

A Newsletter for Parents, Students, Governors and Staff

26 January 2024

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break. I'm very happy to be able to write the first Sixth Form newsletter of the year. Let's hope 2024 is a good year for everyone.

First of all, well done to all Y13 students on a very successful mock exam season. I'd like to congratulate them for all their hard work and revision over the Christmas period. Lessons started again for Year 13 on Monday 15th January and teachers have started to complete their marking of papers and are going through feedback in lessons. Mock exam results will be sent home next week (w/c 29th January).

Thank you to all Y13 students who have successfully managed to get their UCAS applications sent off. I'd like to remind students that the UCAS deadline is fast approaching (Wednesday 31st January). Universities and colleges do not have to consider applications received after the deadline, although they can if they have spaces available once the on-time applications have been considered. If there are questions or concerns about this, students should come and see me as soon as possible.

Students will start receiving offers and we will cover the next steps in the process through assemblies explaining to students how they should choose their firm and insurance offers. We will also go through the clearing process and prepare students for every eventuality. On a really positive note, some of our early entrant and Oxbridge candidates have been successful in achieving offers to complete their courses at some of the top Universities. One student has received a conditional offer for Oxford University and three students have received conditional offers to Cambridge University. What a fantastic achievement and for all the students who have received offers it really is an exciting time to look ahead to the future. For now however the main focus must be in achieving those minimum entry requirements for your courses and this is the last push towards your summer exams.

Next term we will also look at the alternative pathways and provide support for students looking to go into apprenticeship and career opportunities after this year.

There is National Apprenticeship week which will have an abundance of information and events to attend to get more information on these opportunities. In March it also sees National Careers week with again further events to attend.

Last week Year 12 students were asked to complete their applications to become a member of the student leadership team. Interviews are planned for the last week of term. Year 12 students were also asked to apply to be the sixth forms representatives on the Bath Student Parliament. Students will vote for their preferred candidates at the start of term 4, with the winners to be announced at assembly. Successful candidates will represent St Gregory's in meetings with the other 12 secondary schools in Bath. A massive thank you and well done to our previous representatives Lorna Richards and Jemima Lockton. The deadline for both applications is Wednesday 31st January.

We have many exciting trips, activities and events in the works for our Sixth Formers this year. We are pleased to be offering all New Sixth students the opportunity to attend a unique and exciting residential trip to Geneva, Switzerland. On arrival in Geneva, students will have the opportunity to visit CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory. This truly is an inspiring and potentially life changing trip for any aspiring scientist. The trip however has a number of other opportunities that include a Lake Geneva day tour including visiting the Jet d'Eau, Lake Geneva Boat Trip, United Nations Visit, Red Cross Visit, ICT Discovery Museum, Stettler Chocolate Tour.

We are also currently planning to take all Year 12 students to the UCAS Discovery exhibition in Newport at the start of term 5. This will allow students to be able to meet over 100 universities, colleges, and apprenticeship employers face-to-face to find out about different options and pathways. There will be an opportunity to listen to live expert talks and get the latest advice and information on different career choices.

Mr Burn, Assistant Headteacher—Director of Sixth Form

Chaplaincy Thoughts

Shoah Memorial

Thank you to all sixth form students who have maturely engaged with the Holocaust Memorial Trust's theme of *fragility of freedom* during our Religion & Life lessons this week.

Many of you were asked to reflect on this theme and the freedoms we enjoy today, considering that it was such everyday essentials as relationships, recreation, shopping, speech and religion that were taken from Jews.

The thoughts and responses have formed the basis for a display in reception surrounding the purple memorial flame. Below are a few pictures and examples:



"The freedom of self-identity. What I do and what I am, are linked but hiding that would be almost impossible to me. I am who I am, no one can take that away from me. Knowing that for many their identity was hidden or destroyed is heart-breaking."

"The freedom to pray and worship. Freedom to laugh and have fun with friends who I choose. The freedom to speak and have my own opinions."

"The freedom to have an education. So many girls have this taken away from them and the hope of a better future is destroyed."

Matt Robinson

Lay Chaplain | Educational Visits Co-Ordinator

Dates for your Diary

January 2024

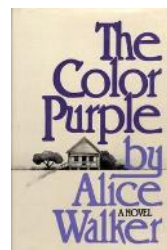
w/c Mon 29 Jan	Y13 Mock Exam Reports issued
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February 2024

Mon 5 Feb	Y12 & Y13 Sociology, Psychology & Politics visit to Shepton Mallet Prison
Wed 7 Feb	2.30pm Blue Beard – Theatre Royal Sixth Form Trip A Level drama
Fri 9 Feb	History trip to London 9 & 10 Feb End of Term 3
Mon 19 Feb	Start of Term 4—Week A

The Inspiring Minds Book club

Enjoy reading? Come along to the next book club meeting on
Wednesday, 21st February
At 1.45 pm—in G9



Productive things to do besides study

Schedule your study for the week

Drink water and stretch

Organize your desk

Review your notes

Listen to podcast

Cook a healthy meal

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
Wellbeing: Lead — Bea R
Diversity: Lead — Sammy C
Academic: Lead — Elena H

Deputy — Joshua J
Deputy — Blessie G
Deputy — Helena B
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

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 International Students

Emma W – Y12

German Student—4th Sept to 26th January

I have spent the last five months from September to January at St Greg's. I was really excited and also nervous at first. I didn't find any reason to worry though. From the very first day everyone was super nice and absolutely welcoming. I made really good friends and also talked to most people really nice here and there.

Lessons were interesting most of the time and if I had any problems teachers were understanding and classmates helped. In Germany students do around ten subjects in Sixth Form, not three or four. In the UK lessons go way deeper into the material which could be tough from time to time. Our lessons also only go on for 45 minutes and the 15 minutes more here really make a difference. German school also starts earlier, for example I started school at 7.50 am but then ended at 1.15 pm most of the time.

Another big difference is that I wasn't used to any kind of uniform or dress code, but that didn't bother me at all. If you are surrounded by a positive environment and nice people, like I was, you get used to new routines very quickly and easily.

I would say I learned things in the classes here, for example I discovered my interest for Psychology which we don't have as a subject in Germany. But mostly I learned something for life.

I am so grateful that I've got to have this experience. I am going to miss England but I am so excited to bring the independence and wider point of view I gained in the last five months, into my life-style in Germany. Thanks to St Greg's for that!

Anna-Lena H—Y12

German Student— 4th September to 26 January

"My time at St Greg's sadly has to come to an end. But I had an amazing time here. I met so many lovely people here and created friendships that I'm sure will last even after I go back to Germany."

PROGRESSION

Apprenticeship Opportunities & Conferences

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.



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2024: 5TH - 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

A week-long celebration that brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy



5-11 FEBRUARY 2024 — #NAW2024

I ♥ APPRENTICESHIPS

<https://naw.appawards.co.uk/>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week 2024 will run from Monday 5 to Sunday 11 February – find out how to get involved and download the toolkit at [National Apprenticeship Week](#).

PROGRESSION

Apprenticeship Opportunities & Conferences

11am to 2pm

Thursday 29 February 2024

Take the Leap!

South Bristol Jobs & Apprenticeships Fair

South Bristol Skills Academy, City of Bristol College, The Boulevard, Hengrove Park BS14 0DB



Karin Smyth MP
MP for Bristol South

skills
CONNECT



WEST OF ENGLAND
Combined Authority

 Department
for Work &
Pensions



DATE

Feb 29 2024



TIME

11:00 am - 2:00 pm



LOCATION

South Bristol Skills Academy
SBSA, The Boulevard, Hengrove Park,
Bristol, BS14 0DB

What's in store:

-  **Connect with Local Employers:** Meet face-to-face with employers offering hundreds of job vacancies and apprenticeships.
-  **Expert Advice:** Seek guidance from organizations ready to discuss your options and offer valuable career advice.
-  **Dynamic Stall Holders:** Explore stalls from a variety of employers and organizations. (Stay tuned for details!)

Event Partners: A collaborative effort brought to you by Bristol City Council, Karin Smyth MP for Bristol South, City of Bristol College, and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Solicitor Apprenticeship Opportunity

Are you considering a career in law?

Osborne Clarke are looking for Solicitor Apprentices to join in Bristol in September 2024.

Solicitor Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to study an undergraduate law degree and train as a Solicitor whilst earning a salary, without the cost associated with going to university.

Find out more at our open evening for students and parents/carers:

On – **Thursday 15 February 2024**

From – **5.30pm**

At – Osborne Clarke, Halo, Counterslip, Bristol, BS1 6AJ

To secure your place sign up here - <https://forms.office.com/e/Zg6MnWMrnY>

Additional information can be found online at <https://www.osborneclarke.com/solicitor-apprenticeship/>

Performing Arts Enrichment Timetable

Term 3 - 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor Time 8.30am-9am				
Contemporary Vocal Group (Band) Ensemble Pod with Mrs Sterlini	Year 7 Singing DRST with Mrs Sterlini	Contemporary Vocal Group DRST with Mrs Green	Senior Choir DRST with Mrs Sterlini	Lower School Voices (Y7-8) DRST with Mrs Sterlini
			String Sinfonia MUS with Mrs Smith	
Break Time 11.10-11.25am				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Flute Salad Ensemble Pod with Mrs Holden			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch time 1.30-2.05pm				
Guitar Ensemble Ensemble Pod with (Guitar Teacher)	Beauty & The Beast DRST with Miss Tate & Mrs Richards	Brass Band MUS with Mrs Avison	Junior Dance company DAST with Susannah	Beauty & The Beast MUS with Mrs Richards & Mrs Sterlini
Beauty & The Beast Dance Team DAST with Mrs Pearson	Symphony Orchestra DAST with Mrs Sterlini	GCSE Dance Practical support DAST with Mrs Pearson	GCSE Dance Written support DAST with Mrs Pearson	GCSE & A level Drama Practical support DRST with Mr Psirides
Tech Club DRST with Mr Psirides & Austin	GCSE Music Composition MUS with Edgar	GCSE Drama Written support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate	Year 7 Drama Club DRST with Maddie & Sammy	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After school 3.10-4.30pm				
	Beauty & The Beast Band DAST with Mrs Sterlini	Beauty & The Beast HALL with Mrs Pearson, Miss Tate, Mrs Sterlini & Mrs Richards	Beauty & The Beast HALL with Mrs Pearson, Miss Tate, Mrs Sterlini & Mrs Richards	GCSE & A level Drama support DRST/DAST with Mr Psirides & Mrs Richards
	GCSE & A level Drama Practical support DRST with Mrs Richards & Miss Tate			



Thursday 25 - Saturday 27
January 2024, 7.00pm

Saint Gregory's, Bath

Sixth Form Information



School Nurse Drop In Clinic

Come and talk confidentially to your school nurse about...

- Emotional Health
- Sex & Relationships
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Physical Health
- Stress & Worries
- Drugs & Alcohol

Your School Nurse is Emma
her mobile # 07502 738186

Find her in;
The Meeting Room
(near reception)

Thursdays 13:30-14:10



NO need to book, just DROP IN!

care·think·do

WE CHANGE LIVES BY TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE

Sixth Form Information

Key Contacts

Sixth Form Key Contacts

Director of Sixth Form — Mr Stewart Burn

Deputy Head of Sixth Form/Head of Y12 — Dr Simon Brooks

Deputy Head of Sixth Form/Head of Y13 — Mr Simon Duffy

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

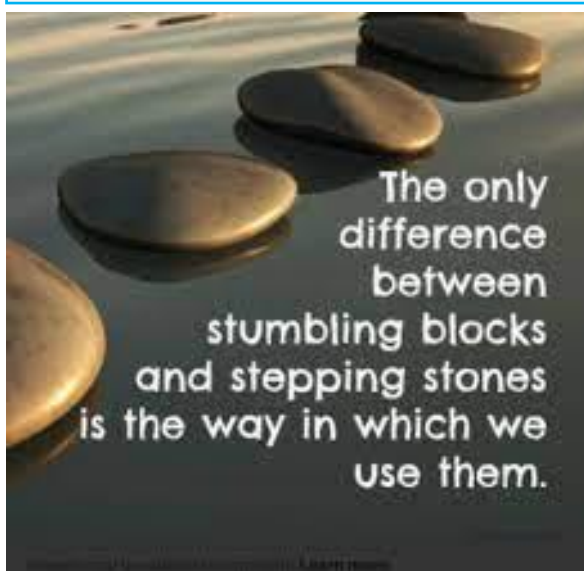
[UNiDAYS - Fast, free, exclusive discounts for students \(myunidays.com\)](https://myunidays.com)
(student discounts)

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

[GoConqr - 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.