Live Well B&NES includes details of wellbeing groups, social clubs, inclusive activities, holiday clubs, mental health support services and opportunities beyond formal education.

Dedicated information sections signpost to support around benefits and funding, Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's), health services and how to access impartial advice and guidance from specialist teams.

Parent Carers of young people with SEND can identify ways they can access support for their role as a parent carer of a child with additional needs.

You can also apply for your child's free Rainbow Resource card providing discreet confirmation of their additional need, and enabling them to access dedicated activity sessions, quiet spaces and support, and in some cases concessions to venues across the South West.

Visit the SEND Local Offer to find out more.



## 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 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.

