

#### Newsletter

www.st-gregorys.org.uk

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

26 April 2024

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

"To touch the hearts of your pupils and to inspire them with the Christian spirit is the greatest miracle you can perform, and one which God expects of you." - Saint John Baptist de La Salle

At the end of last week I attended the Lasallian congress for headteachers and we were hosted by the Lycée St Joseph in Istanbul. The theme this year was 'growing together in the Lasallian dream'. John Baptise de La Salle dedicated his life to narrowing the gap for students in his homeland of France and his principles live on today in many schools across the globe. I met with headteachers from Malta, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt and we reflected on two important questions that I have shared with staff at St Gregory's this week: how can we enable those around us to continue to grow in the Lasallian dream?; who do we stop from dreaming?

It was interesting to hear from heads around the world who are experiencing the same issues we are: recruitment and retention; an increase in mental health issues; the damaging effects of social media; an increase in poor behaviour...but it was also fantastic to share ideas on providing our students greater opportunities through cultural school exchanges and volunteering programmes which run in the Lasallian network. For example, I have made a connection with a headteacher in a Lasallian school in Rome who we are hoping to visit when we take a group of St Greg's students to the city next February. I wish to thank the GB, Ireland and Malta Lasallian district for sponsoring me to attend this congress so that St Gregory's can grow together in the Lasallian dream.

The congress was very timely because last Sunday was Vocation Sunday in the Catholic Church and Mr Leaman's assemblies this week have focussed on following one's dream and keeping open doors and possibilities so that each one of us discovers our true vocation and purpose in life. Many of our students are about to embark upon important exams and assessments which are one part of their educational journey and another part of discovering their strengths, talents and true purpose. The exciting news is that each one of us is unique and born for a specific purpose, even if we don't know what that is yet!

In other news, the whole school (including the admin corridor who **heard** rather than saw the event!) were delighted to welcome the Illuminate tour this week. The group performed songs and told profoundly personal stories about a range of mental health issues while rooting their strong messages of hope in their deep-seated faith and love of God. They are performing at the Bath Forum tonight and students have been

#### **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		
Fri 24 May	Y12 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm; End of Term 5		

Next Week: Week B

given flyers to book tickets to the event. A huge thank you to Mr Boutland-Smith for organising this amazing and deeply moving event for our students as part of our commitment to providing excellent PSHEE education.

An enormous congratulations to **Praise B** in 7G who represented the team Avon Schools Sports Hall Association who recently competed in the South West Sports Hall Championships and the United Kingdom Sports Hall Championships, with the boys team coming 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. As an individual, Praise came 6<sup>th</sup> in '2 laps'. What a brilliant achievement and we wish Praise all the best for future competitions.

The house point totals are at a nail-bitingly close call with Stein out in front on the leader board, but there are only 219 points between 1st and 4th place! Keep on working hard to collect your House points - every one really does count - to see who will come out victorious in the summer term and earn a well deserved treat. Well done to all the students with reduced numbers of RTLs - Heads of Year have been singing your praises in assemblies this week and I am impressed with the renewed commitment to learning and to our school principles - respect, responsibility, aspiration and virtue - which has such a positive impact on our family atmosphere.

I wrote to you a while ago about the excellent work our Year 10 Young Volunteer group are doing to raise money for Missio and they have been announcing their Easter Extravaganza Disco and Talent Show in assemblies this week, which is being held on Thursday 2 May, 6:30-8:30pm in the school hall. This will be a wonderful way to go into a long weekend; a gentle reminder that school is closed to students on Friday 3 May (INSET) and Monday 6 May (bank holiday).

Enjoy your weekend.

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

#### **International Guests**



This week we welcomed thirteen students from Florence Bilingual School, Italy. The students will be with us for five days on a full integration programme, joining our students in lessons and learning to improve their English language skills in an authentic English language setting. The visiting students have already shown tremendous enthusiasm and have integrated seamlessly into our diverse community of learners. They have been assisted by dedicated and diligent St Gregory's students, designated as 'International Ambassadors' to reflect the significance of their role as an example of our school's standards of excellence and Catholic values. Our students have already acquitted themselves with a clear sense of responsibility and purpose in their role, which has proven invaluable for helping our visiting students and staff to feel welcomed and included in our school community.

We wish the students and staff of Florence Bilingual School a wonderful week of learning and fun at St Gregory's, and hope they will cherish the memories of their visit for years to come!

Mr Nordberg, History, Teacher of Humanities & International Placement Co-ordinator

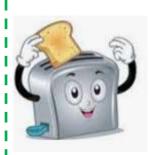
#### **Year 11 Rounders Success**



The Year 11 Rounders' team played against Wellsway on Tuesday of this week. This was their last ever school fixture, so was a momentous occasion. The team was somewhat depleted but still played with six players. There was some excellent batting from **Lukrecija**, sending the ball into the deep field every time. **Paris** was back stop and fielded superbly to **Evie** on second base. **Oliwia** deep fielded and regularly threw the ball to fourth base, where **Lukrecija** stumped out several Wellsway players. The score after the first innings was 8-5. In the second innings, St Gregory's stormed ahead achieving a further 10 rounders bringing the score to 18. Wellsway played well but only managed to achieve a further 8½ rounders bringing the final score to 18-13½.

Well done Year 11!!

Mrs Lawson, Teacher of PE



## St Gregory's Breakfast Club

Open every day 08:15 — 08:30 Free of charge Open to all students

#### Year 11 & 13 Students - Sodexo Accounts

Please remember to use up any balance on your Sodexo account by the end of the GCSE/A Level exam period.

Those students who currently receive a Free School Meal while at school will continue to do so during the exam season. Please collect your food as normal on any day you are in school for an exam or to revise. This will continue until the day of your last exam.



#### **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 ...

#### **Lasallian Camp 2024**

There is just under a week remaining to sign your child up to this year's Lasallian Camp which runs from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July. It is open to students in Years 7-9 and costs £135. Hosted at the De La Salle retreat centre, St Cassian's in Kintbury, the camp is a weekend full of games, outdoor activities, sharing, prayer and more, alongside fellow students from Lasallian schools in the UK, Ireland and Malta. Every year those who attend have the most incredible time and make lifelong friendships. For full details see the letter sent out via email and sign up at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/ e/1FAIpQLSfZ97cF-YWZJm7cKujfSGV8QalOYuCuCNekcBUhWxV3hmKhy A/viewform?usp=sf\_link

#### **Chaplaincy Timetable**

Mon Break - Shared Prayer

Lunch -Artwork

Tue Break - Young Volunteer Meeting

Lunch – Artwork

Wed Break - Lectio Divina

Lunch - Meditation

Thu Break – Rosary

Lunch - Training

#### Family Adoration at St John's

Families are invited to a period of prayer in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and for a time of Catechesis with Fr Christopher, with refreshments in the parish hall. Saturday 27 April, 3.30 – 4.30pm adoration.

for more information RSVP to Christopher.whitehead@cliftondiocese.com

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain





Dear St Gregory's

Hope you have all had an enjoyable week.

The article this week explains how honeybees who are under stress from pesticides, mites and a variety of diseases. Now, a new vaccine aimed at protecting bees from a serious bacterial infection may do double duty by warding off a virus. Hopefully this will lead to an increase in bee populations.

In Science Club this week we looked at how forensic scientists lift fingerprints from a crime scene. We talked about the different patterns, how they are unique and can be used to identify people. The link below gives a step by step method for extracting your own fingerprints.

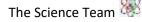
#### Article of the week - <a href="https://www.sciencenews.org/">https://www.sciencenews.org/</a> article/honeybee-vaccine-protect-bacteria-virus



Practical of the Week - <a href="https://scoutlife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/178282/how-to-easily-take-fingerprints-with-household-items/">https://scoutlife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/178282/how-to-easily-take-fingerprints-with-household-items/</a>

Talk/Event - Final call for 'The Magic of Science' at Komedia tomorrow, 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/



#### **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.

#### 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



#### **Assistant Cook/Cook Vacancy**

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

## A

#### **Water Bottles**

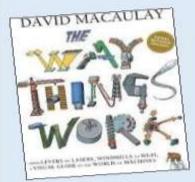
Please remember to bring in a named water bottle (for water only) which can be refilled in the Bistro area or by the Snack Shack at appropriate times. NB: You may also like to think of this if you have a long journey home.

#### **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.

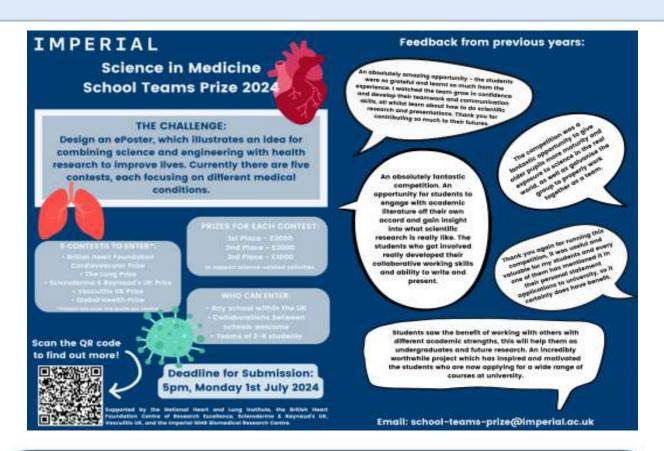
#### Recommended Reads

This week's recommended book is provided by Mr Boutland-Smith from the Science department. It is the classic novel 'The ways things work'. This and all of the other departmental recommended books can be found on the school website, under 'School Life' and then 'Academic Life'.



#### The Way Things Work by David Macaulay

This book provides an illustrated exploration of the inner workings of various machines and technologies.











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

Year 7: Nell C (169 stars) Ben H (85 stars) Leno S (60 stars)

Year 8: Zac C (102 stars) Katie P (72 stars) Eddie W (41 stars)

Year 9: Jacob G (107 stars) Oakley F (73 stars) Ece G (69 stars)

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

#### **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:

- 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 <a href="www.careerdays.co.uk">www.careerdays.co.uk</a> 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

#### **Term 5 PE Enrichment** Wednesday Thursday Friday Monday Tuesday 3:15pm-4:15pm Fish Cricket **Athletics** Rounders Girls Football Years 7 & 8 All Years Year Trampolining All Years 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 Wednesday Monday Tuesday **Thursday Friday** Tutor Time 8.30am-9am Year 7 Singing **Contemporary Vocal Contemporary Vocal Senior Choir Lower School** Group (Band) DRST with Group MUS with Mrs Green Voices (Y7-8) MUS **Ensemble Pod with** Mrs Sterlini DRST with Mrs Sterlini with Mrs Sterlini Mrs Sterlini **String Sinfonia DRST** with Mrs Smith Break Time 11.10-11.25am Tuesday Wednesday **Thursday** Monday **Friday Flute Salad** DRST with Mrs Holden Monday Tuesday Wednesday **Thursday Friday** Lunch time 1.30-2.05pm **Tech Club GCSE Support -written Junior Dance company Blood Brothers Brass Band DRST** with Mr Psirides DAST DRST with Mrs MUS with Mrs Avison exam DRST with Mrs Richards Richards Symphony Orchestra **Blood Brothers** GCSE Support –written **KS3 Drama Club Senior Dance** DAST with Mrs Sterlini Rehearsals DAST with Mr Company DAST with Mrs **DRST** with Mrs Richards **DRST** with Mrs Richards Singh Pearson **Open Rehearsals Dance** showcase DAST with Mrs Pearson Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday After school 3.10-4.30pm GCSE & A level Drama **Blood Brothers GCSE Drama Written** A level Drama Written support Rehearsals Rehearsals support **DRST** with Mrs **DRST** with Mrs Richards **DRST** with Mrs Richards DRST with Mr & Miss Tate **Psirides** Richards & Miss Tate



## 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?			

Exclusive trips, concerts and more!



# Saint Gregory's Bath Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

We are asking for donations of preloved uniform, in good condition, for our Pop-up Uniform Shop.

If you have uniform you would like to donate please drop it to Reception at your earliest convenience.





### YEAR 11 CAKE SALE TUESDAY 30TH APRIL

- YEAR 11 WILL BE HOLDING A CAKE SALE ON TUESDAY NEXT WEEK TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THEIR PROM.
- CAKES WILL BE ON SALE AT BREAK
- CAKES WILL BE 50P TO £1 SO PLEASE BRING CASH IN ON THE DAY
- WE ARE ENCOURAGING ALL OF YEAR 11 TO BAKE SOMETHING TO BRING ALONG TO SELL, MUFFINS, BROWNIES, LARGER CAKES ALL WILL BE WELCOMED, THE MORE WE RAISE THE BETTER YOUR PROM NIGHT WILL BE!!!
- ALL CAKES WILL BE JUDGED AND THERE WILL BE A £10 VOUCHER FOR THE WINNER

#### 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.





.ive Well

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

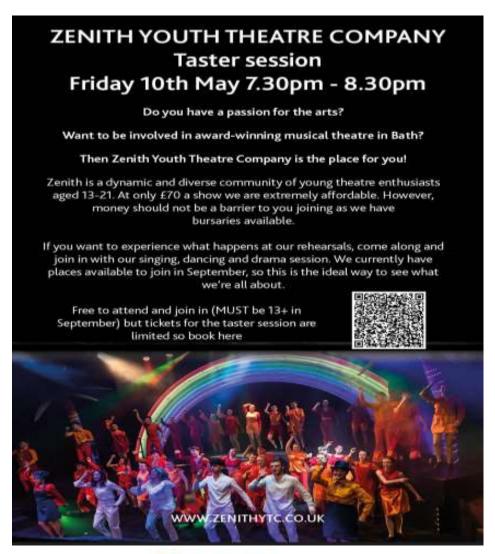
Explore the SEND Local Offer to find out what support there is available for young people with SEND and their families. Live Well B&NES includes details of wellbeing groups, social clubs, inclusive activities, holiday clubs, mental health support services and opportunities beyond formal education.

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.



SUBMIT CANCEL