

ST REGIS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

6th December 2024



MESSAGE FROM MR PARRY

We have had some slight disruption in the past two weeks, with the snow closing the school for the day and yesterday a power cut resulting in no internet or computers for the morning. As always, in times like these, the St Regis family pulls together and supports one another to overcome adversity and as a result, disruption to learning was minimal. I even think certain members of staff enjoyed going "old school" for a few lessons!

This week, we have successfully launched our festive countdown with our community Christmas lunch and our Year 7 Christingle service at Christ Church. It was great to welcome members of the local community into school and it also included the first performance of our brand new St Regis gospel choir: 'M.O.R.E'. This is a very exciting development for the school! We were also thrilled to be joined in our church service by Christ Church Year 5, and we hope they enjoyed the service.

Following last Friday's successful Year 7 SEND and Safeguarding coffee morning, this morning we hosted another similar event for Year 8. We also have a very well attended Chess tournament taking place on site this morning, in addition to a number of sporting accomplishments this week.

Next week, we look forward to our Christmas "Big Sing" concert on Tuesday evening, Year 7 Winter sports Day on Wednesday and on Thursday we have Christmas jumper day, our Christmas lunch and also Year 13 parents evening.



Mr Parry
Principal



ST REGIS STARS OF LAST WEEK!

YEAR 7 – Kunmi O.

YEAR 8 – Ivy C.

YEAR 9 – Amanda N.

YEAR 10 – Giulia G.

YEAR 11 – Special C

YEAR 12 – Daniel O.

YEAR 13 – Elkan N.

CHESTER – Amanda N.

LICHFIELD – Shawn O.

WORCESTER – Esosa H.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

IS CHESTER!



St Regis CE Academy Advent Appeal

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. *John 10:10*

This Advent and Christmas, how can we at St Regis be a blessing to the wider world so that they can enjoy some of that 'Fullness of life'?



£26 could provide secondary schoolchildren like Lubani and Matumu with bicycles so they can make the (often very long) journey to and from school quickly, easily and safely. With less time walking, the children can spend more time on other things, like learning, and fulfil their God-given potential.

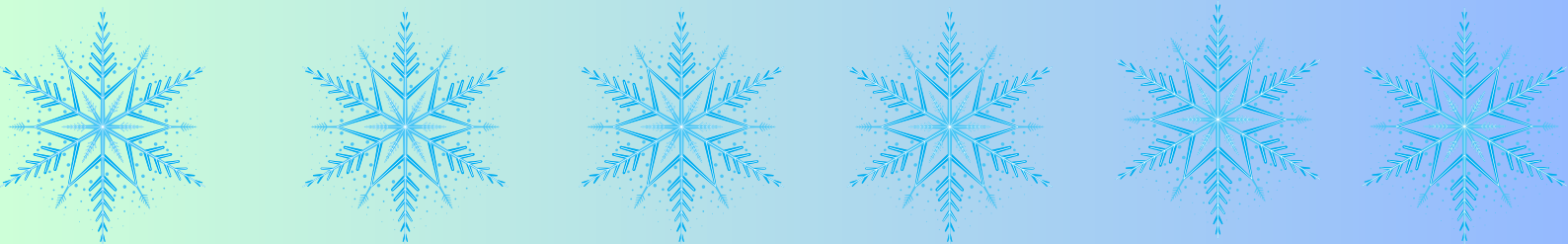
£28 could provide a vulnerable family like Thandiwe's in Zimbabwe with a goat, as well as training in how to rear and care for it.

Goats not only provide milk, their manure is excellent for compost – this would increase the amount of food a family can grow and ensure them a nutritious diet.



Click here to see more gifts on offer: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/gifts/>

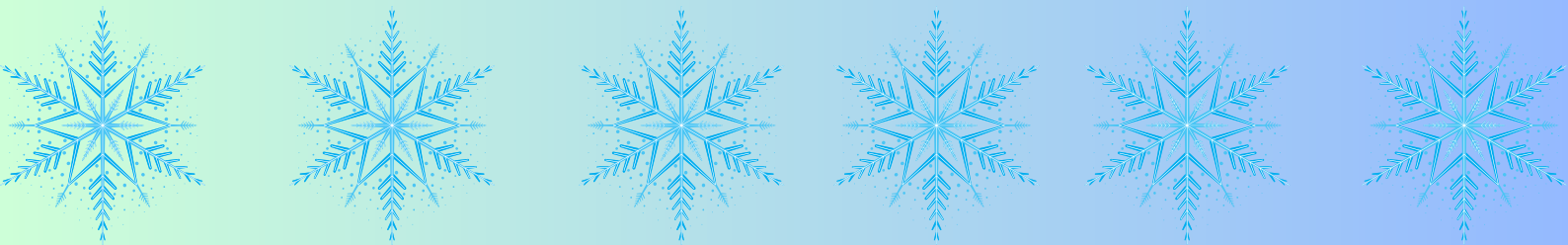




Winter
YEAR 7
Sports
Day

WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER

The central illustration depicts a winter sports theme. At the top, a silhouette of a person jumps to catch a ball. To the right, a runner is shown in motion. Below the main text, a swimmer is depicted in a pool. The background includes several decorated Christmas trees, two snow globes, and a hand holding a flag. A school crest with a yellow tree is positioned at the top center. The entire scene is set against a backdrop of snow and falling snowflakes.

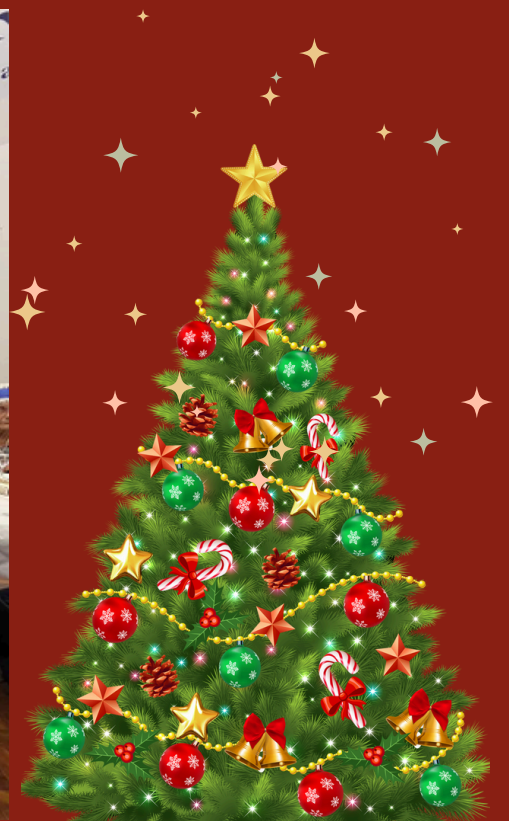




On Tuesday we held our community Christmas lunch. It was wonderful to celebrate with members of our local community.

Pupils entertained our guests with a performance from the choir, served food and chatted about school life.

Flourishing together at St Regis.



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

Secondary



In this issue:

- Image sharing
- Consent
- App focus: Telegram

Image Sharing

With the rise of camera phones and other devices in the last few years, taking photos of themselves and their friends is commonplace amongst young people. These photos are often shared online. In recent years, there has also been an increase in young people asking to share nudes of themselves. This is commonly known as sexting.

There are reasons as to why a young person might agree to sending an image of themselves in this way:

- they may believe they are in a consensual romantic relationship
- they may be pressured, tricked or coerced into sharing an image
- they may be exploited or groomed into sending the images.

The law on image sharing:

In order to protect children, any indecent image of a child (someone under 18) is known as Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), even if the image was created by the child themselves (self-generated CSAM). The law states that it is illegal to create or share CSAM. Creating images also includes AI or photoshopped images. The law also includes possession of an image and re-sharing images. Parents should not have images sent to their device, even if the intent is to report the image. Images should be reported to the Police immediately. It is important to note that this law is to protect children, not criminalise those who send images of themselves.

EDUCATE THEM ON THE LAW

Discuss the law with them. It protects them from the pressures of sharing images with real-life friends, as well as protecting them from the risk of exploitation.



USE PLATFORM SAFETY FEATURES

Make sure children are aware of how to report and block any inappropriate content they may receive. Review the various privacy settings available on the apps they use.

IMAGE SHARING KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARENTS

OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Educate children on personal boundaries by letting them know they are never obligated to share images of themselves. Also, remind them not to request images from others.



ONLINE PREDATORS

It's important to have conversations with children about the distinction between online friends and genuine, real-life friendships.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Understanding consent

Consent is the explicit, informed and voluntary agreement to engage in a particular activity, often referring to sexual interactions, but it also applies to other areas such as relationships, sharing personal boundaries and decision making. For children, this means ensuring that they have the capacity to give consent without feeling pressured, coerced or manipulated.

Why is it important for young people to understand consent?

- Teaching consent encourages children to respect their own and others' physical and emotional boundaries.
- Consent fosters open communication, mutual respect and equality in relationships.
- Educating teenagers about consent helps prevent situations of sexual assault, harassment and coercion.
- Understanding consent gives teenagers the tools to make informed choices about their body and relationships.
- Consent creates a culture of respect which helps to reduce harmful behaviours like victim-blaming.

The Four C's of consent help children to know if consent has been or is still being given:

- **Clear:** Yes means yes. If it isn't a yes, it's a no.
- **Continuous:** Keeping check that it is still a yes; yes now doesn't mean yes later.
- **Coercion-free:** It isn't yes if pressure has been put on someone to do something.
- **Conscious:** The person giving consent must be fully capable of giving consent.

What parents and carers should know about Telegram

This summer, Telegram made the headlines when its owner was arrested. Although it may not be the most popular messaging app among young people, it is considered one of the fastest-growing platforms. While there are many discussions surrounding the risks associated with using Telegram, here are some key points to keep in mind:

4 WAYS TO TEACH CONSENT TO TEENAGERS

Teaching children about consent is vital for fostering respect and responsibility. Here are some effective strategies.

MODEL

Model consent in everyday situations. An example of this might be to ask for a hug.



TALK

Talk about what consent looks like in relationships. Use TV shows or news articles as conversation starters.



RESPECT

Emphasise mutual respect, taking into consideration seeking and giving consent.







DISCUSS

Discuss the legal aspect of consent, as well as the emotional impact of not gaining consent.



Keeping your child safe is our number one priority at St Regis Academy. You can contact your child's Form Tutor, Head of Year or the Designated Safeguarding Leads if you have any concerns or questions by emailing: admin@stregisacademy.org. If it is urgent, please call the school and ask for a DSL.

RISKS TO CONSIDER IF YOUR CHILD USES TELEGRAM

 END-TO-END ENCRYPTION	 SELF-DESTRUCTING MESSAGES	 LARGE GROUP CHATS	 LOCAL CONNECTIONS
Private conversations known as 'Secret Chats' can only be accessed by the participants. This puts children at risk.	A timer can be set when sending a message in a Secret Chat which will then self-destruct/disappear.	Group chats known as Channels can include up to 200,000 participants. This allows for unregulated conversations.	'People Nearby' connects users locally, but may expose children to grooming and exploitation risks.



From the Chaplain...

Luke begins his gospel with the story of the elderly priest Zechariah who was on duty in the temple one day when visited by an angel with a message that Zechariah struggled to believe. Zechariah and Elizabeth had never been blessed with children and were now at an age when they had given up hope of ever becoming parents... and yet that is exactly what the angel told him that God would do for him. According to Luke Zechariah was struck dumb for his lack of faith until the day on which God's promise was fulfilled and his son was born.

Our theme this week is trusting in God's word. When it comes to it, we are actually very cautious and find it difficult to trust in God's generosity and overwhelming love. We are more likely to put in place safety plans to ensure that we and our families will be OK... we rely on strategies for self-preservation rather than the generosity which stems from trusting in God's goodness. This was made evident during great toilet paper crisis of the COVID lockdown. We knew logically that there was enough to go round and yet we panicked and bought more than we needed, just in case. And so the shops ran out.

When they were released from slavery in Egypt the Israelites spent forty years in the wilderness being to trust in God to provide for them. Every day they were fed manna and told to collect just enough for their own family needs, but no extra. And every morning they learnt again that God had been faithful and had provided for them.

We live as though in an economy of scarcity and yet this is not God's plan for us. His is an economy of abundance and generosity. What if we could all trust in his ways? What if we could trust enough to be generous with our gifts, to give away what we don't need today and to rely on him for tomorrow? What effect would that have on our policies and in our society?

The book of Zephaniah ends with a joyful vision of God's people being gathered up into his presence from wherever they have been scattered and of God singing and delighting over them as everything that has separated them comes to an end. Zephaniah alludes to oppression and exile, to discrimination and humiliation all coming to an end. Justice will be restored.

I believe that God wants to bless all humankind in generous abundance and that this will rely on us working together, trusting in him and sharing his gifts generously and indiscriminately among us so that all will benefit.

This year our advent appeal is to buy Extraordinary Gifts which will help to bring 'Fullness of Life' and transform communities where hope is much needed. To find out more click on this link: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/gifts/>

