



ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

Living, learning and growing together with Jesus



NEWSLETTER – JULY 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to inform you that I have accepted the permanent position of Headteacher at St Gregory's as of September 2011. I am privileged and proud to lead such a wonderful community which has a culture of aspiration, celebration and service.

As our academic year draws to a close I have been reflecting on the richness of life here at St Gregory's school. Staff and pupils have worked tirelessly and as you will read in the newsletter, there are many wonderful highlights to share. This half term alone there have been a number of successful visits; the Science trip to the Space camp in Belgium and the French visit to the Kingswood centre in Dieppe. We received letters of congratulations from both places, commending pupils and staff for their hard work and endeavour.

In keeping with our culture of celebration and aspiration I was delighted to welcome pupils and parents to our annual Awards Evening. Over 91 pupils received recognition for their achievements across all areas of the school and it was wonderful to see so many parents and family members sharing in the celebrations. Sports Day was another opportunity for pupils to shine with many events being closely contested. There was a great sense of team work across the day with pupils cheering each other on to beat their personal best. We were delighted to welcome 6th Form Sports Leaders from St Thomas More School who were a great help in marshalling events across the day.

The School Show was an amazing production; the script was written by Mr Winder and performed to a very high standard by pupils from all of the year groups. Acting, singing and dancing, there was no end to the talents in evidence. The audience were completely enthralled as the story unfolded and the stars of the future were very much in evidence.

We have continued our links with St Thomas More School this term; Year 7 enjoyed Bastille Day and the opportunity to undertake a Geography Fieldwork project, both of which were a great success. In addition, our Year 8 Leaders helped out at the St Joseph's Sports Day which was greatly appreciated by Miss Sumpter.

We say goodbye to staff this term who have given many years of service to St Gregory's school. Mrs Bewsher, Mrs Bronson, Mrs Taylor and Mr Winder. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing them every success in the future. Also leaving after 22 years of unstinting service is Mrs Chappell, our school secretary who has worked tirelessly on behalf of our community. We thank her for all that she has done in the service of others and wish her a very happy retirement.

My thanks as always to Parents, Staff and Governors for all the support that has been given this year. Most of all to the pupils whose talents make St Gregory's such a special place.

Frances Topa
Headteacher

TRANSFER, TRANSFER, TRANSFER!

In the previous newsletter, I informed you about the transfer arrangements and activities for Year 8.

Over the last half term, we have been working on transfer arrangements for our Year 4s moving into Year 5. This has involved a number of people in the school. Mrs Langley and I have visited some of our feeder schools, met the children and spoken to Year 4 teachers. There was a vulnerable pupil transfer day held at St Gregory's, which involved SENCOs from the various Lower schools meeting and transferring pupil information.

Some of the pupils from our feeder schools were given the opportunity to re-visit St Gregory's to meet some of the staff and work on a transfer booklet. These visits were very successful and the pupils and staff enjoyed them immensely.

We had a highly successful New Parents evening which was very well attended. The transfer day was also much enjoyed by all.

I wish all our Year 8 pupils transferring the greatest success in their respective Upper schools and extend a warm welcome to our new Year 5 pupils joining us in September.

SENCO: Miss Smyth

Behaviour for Learning

Over the last two terms a group of teachers formed a working party looking at our Behaviour for Learning Policy. The principles behind the policy are as follows:

St Gregory's is a community based upon strong Christian values. Our guiding principle is 'Living, Learning and Growing Together with Jesus'.

The ethos of our school is that it promotes inclusion and the valuing of each individual, encouraging self-esteem, self-discipline and mutual respect based on the Gospel Values.

We expect high standards of behaviour, politeness, courtesy and co-operation from all members of the school community. We encourage and reward good behaviour and work of a high quality.

We believe that all members of our school community should be able to learn and achieve their full potential in a safe, secure and orderly

environment where everyone is treated with respect.

As part of the process, the School Council were tasked with consulting with their peers. As a result of the consultation and working party a list of non-negotiables was drawn up. These are now school policy and we expect all pupils to adhere to them.

Non-Negotiables

- Treat all people with respect
- Always come to school and lessons prepared to learn
- Correct equipment to be brought to every lesson
- Mobile phones and other electrical devices to be handed into the school office
- Coats, scarves, hats, bags etc to be stored as directed by the teacher
- Sit where requested by staff
- No chewing gum in school
- No food to be eaten in the building, apart from the dining hall at lunchtime
- Homework diaries to be brought to and available in every lesson

Kingswood Trip to France



41 pupils and 6 staff had an enjoyable long weekend staying at the Chateau de Chantereine, near Dieppè in France in July. The itinerary was very full, including visits to a boulangerie, the historical town of Rouen, the World War I sites at Vimy Ridge and Nausicaa aquarium in Boulogne. The children also spent time on the beach, did archery and fencing and attended Mass at the nearby church in Étalondes.

Year 6 Geography Fieldwork Day

On 7 July, Year 7 pupils experienced a day of fieldwork, led by pupils and staff from St Thomas More. In the morning they studied different aspects of crime and how it affects the environment we live in. They also looked at crime statistics and then linked this to our local environment. During the afternoon pupils prepared presentations of their findings to answer the question 'Is the area around our school a safe environment?' Various groups then presented their work to the year group. It was a new experience for all and one we hope to repeat again, showing how geography is linked to everyday life and experiences.

Bastille Day at St Thomas More Upper School



On Wednesday, 13 July, Year 7 went to St Thomas More to learn about the history of the Bastille and why the citizens were attacked.

Our group then went to Cookery and we made some croissants, (one savoury and one chocolate).

Following this, the group went to French - where we had to talk in French for the whole lesson. We had to buy food and objects to put our French skills into practise.

In Media we used Apple Macs to take photographs on different backgrounds. We then used the internet to collect photographs to produce a powerpoint presentation about France.

In English we were given a St Thomas More newspaper and there were many different stories. We then had to decide whether they were true or false.

Overall we thought that Bastille Day was a good experience to learn about how France related to the French Revolution and the Bastille.

Mia, Natasha and Melissa (7B)

Chaplaincy

This term has been as busy and enjoyable as ever. We celebrated a very spiritual Mass for the feast day of St Peter and St Paul, led by Father Tony Brennan. This incorporated students from every year group, involving singers, readers, servers and those assisting with the offertory procession, enabling a full and active participation by the whole school.



In June our entire Year 8 classes were able to attend a fulfilling and enjoyable day on retreat in the beautiful surroundings of Buckden Towers, involving ice breaking activities, time for personal reflection and an encompassing liturgy in the Claret chapel.

On the 13 July, we were delighted to be able to award six Chaplaincy awards at the School Awards evening to our most diligent and enthusiastic students who have worked above and beyond this year to promote and live out the

Catholic ethos of the school. A great big thank you to Alfie, Luigi, Sinead, Alvin, Kierra and Sabrina for all their hard work and generosity.

Our Year 8 students will also be having a Mass of celebration and thanksgiving on their last day of their time at St Gregory's Middle School. We know it will be a very prayerful and spiritual occasion, and we wish all of those students the very best for the future.

PSHE News

It has been rather busy in the PSHE department over the course of this final term. Our Year 8s have been particularly privileged to be treated to two very interesting visitors.

At the beginning of this term each Year 8 form class was involved in a workshop with the School Liaison Officer from Bedfordshire Police, PC Ielden. She discussed issues related to gangs and presented various themes to the students such as what the legal definition of a gang is, what the consequences are and how to avoid getting caught up with a gang.

The students found the workshop to be extremely engaging and informative and they received some useful information and advice from PC Ielden's presentation.

The second visit was from a theatre group organised by the Bedfordshire Fire Department. Unfortunately I am not able to share the plot of the play for fear of ruining the storyline for next year's Year 8s! But suffice to say the students really enjoyed the play and the mischievous characters involved and received the message loud and clear.

AVOCA CHARITY



Eileen Bull, sister of the late Fr Peter O'Neill, receiving the cheque for £2181.31 from Mr Millie following St Gregory's fund raising for the AVOCA charity.

Science News

As usual, the Science department has been incredibly busy, this half term. We have just completed the last of this year's booster sessions which have helped a large number of students achieve their aspirational targets.



Our very successful Space camp ran over the May/June half term and this was enjoyed by all. 25 staff and pupils from St Gregory's Catholic Middle School were

joined by a student from St Thomas More School on the adventure of a lifetime, learning to be astronauts!

As the first Bedford Borough School to visit the European Space Centre in Belgium we enjoyed the chance to see the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Libin and also to explore the local area.

The students performed brilliantly; they were a credit to all concerned and there were definitely some budding astronauts among the party should the ESA ever need them!

Laura Bremner – Head of Science

PE NEWS

It has been a busy last half term with Athletics and Rounders taking priority. Our Athletes competed in trials to make the district finals and we were all delighted to see so many making it through the heats to have a chance of becoming the 'best in the district'.

Massive congratulations must go to the following who are now just that!

The Best in Bedford District

Sarah Kerr – 1500m

Muza Mugalu -200m and Shot Putt

Our Girls' Rounders teams have been busy practicing and competing every week and I know Mrs Belcher is extremely pleased with their progress – The Yr 7 Girls have shown rapid improvement whilst the Yr 8 Girls were winners of their league.

The Sporting term concluded in a fantastic Summer Sports Day last Friday where pupils competed and supported in a lovely sporting manner. The House competition was extremely close and actually went down to the last relays before John-Paul House eventually triumphed over Teresa House.

This was the right result for the PE department as it means that every House has won a trophy this year (and no – we didn't fix it!).



Monica and Conor receive the winning trophy

Lots of records were broken on the day:

Year	Event	Winner	Time/Distance
8	Girls Javelin	Sarah Kerr	25.40m
7	Boys Shot	Muza Mugalu	10.45m
6	Girls Long Jump	Jonelle Nathan	4.34m
5	Boys Long Jump	Oran Goodman	4.19m
5	Girls Standing Triple Jump	Abigail Barkus	5.34m
8	Girls 800m	Sarah Kerr	2m 36.28
8	Girls 300m	Sarah Kerr	50.34
8	Boys 300m	Conor Archer	42.06
8	Boys 4 x 300m Relay	Teresa House	3m 15.88

Congratulations to all competitors!

The PE department then had the difficult task of picking the annual Sports Awards:

Award	Winner
Yr 5 Sportsman of the Year	Dylan Asonganyi
Yr 5 Sportswoman of the Year	Julia Bangala
Yr 6 Sportsman of the Year	Ethan Tanti
Yr 6 Sportswoman of the Year	Jonelle Nathan
Yr 7 Sportsman of the Year	Muza Mugalu
Yr 7 Sportswoman of the Year	Lorena Vara

And finally the winners of the prestigious **Sportsman/woman of the Year Trophies for Yr 8**

Sportsman of the Year	Gianluca Famiglietti
Sportswoman of the Year	Sarah Kerr

Graham Millie – Head of PE

REMINDER OF CORRECT WINTER UNIFORM FOR SEPTEMBER

Boys

Shirt - white
Trousers - charcoal grey (school type not fashion)
Tie
V-neck sweatshirt - maroon + crest
Socks - grey or black
Shoes - plain black (school type)

Girls

Shirt - white
Trousers/Skirt - charcoal grey (school type - not fashion)
Tie
V-neck sweatshirt - maroon + crest
Socks (white) or Tights (grey or black)
Shoes - plain black flat-heeled (school type)

PE & Games - Unisex PE Kit

Rugby/Games shirt - long sleeve maroon/black + crest
Sports Polo - short sleeve maroon/black + crest
Shorts - black
Socks - black
Trainers
Football boots
Shin pads
A gum shield is essential for both boys and girls

Jewellery

Studs only may be worn, one in each ear.
Small plain gold or silver only.
Nose studs or any other body piercings are not allowed.

Hair

Extreme hair styles are not acceptable.

In all cases of school uniform, jewellery and hair, the school will determine what is reasonable.

School Uniform

From October 2011, school uniform will be available to order on line only. No uniform will be sold in school from this point.

More details to follow in September.

Summer Production



On Monday, 18 July, the children performed the Summer Production 'Dreamer' to both pupils and parents. The show was a fantastic success and was enjoyed by all.

PTA

A huge thank you to all staff and parents who have helped at events during the year. We had another very successful disco and have made countless tea and coffees at the welcome evening for next year's Year 5 parents, the Awards Evening and the Music/Drama production.

We have acquired more toys for lunchtime play and as you may have seen in last week's newspaper we sponsored the visit from Bedford Museum for WWII day in Year 6 and have another sponsored history day next term. We finish off the term by contributing towards the Year 8 Leavers' Party.

*Even if you can only spare a few hours each term, it is a great way to get involved in your child's school. Our AGM is on **Thursday 29 September** in the school library, between **6-7pm** followed by a meal in Bromham.*



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

For your information, the School Photographer will be in school on **Friday, 30 September** to take individual and sibling photographs.

A reminder will follow, nearer the time.

World War 2 Day



Year 6 'evacuees' on the WW2 Day

As part of a topic, the children have been studying what life was like for children in World War 2. While staff and students dressed up in period costume, lessons challenged youngsters' minds, while capturing their imaginations and treating their stomachs.

Highlights included some 1940s style cooking, creating gas masks out of card, paper and elastic, and a visit by staff from Bedford Museum, paid for by the PTA.

We were delighted that our successful day was reported in the Times & Citizen newspaper.

Federation of Bedford Catholic Schools (FBCS) – Logo Winner

A competition was held recently across the four schools inviting pupils to design a new logo for the Federation of Bedford Catholic Schools.

Following much deliberation, and in the face of great competition, two joint-winners were selected, Karolina Gajosz, current Year 8 at St Gregory's, and a pupil from St Thomas More. Congratulations to both pupils on their winning designs.

**WISHING YOU ALL AN
ENJOYABLE SUMMER BREAK AND
PLEASE REMEMBER CHILDREN ARE
DUE BACK TO SCHOOL ON
TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER.**

TERM DATES FOR 2011/2012 AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday, 6 September – Friday, 16 December 2011
(Half Term 24 – 28 October 2011)

SPRING TERM

Wednesday, 4 January – Friday, 30 March 2012
(Half Term 13 – 17 February 2012)

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday, 17 April – Friday, 20 July 2012
(Half Term 4 – 8 June 2012)

TRAINING DAYS

Monday, 5 September 2011

Monday, 31 October 2011

Tuesday, 3 January 2012

Monday, 16 April 2012

Finally, we bid farewell to our wonderful Year 8 pupils as they transfer to their Upper schools in September. They have had an excellent year and we are very proud of all they have achieved. The prayer we shared at the end of their Mass encapsulates our hopes for their future.

*We pray that God will speak loudly
And that you will hear humbly*

*We pray that God will act mightily
And that you will receive graciously*

*We pray that God will bless amazingly
And that you will share freely*

*We pray that God will be close
And that you will walk safely*

AWARDS EVENING 2011

YEAR	SUBJECT	WINNER	RUNNER UP	RUNNER UP
5	English	Hannah Spencer	Jasmine Ajayi	Matthew McDonald
6	English	Sofia Picciano/Ronan Cook	Matthew White	
7	English	Holly McKoy	Dario Mongiardi	Mia Charles
8	English	Sarah Kerr	Sabrina Di Monaco	Giuseppe Picciano
5	Science	Matthew McDonald		
6	Science	Noel Easow-Biju		
7	Science	Ciar Pembroke	Riccardo Mazzeo	Holly McKoy
8	Science	Sofia Quarta	Leonie Gomes	Sarah Kerr
5 Girls	PE	Julia Bangala	Jasmine Ajayi	
5 Boys	PE	Dylan Asonganyi	Arafat Walugembe	
6 Girls	PE	Jonelle Nathan	Deborah Baugh	
6 Boys	PE	Ethan Tanti	Angelo Moscaritolo	
7 Girls	PE	Lorena Vara	Tania Nzembela	
7 Boys	PE	Muza Mugalu	Emersson Sambu	
8 Girls	PE	Sarah Kerr	Sofia Quarta	
8 Boys	PE	Gianluca Famiglietti	Daryl Geanga	
KS 2	ICT	Afia Kilumanga	Roza Sikorska	Matthew McDonald
7	ICT	Akugbe Obazuaye	Anna Santosh	Caitlin Mbabgong
8	ICT	Giuseppe Picciano	Sabrina Di Monaco	Harriet Savage
5	Maths	Francesca Hrymajlo	Hannah Spencer	Matthew McDonald
6	Maths	Joseph Brewer	Soline Fish	Krupa Thomas
7	Maths	Tomas Wren	Holly McKoy	Riccardo Mazzeo
8	Maths	Sarah Kerr	Sabrina Di Monaco	Giuseppe Picciano
5	Geography	Belinda Gmajner	Jasmine Ajayi	Mia Brown
6	Geography	Noel Easow-Biju	Ania Marsh	Gabrielle Lawrence
7	Geography	Riccardo Mazzeo	Chipo Maseko	Muza Mugalu
8	Geography	Sarah Kerr	Giuseppe Picciano	Conor Archer
5	History	Afia Kilumanga	Oran Goodman	Nicholas Brady
6	History	Rosie Armitage	Marco Lavita	Sofia Picciano
7	History	Maddie Clarke	Melissa Williams	Tomas Wren
8	History	Jasmine Joseph	Monica Fitzgerald	Harriet Savage
5	French	Georgia McCann	Matthew McDonald	Belinda Gmajner
6	French	Ronan Cook	Rosie Armitage	Jack Wawryn
7	French	Aiyanna Bucuo	Holly McKoy	Riccardo Mazzeo
8	French	Giuseppe Picciano	Sabrina Di Monaco	Sarah Kerr
5	Art	Daisy Smith		
6	Art	Noel Easow-Biju		
7	Art	Muza Mugalu	Alessia Ives	Maddie Clarke/Caitlin Mbabgong
8	Art	Karolina Gajosz	Sarah Kerr	Alistair Simmonds
5	DT	Emmanuel Barkat		
6	DT	Sofia Picciano		
7	DT	Melissa Williams	Muza Mugalu	Ciar Pembroke
8	DT	Nipa Uddin	Lucja Jurkowska	Giuseppe Picciano
5	RE	Hannah Spencer	Mia Brown	Kirsty Keech
6	RE	Ania Marsh	Aaron Mante	Ronan Cook
7	RE	Tiffany Mutesa	Riccardo Mazzeo	Dario Mongiardi
8	RE	Sabrina Di Monaco		
KS2	Music	Georgia McCann		
7	Music	Katie Peace	Anna Santosh	Anthony Tanti
8	Music	Alisha Howard-White	Sofia Quarta	Molly Jun
5	Charity			
6	Charity	Oliver Jun		
7	Charity	Alvin Minani		
8	Charity	Sinead Dooner		

YEAR	SUBJECT	WINNER
6	Chaplaincy	Rosie Armitage
7	Chaplaincy	Sabrina Vasso
8	Chaplaincy	Kierra Barratt
7	Actor of the Year	Luigi Picanza
8	Actor of the Year	Alfie Kelly
5	School Life	Karina Santana Lara
6	School Life	Caterina Lettieri
7	School Life	Luigi Picanza
8	School Life	Harriet Savage
7	School Ethos	Chipo Maseko
8	School Ethos	Claudia Sharp
5	Behaviour	Jakub Szewera
6	Behaviour	Bianca Bhebhe
7	Behaviour	Melissa Williams
8	Behaviour	Lucja Jurkowska
5	Attitude for Learning	Natalia Ostrowska
6	Attitude for Learning	Giuseppe Fragapane
7	Attitude for Learning	Alessia Ives
8	Attitude for Learning	Giuseppe Picciano
5	Attitude in Class	Daisy Smith
6	Attitude in Class	Krupa Thomas
7	Attitude in Class	Mia Charles
8	Attitude in Class	Harriet Savage
5	Learning Partner	Emmanual Barkat
6	Learning Partner	Chloe Leckning
7	Learning Partner	Maddie Clarke
8	Learning Partner	Ciaran Tate
7	Co-operation in Class	Riccardo Mazzeo
8	Co-operation in Class	Ola Ibrahim
All	Most progress	Corey Keech