

Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation



Newsletter

Message from the Federation Executive Co-Headteachers

What a busy week we have had to end the half term. Alongside numerous Christmas celebrations we were delighted to welcome the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, to our school, along with several other notable guests.

We were proud that our long-term work in the secondary phase on Healthy Relationships, in collaboration with TENDER, has been recognised at a national level. Some of our Year 7 and Sixth Form students were fortunate to take part in a workshop with world-renowned actress Olivia Coleman, Georgia Harrison MBE and Jess Phillips MP. When the Prime Minister joined the session later in the afternoon, it was a joy to see the students' surprise and amazement as he entered the room.

Following the workshop, our VIP guests met with staff to explore the challenges and successes of teaching this vital topic, including recognising abuse and addressing harmful attitudes. Many of you will have seen coverage of our school on BBC News and other media outlets, as well as in the press. We are extremely proud of our pupils and all our visitors commented on how articulate, thoughtful, and well-informed they were.

We hope you enjoy reading about the many Christmas celebrations across our campuses, along with the trips and workshops our pupils have participated in this term. We are also proud of our students who have demonstrated responsibility and care for others, including writing to elderly residents in France, visiting a care home and attending the Travel for Life Convention.

Today we say goodbye to several valued members of our team who are leaving the Federation after many years of service. In particular, we would like to thank Mrs Rogers for her 31 years of dedication at the Woolwich campus and Ms Layne for her 19 years of service across our Federation offices as they begin their well-earned retirement.

We wish all our staff a thoroughly deserved break and hope that all our families across the Federation enjoy a restful and joyful Christmas holiday. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Best wishes,

Claire Harrison and Victoria Wainwright



Prime Minister Keir Starmer said:

"I would like to thank the wonderful staff and students at St. Mary Magdalene Church of England School for letting me come see first-hand the incredible work you are doing here."

"Halving violence against women and girls is a huge challenge, but meeting the confident, intelligent young people at your school, and their inspirational teachers, I am confident we can achieve this."

FAREWELLS AND RETIREMENT

As this term comes to a close, we say goodbye to several valued members of our school community who will be moving on to new opportunities, as well as to those who are retiring after many years of dedicated service. Each of these individuals has made a meaningful contribution to the life of our school supporting students, colleagues, and families with commitment, care, and professionalism.

To those who are leaving, we thank you for the time, energy and passion you have shared with us and we wish you every success in the next chapter of your journey.

To our retirees, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the legacy you leave behind and for the many lives you have touched along the way. We wish you happiness, good health and enjoyment in this well-earned new phase of life.

You will all be greatly missed and warmly remembered.

Mrs Harrison & Mrs Wainwright



Mrs Nicolson-Jones
Woolwich Teacher



Mrs Rogers
Woolwich Cover Supervisor
(previously an LSA)



Ms Morgan
Christ Church LSA

Ms Layne
Christ Church
Administrator



Ms Thomas
Peninsula Secondary Art Technician
(previously an LSA at Woolwich)



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day

St Mary Magdalene Woolwich proudly took part in Christmas Jumper Day, with pupils and staff wearing their festive knits to spread seasonal cheer.

The day was filled with colour, joy, and generosity as our school community came together to raise funds for the important cause Save the Children. We even enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner and celebrated with great Christmas music from Miss Thomas, making the day extra special for everyone.



Miss Trainor



Christmas Lunch Day was a festive and fun occasion at Christ Church. Pupils enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch together with festive decorations and laughter. Everyone wore their Christmas Jumpers to get into the spirit of the season.



Ms Reid



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Christ Church Panto

Church Christ enjoyed a wonderful rendition of Beauty and the Beast by Mance Productions on Thursday 11th December.

We laughed, cheered, sang and danced. It was a memorable performance!

Ms Ewusi-Akins



Christ Church Reception Show

Thank you so much for coming to watch us in the Christ Church Reception Christmas show yesterday. We absolutely loved singing for you and sharing all our hard work. We were very tired by the afternoon performance — it's hard being little superstars! 

Thank you for supporting us and for providing our wonderful costumes. A special shoutout to Aiden's sister and mum for creating 28 beautiful wings for our performance. We really appreciate their time and creativity.

Miss Baptise



Reception & KS1 Nativity - Pen

This term, Reception and KS1 at Peninsula joined together to performed their Christmas Nativity ' Simply the Nativity' to the whole school and to their parents and carers.

We would like to thank everyone one who helped us to learn our lines, buy or make our costumes and come and see us perform.

Some of us were a little nervous and very tired by the end of the day but we all enjoyed it very much.

Ms Nutton



Patience – It was fun and my favourite part was singing.
Tiresimi – I liked the part when people followed the star with me.
Amelia – I liked the angels and being a donkey.
Gabriella – I liked the children being teachers at the beginning.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Monet Christmas Celebrations

With Christmas approaching, the Woolwich Nursery children have enjoyed making cards, angel calendars, angel decorations, yummy cupcakes, and gingerbread biscuits shaped like stars, snowmen, stockings, and reindeer. They made some excellent Christingles for the service at school and a wonderful performance about the birth of Jesus by singing familiar nursery rhymes and songs such as Twinkle, twinkle little star.

What a wonderful term as your children continue to grow independently and confidently in everything they learn and do in Nursery. You should all be so proud of your children. We hope you treasure the gifts your children have made.

Merry Christmas and A Very Happy New Year!

Mrs Turner



Christ Church Christingle

Christ Church enjoyed a lovely Christingle Service celebrating the message of hope light and love. The school community came together and through prayer, song and the lighting of Christingles we reflected on the true meaning of Christmas.

Pupils from Saint Mary Magdalene secondary school Choir joined us for the service and performed some Christmas Carols as part of the service.

Ms Reid



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Woolwich Panto

The children had a wonderful time watching the Christmas pantomime of Beauty and the Beast.

From the moment it began, they were completely captivated by the colourful costumes, lively music and familiar characters.

There was lots of laughter, excitement and joining in as the story unfolded. The performance was very engaging and kept the children's attention throughout, making it a truly magical and memorable Christmas experience for everyone!

Mrs Bdeir



Christ Church Carol's by Candlelight

Christ Church's Carols by Candlelight concert was a magical evening. Our KS2 pupils sang beautifully, filling the hall with festive joy. Parents and carers left with smiling faces.

It was a wonderful way to bring our school community together.

Ms Reid



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Makeba Christmas Celebrations

Woolwich Reception children have been fully immersed in the festive spirit, taking part in a variety of exciting events to celebrate Christmas. The highlight of the season was definitely the Christmas performance, where the children sang and performed confidently on stage, filling the audience's hearts with joy and pride. Everyone was incredibly impressed by how many songs the children had learned, how clearly they sang, and how well they remembered all of their actions and moves.

The children also enjoyed a meaningful session making Christingles, where they learned about their significance before taking part in the whole-school Christingle service.

In Makeba class, the children looked absolutely gorgeous in their Christmas jumpers on Friday. They thoroughly enjoyed their special school Christmas dinner and joyfully pulled crackers together, making it a memorable and festive occasion.

Our dance sessions have also embraced the Christmas theme this week, with the children singing Christmas songs, playing fun games, and moving enthusiastically to festive music.

To finish off our celebrations, the children are busy decorating their Christmas cards and writing special messages to give to their parents, wishing them a very "Happy Christmas".

It has been a wonderful time filled with learning, laughter, and festive joy! 

Mrs Bdeir



PRIMARY FEDERATION

Year 4 School Journey

At the start of November, the Year 4 children across the Federation went to PGL in Swindon. It was a fantastic week filled with excitement, teamwork, and new challenges.

The children took part in a range of activities, including rock climbing, the giant swing, and archery, each offering them the chance to step outside their comfort zones and try something new. Throughout the week, they developed important skills such as resilience, communication, confidence, and problem-solving.

They learned how to encourage one another, work together to overcome obstacles, and celebrate their achievements. It was a memorable experience that helped them grow both personally and as a group.



Mr Hodgson



Children who didn't attend the trip

Year 4 children at Woolwich had a fantastic time during PGL with Miss Cleanthous. They baked and decorated cookies and cupcakes; created and painted clay sculptures; designed Christmas tags; painted on ceramic tiles and had lots of fun playing games both indoors and outdoors such as using the climbing frame and playing Jenga!

Miss Cleanthous



PRIMARY FEDERATION

Year 6 School Journey

This month, the Year 6 children across the campuses, had an unforgettable week away at Norfolk Lakes Adventure Park. We had a great group of pupils who mostly got stuck in the activities, helped each other out, and even got some sleep along the way!

Taking on a fantastic range of fun activities and challenging themselves every day. From water-based fun on the giant stand-up paddleboard to canoeing and kayaking, the children showed brilliant teamwork. They tackled axe throwing, rock climbing, caving, as well as a variety of outdoor challenges including the very popular (and muddy!) obstacle course. We were very lucky with the weather and had lots of glorious sunshine.

It was a week full of laughter and new experiences, and we're so proud of the confidence and positive attitude they demonstrated throughout.

Well done Year 6!

Miss Jewell

Many thanks to the adults who came with me and made it such a successful week: Miss Augustus, Mr Bejarano, Miss Jewel, Mr Main, Mr Southcott, Miss Yasin and Miss Walsh.

We're all looking forward to next year's trip!

Mr Smith



PRIMARY FEDERATION

Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week

Odd Socks Day was a way to launch Anti-Bullying Week across the primary campuses. It was an opportunity for children and staff to celebrate what makes each of us unique. Children came to school wearing their mismatched socks. Throughout Anti-Bullying Week, pupils took part in activities exploring what bullying is and how to recognise it, how to use our "Power for Good" to support others and the importance of kindness, empathy and respect.

We celebrated individuality by designing and decorating our own odd socks! Through our discussions, we learned how our differences make us special and how we can all play a part in creating a kind and caring community.

"We must show kindness to each other" - Julia, year 1

"It is good to be kind" – Neto, year 1

"We must treat others how we want to be treated" – Alex T, year 6

PSHE Team



PRIMARY - Woolwich

It takes a village to raise a child

For our last session of this year 'It takes a village to raise a Child' coffee morning, we invited the children to join their parents in a Christmas Art & Craft session with Rev Dom and Miss Thomas.

Both children and parents really enjoyed themselves, creating and spending time together. It was even one of the children's birthdays that day and their dad came.

We hope to do more sessions where the children can join their parents.

Ms Thomas

Neriah: I enjoyed making the crafts with my dad on my birthday.

Alieu: It was awesome! I loved spending time with my mum.

Bintou: Loved doing the crafts.

Praise O: It was the best thing I did with my mum



Tag Rugby

For the Autumn 2, the children have had a specialist PE coach to teach the children how to play tag rugby. They have been taught the acronym: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. Every week, the children learn different skills to support them playing a game.

Miss Smith



Carbon Monoxide Workshop

Year 3 enjoyed taking part in a carbon monoxide safety workshop. The children learned about the dangers of carbon monoxide and why it is important to have working alarms at home. They acted out different real-life scenarios to show how to stay safe and identify warning signs. The class also explored practical ways to prevent carbon monoxide leaks and discussed what to do in an emergency.

Miss Smith



PRIMARY - Woolwich

Winter and Celebrations

This term, Monet Nursery have been learning about different celebrations such as Bonfire Night, birthdays, weddings, and Christmas. The children loved making firework art and playdough birthday cupcakes. As winter arrived, they created snowmen collages, explored an icy winter wonderland, and made handprint angel pictures for their 2026 calendars. They have also been busy counting, recognising and matching numbers 1–10 with the Number block gang and practising the letter sounds a and s.

Ann came to visit us in Nursery to teach the children about crossing the road safely. The children learnt a super song called 'Stop, Look and Listen before crossing the road.'

Monet Nursery class are now sitting beautifully during whole class learning time and have learnt the golden rules of the classroom well now.

Mrs Tuner



Christmas Message

Rev Dom came to teach year 3 what the most important message of Christmas is. They discussed what words come to mind when discussing Christmas and how we should be at Christmas time.

Miss Smith

I enjoyed the word game because we got to think about the amazing things at Christmas.- Nuna

I liked the short video because the man was giving money to people, showing love and respect to people in need.- Ava-rose



PRIMARY - Woolwich

Maths Challenge

In November, Year 6 pupils across the Federation took part in the Primary Maths Challenge. This is an annual event which attracts the top mathematicians from around the UK. Amongst the Koinonians taking part, Aaron and Else claimed gold certificates, and pictured are the Woolwich competitors, including Angel, who came top with 80%.

We wait to hear if any of our pupils have qualified for the national finals.

Mr Smith



Charlton House

Year 1 classes across the campuses had a fantastic trip to Charlton House, where they learned all about old toys and what it felt like to be a Victorian child. The children even had the chance to dress up in Victorian clothes and make their own doll using a wooden peg.

Children took part in guided activities, completed a tour of the historic building and explored the historic rooms and deepened their understanding of how people lived in the past. They also enjoyed playing with old fashioned toys, making the day both fun and full of exciting learning.

Ms Trainor & Ms Okungbowa



Festive Puppet Show at Woolwich Library

Reception Makeba had a fantastic time on their school trip to Woolwich library! They walked sensibly and safely, showing excellent behaviour throughout the journey.

Once there, they were fully engaged as they watched a festive puppet show, enjoying the story and characters. The children loved joining in by singing and dancing along to the Christmas songs, creating a joyful and lively atmosphere!

Mrs Bdeir



PRIMARY – Peninsula

Young Engineers Club

The Young Engineers Club has made a fantastic start with two engaging sessions focused on hands-on learning, application of knowledge and teamwork.

In the first lesson, students built a manual car, helping them become familiar with their classmates, the engineering kits, and basic mechanical components. They learned the names and measurements of technic bricks and axles, explored speed-increasing and speed-decreasing transmissions, and practised calculating transmission ratios. Students were especially excited to see how a gear-shifting system affects a car's speed, and they enjoyed testing and playing with their finished models.

During the second lesson, students built a Spinning Top Bouncer, developing their understanding of speed-increasing transmissions. They learned that gears on a mutual axle make the same number of rotations, regardless of their size, and were introduced to a double speed-increasing transmission. Students successfully calculated a transmission ratio of 1:25 and enjoyed experimenting with and upgrading their spinning tops.

Both lessons were highly interactive, with students showing great enthusiasm and curiosity. We look forward to seeing how they grapple with making conveyor belts, and watching their skills and confidence continue to grow in the weeks ahead.

We have some spaces for new members in our Tuesday club for Y4-6, and are starting a club for the younger children in January. Hopefully more of you can join us!

Miss Trainor

'It was really fun!'

'I hadn't understood how gears work before, but now I understand why they are so important!'



PRIMARY – Peninsula

Travel for Life Ambassadors

Our Travel for Life Ambassadors were invited to the Annual Convention at Club 1905, where they proudly represented our school. They learnt about new initiatives, including Scoot Fit, and exchanged ideas with ambassadors from other schools.

A highlight of the day was meeting the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Councillor Linda Bird, who spoke with our pupils about their roles. The whole day was packed with fun, hands-on workshops and unforgettable experiences!



Miss Ribera-Hurtado and Ms Williams



Carbon Monoxide Workshop

Year 3 participated in a carbon monoxide workshop to learn about safety with gas and fire in the house. They learnt about who to call and what to do with fire and gas.

Miss Wade

Student voice

'I enjoyed learning about what to do to stop carbon monoxide' – Charlotte

'We played different games to help us learn about CO safety' – Michael



What is the Nativity?

Stephen's class enjoyed a visit from our school chaplain, Rev Dom, to explore "What is the Nativity?" The children looked at pictures, watched a video, and noticed details like the colours Mary wears.

They also explored Nativity images from around the world, spotting that the star and the light around Jesus appear in every picture. Rev. Dom then asked the children to draw their own Nativity scene, highlighting who they felt was the most important and how they could show this.

Ms Hellver



PRIMARY – Peninsula

Charlton House

Wednesday 3rd December Stephen's class went to Charlton House. The children got the opportunity to visit Charlton House to learn about toys through time as part of their History learning.

It was a fantastic experience to look at and hold different toys. They also got a tour of the house and made their own toy from a wooden peg.

Ms Hellyer



Crossness Pumping Station

Our trip to Crossness Pumping Station was an exciting journey back to Victorian London! The Year 5 children explored this amazing historic site to discover how the Victorians transformed the city's sewage system and helped make London a cleaner, safer place to live. They handled real Victorian artefacts, learned about life in the 1800s, and saw how engineer Joseph Bazalgette's clever designs changed the way waste was managed. It was a hands-on, fascinating experience that brought history to life and helped everyone understand just how important Victorian inventions still are today.

A highlight of the day was riding the Victorian steam train—and even getting to honk the horn! It was a hands-on, unforgettable experience that brought history to life and left everyone inspired by Victorian innovation.

Ms Giles and Miss Byran



PRIMARY – Peninsula

Stone Age Day

This term, the Year 3 children have been learning about the stone age and had an immersive day to consolidate all of our learning so far.

During the day, the children moved around different stone aged themes stations. They used florist foams to create tools and weapons from the time, such as axes and spears. Next they pretended to be in the dark caves of the time and used chalk and charcoal to create cave drawings. They created stone age music using drums and created dances inspired by cave art that tell stories. Finally, they used clay and beads to design their own jewellery.

Miss Blades

Student voice

“ I learned that people in the stone age had drums too, but they were made from wood and animal skins’ – Roop.

“ I learned that they danced to celebrate after they hunted’ – Renee

“ I liked that we used our imaginations to pretend we were stone age people and made tools out of materials we had’ - Josef



Sorry No Sorry Workshop

Our Year 6 students took part in an engaging drama workshop where professional actors performed a scene that involved a conflict. The children were encouraged to think carefully about the characters' choices and discuss safer, kinder alternatives—such as asking politely, changing their tone, or taking a moment to breathe. After sharing their ideas, the actors replayed the scene using the students' suggestions. It was a valuable opportunity for the children to explore positive communication and problem-solving in a creative, supportive environment.

Miss Jewell

Enzo: It was very good and I now feel a lot safer after what I saw.

Praise: It was very interesting and adventurous, and I like that they got us involved in the production.

Vitor: I learnt more about the outside world like how dangerous it can be. It was fun I give it 5 stars, 10/10.

Excel: I learnt a valuable lesson on how the world can be difficult for others, but I will always remember to keep my manners and talk kindly even when others can't so that situations don't escalate.



PRIMARY – Christ Church

Crossness Pumping Station

Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Crossness Pumping Station as part of our topic on the Victorians. We immersed ourselves in the beauty and splendour of this historic building. It's hard to believe that it was once used to dispose of human waste!

Ms Ewusi-Aikins



Sorry Not Sorry Workshop

The Year 5 and 6 pupils were invited to attend a workshop at St Mary Magdalene school Peninsula. The workshop was performed in the round and allowed the children to interact with and sit next to the actors/characters.

The focus of the workshop was to highlight the need for children to control their emotions and choose to not put themselves into dangerous situations through their own actions and reactions. It touched on home issues and knife crime without bringing too much attention to it.

The children really focused on the acting and were able to contribute in a positive manner, while offering advice to the characters and suggesting things they could have done better. Even responding to direct pushback from the actors and their characters.

They also were impressed by the stage fighting, asking on the way back "how did they make that look so real?"

Peter Southcott



PRIMARY – Christ Church

Early Bird Reading – Every Friday!

Early Bird Reading takes place every Friday from 8:40–8:55am in Reception. Parents, carers, and grandparents are warmly invited to come in and share a book with your child or even a small group before celebration collective worship. 

We would love to see as many of you as possible each week.

Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Here are a few lovely comments from parents who attended:

- “Thank you for inviting us to join you, it was such a privilege.” 
- “Gar Gar (Grandad) was so impressed with Lockie’s reading and the whole class.”

Miss Baptise



The Story of Christmas

Our Year 2 class went on a sensory journey round the church to hear the story of Christmas. When they arrived at the church they were immersed in the story of Christmas, meeting Mary in her kitchen, the Angel Gabriel, the wise men and even the animals in the stable!

“I loved the bit when we saw Jesus and the talking animals in the stable.” – Ava Y2

I liked when we saw Mary in her kitchen and she gave us bread to eat.” – Leshay Y2

Ms Akin



PRIMARY – Christ Church

Talk Money

Year 5 learnt about the meaning of various terms such as investment, USP and profit. We played games that involved investing in an imaginary business and making decisions that will increase profit and what would be considered a risk. The children got a thrill out of handling large amounts of cash even though they were just specimens!

Hakeem: I like the money workshop because it taught us how to start a business and how to spend your money in different types of ways and I learn new things

Amelie: I like how in the workshop it would teach you about different ways you can earn money and not to spend it on anything you see on the Internet.

Amina: I learn what risks mean in investments for example a risk could be you use setting up business but if it is at the wrong time it could fail and you could lose money.

Ms Okungbowa



Charlton Athletic Trip

Year 5 spent a fantastic morning on the 8th of December touring the Charlton Athletic grounds.

They learnt why the grounds are referred to as "The Valley" and why the fans are called the "Addicks." We walked through the tunnel, sat in the dugout, and even tried the most expensive seats! It was wonderful learning about this local history that is right on our doorstep!

Ms Ewusi-Aikins



SECONDARY

Prime Minister Visit

We were honoured to welcome the Prime Minister to our school, alongside Jess Phillips MP, Minister for Safeguarding, award-winning actress Olivia Colman, Georgia Harrison MBE and Susie McDonald, CEO of Tender.

The visit focused on observing a Tender session with our Year 7 students, exploring the important topic of healthy relationships. The session also included contributions from members of our Sixth Form, who spoke confidently and thoughtfully with both Jess Phillips and the Prime Minister about their experiences and learning.

Our school was chosen for this visit in recognition of the value we place on this work and our sustained commitment to it over the past four years. This long-term partnership and focus have led to our school being recognised as a leading school in this area.

The visit was a huge success, and both students and staff were energised and inspired by the opportunity to have national leaders and partners see our young people in action. We are incredibly proud of our students and staff, whose dedication to creating safe spaces for complex and meaningful discussions plays a vital role in educating young people and helping to challenge misogyny and end violence against women and girls.

Mr Gayle



SECONDARY

Worship Night

Our secondary choir recently participated in the SING OUT Worship Night at Christchurch, Greenwich, raising money for a local homeless shelter and for Jamaica following the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa. They were a true blessing.

The students sang beautifully and led the congregation in worship with confidence, sharing some of their favourite worship songs. Many attendees commented on how inspiring it was to see our students lead so prayerfully. They continue to lead with a heart for worship, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Mr McInnis



Supporting Jamaica After Hurricane Melissa

Miss Douglas recently led a thoughtful and compassionate initiative to support families in Jamaica affected by Hurricane Melissa. Staff from across the school contributed generously, donating essential items to assist those impacted by the disaster.

All collected items were shipped safely to Jamaica through the Jamaica National Bank, ensuring the supplies reached communities in need as quickly as possible.

We are incredibly proud of our staff for coming together in the spirit of kindness and global citizenship. Thank you to everyone who helped make this effort possible.

Miss Douglas

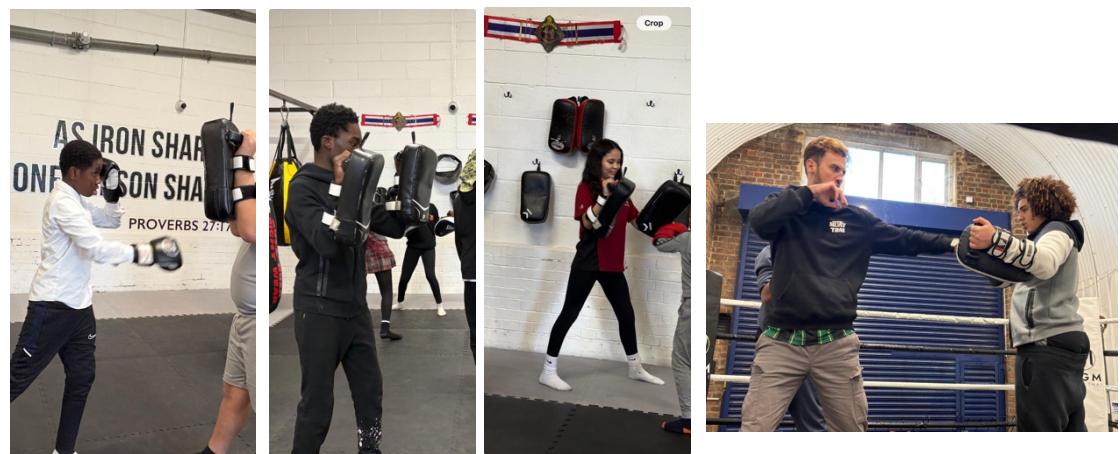


SECONDARY

Muay Thai

Each week a group of students have been attending a Deptford gym to take part in Muay Thai lessons. They have been learning things like discipline and self-control.

Mrs Wainwright



SMM First Talent Show

The night was organised to showcase the amazing skills and talent our students have, from Year 7 to Sixth Form.

I wanted to shine the light on experienced performers as well as the most unexpected students – giving them a platform to build their confidence and the courage to display it.

For the last 2 months we have been working towards this night and alongside me, I had the help of some amazing Sixth Form students, Ms Aberese and Ms Steel.

This is an idea I wanted to see come to fruition for a while and I'm glad it was able to happen. I also want to say we are very proud of the performers who have been working hard in rehearsals for the past few weeks. I hope this night inspired other students.

Thank you for all of the staff, students and parents who came to support.

Miss Da Costa



SECONDARY

Building Bridges Across Generations: Solidarity in Action

This term, students in Year 7, Year 10, and Year 11 French classes took part in a meaningful intergenerational project as part of their French learning. Together, they wrote 120 Christmas cards to residents of EHPAD Les Landiers, a care home in Bron, near Lyon, France.

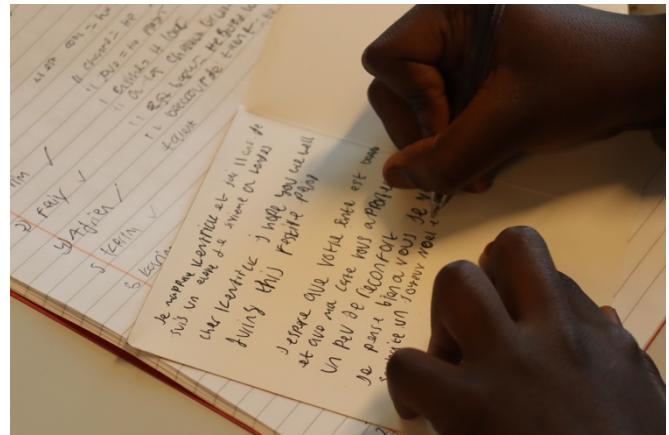
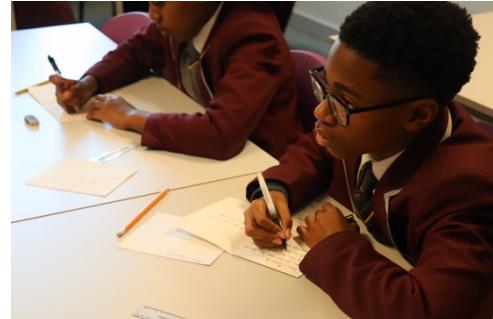
Through this project, students were encouraged not only to practise their written French, but also to reflect on loneliness during the festive period, particularly among elderly people. Each card carried a warm, personal message, sharing festive traditions, kind thoughts and a sense of connection across borders, languages and generations.

At the heart of this initiative was the idea of intergenerational solidarity: recognising that while generations may be separated by age, geography or experience, they can still support, learn from and care for one another. For many residents, receiving a handwritten card represents more than a seasonal greeting; it is a reminder that they are seen, remembered and valued.

By engaging in this project, students learned that small gestures can have a powerful impact. Writing a card became an act of empathy, respect and human connection; values that sit at the very heart of our school community.

We are incredibly proud of the care, thoughtfulness and maturity shown by our students, and grateful to the staff and residents of EHPAD Les Landiers for welcoming this exchange. This project reminded us all that education is not only about knowledge, but about nurturing compassionate, socially responsible young people who understand the importance of connection; especially at times when it matters most.

The French Department

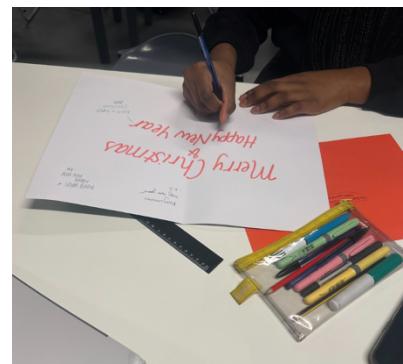


SIXTH FORM

Care Home Visit

A group of 15 Year 12 Health and Social Care students recently attended a school trip to Puddingstone Grange Care Home this week. Throughout the visit, students enthusiastically engaged with residents by talking, playing games, and creating festive Christmas cards for the residents. They also gained an insight into career pathways within this sector. The experience was both rewarding and enjoyable for the students and residents!

Miss Okorie



Careers

Year 11 students have been attending their one-to-one careers guidance meetings this term. These meetings provide essential support in planning their next steps after GCSEs. Applications to sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships are now underway and all students should ensure they have applied for both a first option and a back-up option following their mock results.

Year 13 students have been working on UCAS and Degree Apprenticeship applications. A number of students have already received excellent offers from institutions including Sheffield, Warwick, York and Manchester. In addition, some Year 13 students attended a careers fair at Tottenham Stadium, where they had the opportunity to speak directly with employers currently recruiting. This experience offered valuable insight into employer expectations and how best to prepare for work after sixth form.

A group of high-achieving Year 12 students took part in the 'Elephant Access' programme at Senate House. This initiative supports students aiming for competitive university pathways by helping them prepare throughout Year 12 for applications in Year 13. The day provided detailed information about the application process to top universities.

At the other end of the school, Year 7 students have been invited to complete the Future Skills Questionnaire. This allows us to understand the skills and attitudes students bring with them as they start secondary school, helping us to shape careers education to meet their needs. Year 7 will also be exploring careers further in upcoming PSHE sessions linked to the questionnaire.

Mrs Awaleh-Chaces

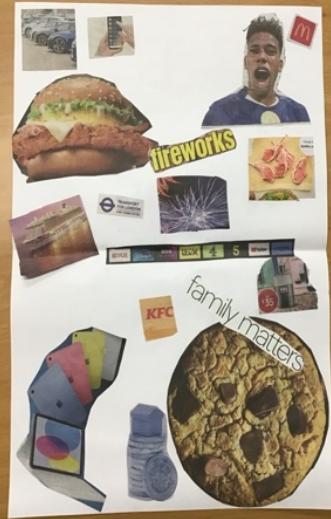


HOPE CENTRE

This term saw the opening of The Hope Centre, and students have made a promising start. We have carried out some 'getting to know you' tasks with our new students, encouraging them to be reflective and creative.

One of our student's shows some of their favourite things in a collage and another student created a mind map before starting their collage – great planning skills!

Miss Taylor



Supporting Ms Wilcox earlier this term, our Year 11 students waved off the collections of shoeboxes for those in need, contributing to our Koinonia ethos of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us.

I am very proud of some of the mature reflections and conversations around this theme.

Miss Taylor