

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Governors

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year. Although we start the year with excitement and enthusiasm, last night we all received the sad news that Queen



Elizabeth II had died peacefully at Balmoral, a place she loved, surrounded by her family. The prayers of our community are with the Royal Family as they mourn the loss of a beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. We marked Her Majesty's death in tutor time and during our whole school Mass today. We prayed for Queen Elizabeth and her family, as well as King Charles III, that God may grant him the wisdom and support he will need to now fulfil his vocation as King.

I would like to thank both Father Bill OSM and Father Stephen Corrigan, who joined us this week to celebrate Mass. Father Stephen attended St Gregory's between 2003 to 2008 and it was wonderful that he was able to return today. Father Stephen was able to catch up with some of his teachers and looked around to see how St Gregory's has changed. We are looking forward to him returning later in the year.

I would like to congratulate Mrs Hillier Brown and the Geography Department on achieving the Secondary Geography Quality Mark again, now becoming a Centre of Excellence for Geography. The History Department were also awarded the Gold History Quality Mark before we broke up for the summer holidays. I would like to thank Mrs Sarbatta and her team for all their hard work.

We have published our Core Values in this week's newsletter; please take time to read them. When I addressed the students at the start of the year I explained how these Core Values of Virtue, Respect, Aspiration and Responsibility are the DNA of the "Family of St Gregory's" and that we should all ensure we incorporate them in every aspect of our lives.

As we now end an era I am mindful of the promise her Majesty made "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service." That long life was devoted to service and we can all learn from her example.

Best wishes
Ms Cusack, Headmistress

Dates for Your Diary

Thu 15 Sep	KS4 Engagement Evening
Mon 19 Sep	School Production Auditions Begin
Tue 20 Sep	Y12 Cambridge Visit
Wed 21 Sep	Y12 Cambridge Visit Y7 Retreats to Sulis Manor (7E & 7G)
Thu 22 Sep	Y9 Tutor Evening Y7 Retreats to Sulis Manor (7O & 7R)
Fri 23 Sep	Y7 Retreats to Sulis Manor (7S & 7Y)
Mon 26 Sep	European Language Day
Tue 27 Sep	Open Morning for prospective students 9-11am
Wed 28 Sep	Open Morning for prospective students 9-11am
Thu 29 Sep	Open Evening for prospective students 6-8.30pm
Fri 30 Sep	Inset Day - School Closed to Students
Wed 5 Oct	Y9 & Y11 PSHE Drop Down Half Days
Thu 6 Oct	Y8 Tutor Evening
Fri 7 Oct	Y12 & Y13 Inspire Conference Y11 Taster Day
Thu 13 Oct	Sixth Form Open Evening 6-8pm
Thu 20 Oct	Y7 Tutor Evening
Fri 21 Oct	End of Term 1

St Gregory's Reading Room

Open before school, breaktime, lunchtime and afterschool.

Join Mrs Webb for lunchtime and afterschool clubs:



- Monday - Creative Writing club afterschool
- Tuesday - Book Club afterschool
- Wednesday - Boardgames at lunchtime and afterschool
- Thursday - Wellbeing club afterschool
- Friday - Creative Writing club at lunchtime

History Quality Mark – Gold Award



The History Department at St Gregory's is delighted to announce they have been awarded the Historical Association History Quality Mark (HQM) Gold Award. The Quality Mark is a prestigious award that recognises the excellence of history provision in a school and assesses and values the history provision of the teacher, their department and the school and what is being offered to young people.

The Quality Mark provides a framework for success in which to develop an outstanding provision of history for a school. There is a regulated programme for a school working to achieve the Quality mark to follow, with a clear assessment procedure delivered by independent Historical Association appointed assessors.

The Quality Mark is a rolling programme and schools register at any time. The school is then able to begin preparing as soon as they sign up. The process took a year to complete and required evidence in the form of a portfolio to be submitted to the HA and an assessment visit from the HA which took place in July.



The Historical Association congratulated St Gregory's History Department and commented on their detailed report on "the staff at the school who were unfailingly helpful and passionate" in providing "meticulously" planned lessons and assessments, leading to "Teaching and learning of a very high standard". The report also praised the "broad and balanced curriculum" on offer for St Gregory's students in History, noting that "A conscious effort is made in Key Stage 3 to ensure a balance of perspectives such as political; social, economic, cultural and religious" allowing the department to play a "leading role in developing British and Catholic values" within the school.

Mrs Katie Sarbatta, Head of History at St Gregory's, is delighted to receive the award. "The History team and I are thrilled to have been awarded the Gold Award from the Historical Association, making us one of only eighteen secondary schools in the country to have received the gold accreditation. The team and I have worked hard to make sure the History curriculum on offer to our students is of the highest quality with inclusivity and diversity our highest priorities. I am delighted to see this reflected so clearly in our report and thank the HA and our assessor, Dr Tim Lomas, for their rigorous assessment of our offering from Key Stage 3 to A-Level. We look forward to continue working with the HA on future projects."

St Gregory's will be able to keep their Quality Mark for three years and will then reapply to keep the QM status.



A full list of QM schools and further information can be found [here](#) on the HA website.

Inclusion Timetables

The Inclusion Team is currently finalising intervention timetables for students. The majority of these will recommence the week commencing Monday 19 September and parents/carers will be contacted via email next week if this involves their child.

Mrs Morriss, SENCo and Assistant Headteacher

Contact Details

If you have recently changed any of your contact details (telephone numbers, email addresses) please inform Mrs Richter via email: richterm@st-gregorys.co.uk

