

A Newsletter for Parents, Students, Governors and Staff

20 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers & Students,

As the first term of the new academic year finishes, I am reminded yet again of how proud I am to be the Director of Sixth form and what a privilege it is to work with such fantastic young adults. It has been a busy time at The New Sixth, on Tuesday 3 October we welcomed prospective A level students to our Sixth Form Open Evening. A huge thank you to all our current students who supported faculties and also to staff who showcased the outstanding opportunities that we have for post 16 study here at The New Sixth. We once again welcomed a large number of both internal and external students to the school which was fantastic to see. If any prospective students would like to join us for a day to see the sixth form in action please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kinch, our sixth form administrator, to arrange a visit. Information on bursaries was shared with prospective parents and thank you to students who have applied this year, the deadline is the end of term 1 for these applications. The feedback was very positive and parents were very impressed with our exam results, teaching staff, support and overall feel of the sixth form.

On Wednesday 4 October, Year 11 students who chose the A Level pathway for Future's Day were invited to be sixth formers for a day and sample taster lessons. The year 11 students who chose the alternative to A Level pathway enjoyed a visit to Ashton Gate in Bristol to attend a Careers and Apprenticeship Fair. The feedback has been overwhelming in its praise for the day and we hope that it will help students to make confident choices about their future pathways.

A big thank you to all those who attended the Y12 tutor evening on 12th October. I hope this gave you a chance to come into the sixth form and meet tutors and discuss the initial settling in period for our new students. For our Year 12 and Year 13 students we are now well into the pattern of A-Level study and I trust that all students are starting to feel the pressure of workload. If any student begins to feel overwhelmed I would encourage them to speak to their subject teachers, tutor or the sixth form team so that we can support them towards good practices in term 2.

Dates for your Diary

October 2023

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Fri 20 October | Inset Day—School closed to Students End of Term 1 |
| Mon 30 Oct | Start of Term 2 — Week A |

We also had all of Year 12 attend the Inspire Conference at Prior Park College on Friday 13 October. This including talks from Talan Skeels-Piggins a Double World Champion, European Champion, and Winter Paralympian. Stefanie Sword Williams, named in Forbes under 30 and the Dots 100 women changing the creative industry. Amy Williams, MBE, a British former skeleton racer and Olympic gold medallist, now Personal Trainer. Finally completing proceedings was Rupert Oldridge aka Bass6, who is the UK's most energetic all rounded beatboxer. It was a hugely successful day presented by Alex Lovell from BBC Points West and students were a real credit to the school.

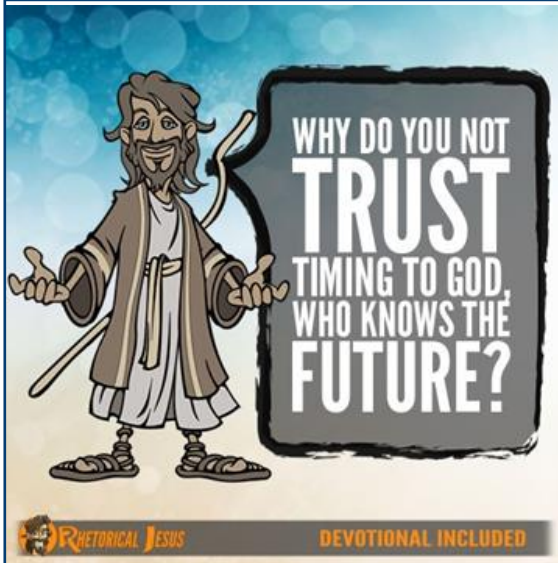
Year 13 students have also been busy completing their UCAS application forms and personal statements and the deadline for early entrant students was 16 October. The next deadline that must be met internally by all students will be 1 December, in order that we meet the UCAS equal consideration deadline on 31st January 2024.

Finally, please note that we return after the October half term on a week A and there will be a parents evening for Year 13 students on 7 December. This will be a great opportunity for parents to ask questions and discuss the progress of students before their exams at the start of January.

To conclude as I said on Open Evening, it is a privilege to lead such a fantastic sixth form and I wish you a great half term holiday.

Mr Burn, Assistant Headteacher—Director of Sixth Form

Chaplaincy Thoughts



As you begin sixth form or return for the final push in year, I'd like you to consider this rhetorical question.

Much of your induction and everything you do whether it be lessons, UCAS statements, other preparation is all for ensuring you have an amazing future.

But how much of it do you feel you are in control of, or want to be in control of, and how much do you leave and trust to God?

“Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done.” (Isaiah 46:9-10a)

When we pray or wish for things that don't come quickly, how easy it is to grow discouraged. There is always a good reason for the long game, the experience. We cannot rush the mighty hand of God, and that's a good thing because God's timing is perfect; ours, not always so much. God has complete, overall knowledge about what is truly best for us. When we pray, in God's wisdom, He sometimes says “no, not yet” and sometimes “wait, I have something better for you.” If we really understood how God ran the universe, we'd thank God for unanswered prayer. Some of the experiences in life and those of others make it seem that God is the God of time, place, people, and circumstances. There really is a time for every purpose and activity under heaven (Eccl. 3:1), and God determines when that time will be.

Matt Robinson
Lay Chaplain | Educational Visits Co-Ordinator

Important Reminders for Sixth Form students

Working in the LRC:

- The LRC is a silent workspace for students to work, revise, complete assessments etc. This applies at the end of the school day and during transition times.
- No eating is permitted at any time in the LRC.

Chrome Books:

The chrome books are an expensive resource and should be respected as such. When you take a chrome book from the trolley to use anywhere in the sixth form block (they are not to be removed from the Gateway Building) please return it to the trolley and plug in the cable so that the device is charging ready for the next person to use. You can tell if it is charging as the light will be red or green. No light means the cable has been plugged in the wrong side of the chrome book.

Lanyards:

It is mandatory for all 6th Form students to be **wearing** their lanyards at all times so they are visible. It is a breach of safeguarding and uniform policies when students do not wear them or carry them in bags/pockets.

Student Handbook:

The student hand book is available to read here: <https://www.st-gregorys.org.uk/sixth-form/enrichment-personal-growth/student-handbook/>

Sixth Form Student Leadership Team

Student Leadership Team

Co-Head— Edgar H
Co-Head— Rose O'D

The
New Sixth BATH
ST GREGORY'S AND ST MARK'S

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Charity: | Lead — Archie P | Deputy — Joshua J |
| Wellbeing: | Lead — Bea R | Deputy — Blessie G |
| Diversity: | Lead — Sammy C | Deputy — Helena B |
| Academic: | Lead — Elena H | Deputy — Aidan R |

Head of House and Extracurricular

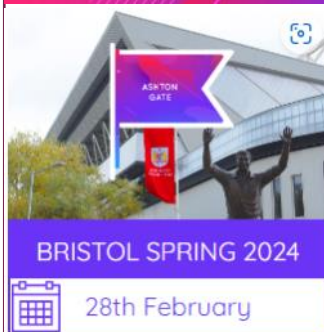
| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Head of Bakhita House: | Luke M |
| Head of Romero House: | Amy H |
| Head of Francis House: | Emil T |
| Head of Stein House: | Kezia C |

UK University &
Apprenticeship Search
FAIRS

Bristol Spring 2024 Fair
Wednesday 28th February 2024 - Ashton Gate

Event Time: 9.30 am - 2.30 pm

Bristol, Ashton Gate Stadium, BS3 2EJ



Our Spring Bristol Fair is the perfect way for students to choose which university or apprenticeship is right for them.

This exciting and informative event will provide attendees with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of exhibiting universities and apprenticeship providers. These will include; **Russell Group, red brick and modern institutions**, as well as **apprenticeship providers and local colleges**.

The fair will feature a wide range of vital **seminars** including: UCAS Personal Statement & Application Advice, Why take an Apprenticeship, Choosing a University Course, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships and Student Finance.

The event is ideal to inspire and motivate Year 12s and 11s who are starting to make decisions about their post-18 education and career choices. The fair is also a great opportunity for any undecided Year 13s who need help and guidance. The event is completely **free** to attend.

PROGRESSION

Apprenticeship Opportunities & Conferences



I am delighted to invite you and your students to participate in a free national mentoring programme that supports aspiring doctors and dentists in 10-12 year groups. All Medic Mentor students have FREE access to:

- the UK's largest virtual work experience programme
- book 15 minute 1-2-1 appointments between 9am-9pm any day of the week to speak to medical students and doctors directly throughout their journey into medical school
- opportunities to apply for national essay competitions, awards and scholarships to study medicine at university
- medically relevant extra-curricular activities such as research, leadership and presentation opportunities.

How? They can become a student by simply attending a free virtual (on zoom) Get into Medicine UCAS conference that will explain the entire application process and give them free access to all of the mentoring support above.

Students and parents can register for free at this link: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZytt3MGPjvO>

For aspiring Doctors: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Medicine conference dates:

Sunday 29th October
Saturday 4th November
Sunday 12th November

All attendees will be awarded with a certificate and they can list this event on their UCAS applications under activities that have prepared them for higher education. It can also be used for Ofsted and Gatsby benchmarks.

Here's how the day will run:

9:30-10.00 Registration
10.00-11:00 Quick introduction to Medic Mentor, overview of the day, competition ratios, application timeline, Awards and Scholarships
11:00-11:15 Break
11.15-11.45 Introduction to the UCAS application form and entry requirements
11.45-12.15 Interactive CV building exercise and exclusive access to leadership, research, presentation, publication, prizes and scholarship opportunities
12.15-12.30 Top tips from a successful applicant (medical student)
12:30-12:45 Break
12.45-13.30 How to write an incredible personal statement
13.30-13.45 Break
13.45-14.10 Entrance exams - how to ace the UCAT
14.10-14.30 How to prepare for Medical School interviews
14.30-15.00 Top tips from a successful applicant (medical student) and next steps

This programme has helped 1000s of students secure medical school places over the last 10 years and you can learn more about successful students here: <https://medicmentor.org/successful-student-journeys-reviews/>

PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts Enrichment Timetable

Term 2 2023

| 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 |
| 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 | | | |

Beauty & The Beast – Whole school Performance important dates:

Audition week: 11.9.23-15.9.23 (information for Auditions can be found on Google Classroom)

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.

The Great Debate 2024!



Are you in Y10-13 and want to get involved in the Historical Association Great Debate?

The rules:

1. The competition is open to students who will be in Years 10 and 13 in the academic year September 2023 to July 2024.
 2. Entrants will have to create a 5 minute speech on the set question:
Which historical place or person from your local area deserves greater recognition?
 3. Students must demonstrate research as well as historical arguments.
 5. If selected, students will attend the local heats at Bristol University on the 16 November.
- Interested?*
- Please email Mrs. Sarbatta (Sarbattak@st-gregorys.org.uk) by the 29 September 2023 to enter and receive more information and support.



Bath on Ice

Thursday, 14 December at 2.00 pm

Y12 and Y13 students are invited to attend Bath on Ice on Thursday, 14 December for one hour of skating, a hot chocolate and portion of chips. Cost £18.00.

Students to make their own way to and from the venue.

To guarantee their place, students must complete the google form by using the link or scanning the QR code no later than Thursday, 30th November:

<https://forms.gle/sqB5go5rx183aSU68>



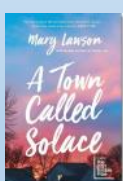
Inspiring Minds Monthly Book Club



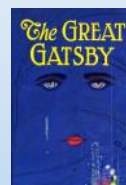
For all sixth formers – you don't need to be studying English!

Are you an avid reader and enjoy talking about books?

Maybe your reading has lapsed and you want to set yourself a challenge to read more this year...



Come to monthly book club meetings to chat about books with Mrs George and other sixth formers – First meeting in Term 2 TBA at the start of term Time: 1:45pm – bring your lunch along!



SIXTH FORM INFORMATION

Key Contacts

Sixth Form Key Contacts

Director of Sixth Form — Mr Stewart Burn

Deputy Head of Sixth Form/Head of Y13— Dr Simon Brooks

Deputy Head of Sixth Form/Head of Y12—Mr Ben Ackland

Sixth Form Administrator - Mrs Anne Kinch
01225 838 232 kincha@st-gregorys.org.uk

Absences - 01225 838230

If a student is unwell and not able to attend school, please leave a message in the morning. If the absence is related to Covid please make this clear in your message.

16-19 Bursary Fund

In Sixth Form there is a **Bursary Fund** to help students to pay for Text Books, Stationary and IT, Compulsory Subject Trips, Transport, Uniform/clothing and course equipment.

The Bursary fund is limited and is discretionary and means-tested for eligibility, however this should not deter applicants from applying. Bursary's do **not** affect the calculation of any other benefits you may be receiving such as universal credit.

If you think you might qualify, and have to buy bus fares, clothing or books, or need help funding school trips, **retain your receipts**. If your application is approved by the School Governors these costs can be reimbursed.

Application Forms and further information and help can be obtained confidentially from Mrs. Kinch, LRC.

School Gateway App

At St Gregory's we use the School Gateway, an essential tool to keep you informed about what is going on at school. It keeps everything in one place, behind one login, so you can easily keep in touch.

Please download this app to your phone (it's free) as it will help us improve communication with parents and carers.

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/ Google Play or on your phone and go to
www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or
www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android).
2. Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications".
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school.
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

As soon as you have got the system set-up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you will receive notifications/alerts as normal.

Useful Student Links

PSHE - Further support

If you have questions or concerns about anything at all, there are lots of people you can contact:

- Your Tutor
- Your Head of Year
- Any trusted member of staff
- Email Talk2Someone@st-gregorys.org.uk



School Nurse: Kelli
Call or text to ask for an appointment: 07970811241

There are also lots of places to get advice about, or to discuss feelings:

ChildLine:
www.childline.org.uk



Young Minds:
www.youngminds.org.uk



Samaritans:
www.samaritans.org
Phone: 116 123



Kooth:
<https://www.kooth.com>



[UNiDAYS - Fast, free, exclusive discounts for students](#)
(myunidays.com)
(student discounts)

[Notion - One workspace. Every team.](#) - (organization and journaling)

[GoCongr - Changing the way you learn](#) - (flashcards and other studying resources)

<https://www.unifrog.org/>
(Post Sixth Form guidance)

General Notices

Safeguarding

LANYARDS: It is compulsory for lanyards to be worn **at all times** on the school site. You will be asked to show you have it on you.

SIGNING IN/SIGNING OUT: Is an essential Safeguarding process to keep you safe now that you have greater flexibility to arrive and leave the school site. You **MUST** sign in and sign out using InVentry Sign-in screen just inside the main doors whenever you leave the school site/return to school. If you leave during the school day due to being unwell, please let Mrs Kinch know.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT



Public bus companies are experiencing driver shortages.

To keep up-to date with timetables please consult the following websites:

www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west

www.travelwest.info

Parents/carers and students are advised to keep updated with live service information on the First Bus website, Twitter page and on the First Bus App. Details about the First Bus App can be found on the following link - <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/tech-bus/first-bus-app>. The app allows passengers to track their bus live on a map, so they know exactly where it is on route and when it will get to their stop.

To report an issue with First Buses running late or not turning up, please call First Bus on Tel: 0345 646 0707, or fill in the contact form on the First Bus webpage - <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/help-and-support#formholder>.

Public transport issues or queries may also be directed to the West of England Combined Authority (WECA), who co-ordinate public transport across the region, using the following contact details - Email: transport.operations@westofengland-ca.gov.uk or Telephone: 0117 374 1265.

Online assistance with journey planning may be found on the Traveline website, see link: <https://www.traveline.info/>

The LRC and Cafe

Please remember that the LRC is a **quiet** work space for students to use during lesson times and before/after school for quiet study. **No food is permitted in the LRC.**

Students are more than welcome to socialise, eat and study in the café area in the Gateway building and there is often plenty of free space.

WIFI PROBLEMS

Here are some ideas to try....

- Click on the **SGCC_BYOD** access point
- You will be prompted to enter your username and password (this is your school login that you use to login to a school pc)
- Try logging on to a school pc to make sure your login is working first just in case your password is wrong or expired.
- If it asks you for a EAP method select **PEAP**.
- If it asks you to select a certificate select **Don't Validate**
- Select Connect or OK and it should connect to SGCC_BYOD
- You will notice you can't get on many websites as a Smoothwall block message appears so you need to install a security certificate.
- Browse on your device to <http://10.6.212.1/getmitm> and follow the instructions.
- The majority of the time you just need to click on the download certificate button and it will install itself, if not the instructions are there you help you.
- Make sure you don't have any VPN apps or proxy setting in your browsers as the firewall will detect them and stop the connection from working.

If all these fail and you still can't connect go to Mrs Kinch and ask to speak to IT Support and we'll be happy to help you.