

Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation



Newsletter

Message from the Federation Executive Co-Headteachers

The first half term of 2024 has been packed with opportunities that enrich our curriculum offer and support our curriculum vision "to ignite pupils' curiosity and encourage them to confidently explore and understand the world around them". It is always a pleasure to hear how our primary and secondary phases are working together to offer a broad variety of learning experiences.

Our cultural day across all campuses was a huge success and we enjoyed watching the wide range of activities that took place celebrating our rich and diverse community. We particularly enjoyed the performances at the secondary cultural evening and the delicious food that was on offer. As the end of this half term draws to a close, we wish all our families and staff members a happy half term.

Mrs Harrison & Mrs Wainwright



Message from the Federation Chaplain Rev Hubbuck

This term we have been thinking about Motivation and our Memory verse has been
'Be bold, be strong for the Lord your God is with you.'

Lord God, who motivated his friends to spread His message of love,
Give us the drive to remind people of your love for each of us.

Help us to be bold and courageous to shine the light of our faith in all that we do.
We pray that God will bless us with the strength to live our lives with kindness and compassion.

In God's name we pray
Amen

CULTURE DAY – Friday 2nd February

PRIMARY

On Friday 2nd February we celebrated Culture day throughout the entire Federation.



In the primary phases each class was assigned a country and had to learn stories and traditions about their particular country. The children wore colourful clothes, as well as traditional clothing. It was a fun afternoon full of activities such as food tasting, weaving and cultural dances, with some classes even receiving special visits from parents. It was a fantastic event that taught the children the importance of diversity and cultural appreciation. Thank you Miss Shah for organising the event across the primary Federation.

Some of the activities included:

Siderman Class

Our country was China. We read the Chinese folktale The Magic Paintbrush then responded creatively to the story in our chosen media – playdough and paint. Lots of us painted the wave that Ma Liang, the boy in the story painted. Lots of us made food out of playdough because Ma Liang painted food for the farmers.

As Ma Liang also loved drawing, some of us enjoyed drawing our own pictures.



Bellamy Class

In Bellamy Class, we celebrated Italian culture by making pici pasta. We enjoyed it with some tomato sauce and mozzarella! Bellissimo!

Perry Class

Year 3 Perry Class in Woolwich were very excited to learn about The First Thanksgiving during their culture day with their chosen country, the United States of America.

They made felt turkeys and learned all about the Pilgrims voyage on the Mayflower and the Native Americans who helped them.



CULTURAL EVENING – Friday 2nd January

SECONDARY

As part of our work to promote and celebrate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at St Mary Magdalene Secondary School, we held and celebrated our first KS3 Cultural day. Students from years 7 and 8 were invited to come to school in their cultural clothing to celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community and to watch performances put on by their peers in years 7-9 for all to enjoy.

These performers were amazing, brave, and dedicated as it took a considerable amount of time outside of school to practice their performances. The bravery they showed performing in front of their peers was commendable. On the evening, we were privileged to see a sample of the talents our students have as their performances included cultural dances, talking drums and songs performed in a variety of languages.

Another key part of the celebration was the food that was available from different cultures. This had been kindly donated from staff and parents and our canteen staff and really enriched the evening as students and staff were able to sample dishes from all around the world, ranging from Filipino dishes to dishes from Algeria and beyond.

Parents were also invited along to the event, allowing them an opportunity to see a different side to what we offer here at St Mary Magdalene and how we value and nurture the cultural diversity that makes our school so special. This is important as it is an opportunity to engage with our school community and come together with the aim of cultural celebration.

Overall, the event was a great success thanks to the hard work and dedication of our students and staff. We look forward to doing it all again with our KS4 students in the summer term.



PRIMARY

Evolving Over Time Topic

This term, in Year 6 science, we have been covering the topic 'Evolving Over Time'. We have been covering many specific subjects within the topic such as the human evolution and knowledge passed on about the anatomy. In this field, we have been discovering more about the mammal eye, dissecting and naming various parts within the eye such as; the muscle, sclera, cornea, pupil, lens, retina, optic nerve and the vitreous humour. Not only have we been using secondary resources [learning from information provided within classroom], but we have also completed a scientific experiment; dissecting a sheep's eye within a lab.

During this trip, we used many scientific resources such as a lab-coat, safety goggles and so on. At the end of this scientific discovery, we had discovered many features within the eye and used one of our scientific enquiry terms; using primary and secondary sources.

Mr Smith



Lent Call 2024

The Lent Call 2024 theme will be Watch and Pray. Watch and Pray challenges us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning." The Charities the Church of England will support will focus on helping to fund conservation grants, support projects that deal with the major issues churches face, and help strengthen the skills and resources of parish volunteers.

To support the Lent Call the Pupil Faith Team across each campus will hold a cake sale and ask each parent to get their child to bake a cake for this important event. The Cake Sale will happen in Spring 2 and a date will be sent out and posters will be put up around each campus to advertise the event.

All proceeds will go towards the Bishops Lent Call to be held at Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday 30th April 2024.

Mrs Kristensen

Secondary Choir



As part of our desire for our secondary students to be seen and serve the primary phases, Miss Shah arranged for the secondary students to visit our primary campuses. They led worship and shared their talents with the primary pupils.

At the end of January, Mr McInnis accompanied the secondary choir to our Woolwich campus

sharing a few songs, a word of scripture and a reflection, they sang beautifully about the joy of Jesus' promises and the wonder of God being in our lives.

It was such a success; we are planning for future visits in the coming months.

Mrs Gibbs & Rev Dom

PRIMARY

Empowering Mental Health Champions in our schools!



Exciting news from our commitment to children's well-being! Some of our Year 3, 4, and 5 students across the federation, recently became Mental Health Champions, thanks to our collaboration with One Goal.

This training equips our young champions with tools to create a healthier, happier, and more inspired school. Sessions emphasised the link between mental health and our internal state, shaping thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Crucially, children were encouraged to openly communicate with trusted adults if feeling sad or worried. This promotes a safe space for well-being.

Our budding Mental Health Champions can't wait to share strategies learned. This is a fantastic testament to their enthusiasm and commitment to making a positive impact on the well-being of their peers.

Mrs Amao and Mrs Okungbowa



TFL Travel Gold Accreditation

Christ Church and St Mary Magdalene Schools received a gold accreditation in recognition of achievement in the TFL travel for life programme, supporting the next generation of Londoners to travel towards a brighter, safer and more sustainable future.

Thanks goes to Miss Stock (CC) and Miss Augustus (SMM) for their work previously to achieve this award.

Mr Southcott



SECONDARY



As part of the enrichment programme in the Library, students had an exciting opportunity to represent SMM among other schools in the Royal Borough of Greenwich Literature Quiz 2024, hosted by Royal Greenwich Trust School.

The event was an opportunity for students to show off their literature knowledge, enjoy the teamwork and group activities while competing between schools.

Students also had a chance to meet Young Adult author Gita Ralleigh and were able to buy a signed copy of her book 'The Destiny of Minou Moonshine'. Gita also signed a copy of the book for our school Library. Well done to Grace, Shien, Abida and Psalm who competed so well!

The event was fun and very informative it boosted students' love for reading and literature.

Mrs Topcu



Reflection Week



For reflection week our sixth formers were visited by David Wirth, who told his parents' stories from the Holocaust as a way of honouring them and to demonstrate where prejudice, discrimination and unkindness can ultimately lead.

Ms Choudry

Co- Curriculum

Gearing up for the upcoming half term, we're excited to announce a diverse array of after-school clubs that cater to a variety of interests and talents. From the strategic moves of Chess Club to the creative flair of Pottery Club, and the rhythmic beats of Street Dance Club, there's something for everyone. New additions, such as Lumi (app design club), promise to engage young minds in the world of technology. Don't miss out on the fun at Board Game Club, Crochet Club, Drama Club, Basketball Club, and much more! Additionally, our school spirit will be on full display as we organise inter-house competitions each half term. Get ready for the upcoming Poetry by Heart, Cross Country and Easter Art competition. It's not just about winning; it's about participating, fostering teamwork, and showcasing individual talents.

Furthermore, each house passionately supports a designated charity and through events like Christmas Jumper Day and Easter Charity Cake Sale, we contribute towards making a positive impact in our community.

Let's make this half term a memorable and enriching experience for our students!

Ms Liagki

SECONDARY

Year 7 & 8 French Trip

On Tuesday the 23rd of January, 26 students from the year groups 7 and 8 French classes, were gathered at the start of the day at 8:30 am for the start of an exciting French day à la carte at the Institut Français in South Kensington, for a real French immersion.

Upon arrival, students enjoyed a special treat of freshly baked croissants before embarking upon a language workshop activity related to a celebrated French film. Activities varied from solving language quizzes to exploring and identifying key words and expressions of different film genres.

In the afternoon, at the Ciné Lumière, students enjoyed watching *Dilili à Paris*; an animated period adventure film written and directed by Michel Ocelot.

Dilili, our young hero, gets caught up in a mystery plot that will take her through the upper reaches and lower depths of Paris.

The film is full of references to the Belle Epoque, a chef-d'oeuvre of colour, humour, and political finesse, with a delicate touch of feminism.

Students thoroughly enjoyed watching the film and we ended the day with a warm clap from our well-behaved students.

We are very proud of our students who were great ambassadors to represent our school. The final leg of the journey back to the school was wet but spirits were not dampened. It was an enormous successful trip and every student gained a great deal from it.

The French Department



YR 11 Art Trip

On 5th February our GCSE Art students explored the theme of 'power' for their external assessment this year. They went on a field trip to multiple locations to investigate how architecture can hold symbolic meanings of power. The first part of the trip involved a guided tour of Greenwich with historian Rick Jones, where they learnt about the history and power of significant buildings such as The Queen's House. Next, they travelled by Uber Boat to Canary Wharf, London's financial district, to observe and draw buildings that represent a newer financial power in our history. The drawings and photographs taken on the day will later be used to develop their sketchbook in class as well as ideas for their final outcomes.

Ms Anderson



SECONDARY

Jack Petchey Workshops

This month, students in Year 8 visited the Guildhall Art Gallery as part of the Jack Petchey Culturally Speaking Programme. This involved a guided tour of the gallery and an exploration of the stories, themes and issues behind various pieces of art. This was followed by a workshop where students took part in an oracy workshop to develop their public speaking skills by an expert trainer. Students wrote fantastic speeches on the issues they explored on their visit to the Guildhall Art Gallery on topics including colonialism, identity and love.

Both events were highly enjoyable and all students represented our school excellently. They each received a certificate for this achievement.

Miss Asuquo

On January 18th, 60 Year 10 pupils took part in the Jack Petchey Workshop. This was an amazing opportunity for the students as they were able to work on key skills for public speaking. The students enjoyed their day as it also enabled them to speak about topics which they were extremely passionate about.

Towards the end of the work shop, students were selected to represent St Mary Magdalene for the regional competitions which will take place on 22nd February 2024. The students representing SMM for the regional competitions are: Eden Barrett and Ayomide Lawal.

Ms Jacobs



Jack Petchey Achievement Award

We want to announce a significant achievement within our school community—the recognition of our students through the Jack Petchey Achievement Award. This award holds special significance as it is a testament to the positive impact and dedication exhibited by our students. What makes this accomplishment even more remarkable is that, after thoughtful consideration, our students collectively decided to allocate the Jack Petchey Grant towards enhancing our school's musical program.

Through the spirit of collaboration and peer support, they chose to invest in new musical instruments, enriching the opportunities for creative expression and fostering a vibrant musical culture within our school. This decision exemplifies the values of teamwork, generosity, and a shared commitment to the arts.

Ms Mensah



SECONDARY – Music

Orminston Bushfield Academy (OBA)

Performance

"We went on a trip to OBA and it was a thrilling experience to see other student part of the choir and to hear our voices unite in 3 part harmonies it was a lovely experience to get to know and to have a fun filled day with another school they were so welcoming and made me feel like choir is not just a hobby but something to appreciate and enjoy. I'd give it a 8.5 out of 10". - Glorian 9LKM

"I quite enjoyed the choir trip to OBA, it was a fun experience and boosted our confidence" - Rachel Y9

"Really fun trip because I've had to work with people from their school choir but it was also interesting to see how other schools across the UK show their passion for music and performing acts". - Esther 9BWS

IFS Cloud Cable Car

'I think singing in public was one of my fears but when I was with the choir it was a joy filled experience to make the public feel the festivity, It was a one of a kind experience. I felt quite scared at first but they created an environment when it was safe and friendly and where it was ok to be proud of our efforts and work we put in. I felt happy once we were done 9/10'. - Glorian 9LKM

"My experience on the music trips were very exciting, they brought confidence to not only me but to everyone else". - Latara 9VNE



What music means to me?

Talk from Jermaine Amissah

Question: What Does Music Mean to you?

"Music is a way I express myself through beats and lyrics. I've learned that music is bigger than rap and the videos I see on YouTube it's bigger than a community also, music for me is a way to escape and for me it does just the job."

'I want to be a musician in the future so yes I would implement it in the future my love for music is a love I've never felt before, it's a passion for me". - Henry 11AHR

"I learnt to have perseverance always. Resilience is key! It's good to have positive attitudes always as it is beneficial in other aspects of life." - Charlie 11OSY



OUR SECONDARY CHOIR SINGING TO THE PUBLIC AT THE CABLE CAR

Secondary Choir

"The trip to the primary schools were very good. My favourite was Woolwich Campus because they engaged very well with our performance and I enjoyed performing to them" - Favour 9YHJ

'The primary schools were quite a joy to be in. It was an experience that was wholesome. We did call and response with them and they brought a lot of energy and they brought a smile to our faces. I would definitely do it again. I loved working with them and for them to see the things that I do and what they can experience in the near future. 7/10" - Glorian 9LKM



SECONDARY

Pokémon Club

One of our Year 7 students Adam L entered his first Pokémon Club tournament which took place in Liverpool Adam came 100th out of 2000.

I'm extremely proud of him as he's a valued member of the club. Adam has shown how much being in the club has helped him grow as a person and player of the Pokémon TCG.

Mr Conley



SIXTH FORM

Updates from our Sixth Form Students include:

Mental Health Workshop:

We had representatives from Oxleas Mental Health Service speak to 6th Form students about exam stress and personal wellbeing around the exam period.

Reflection Week:

This week our focus has been around Holocaust Memorial Day. (If you need more information on the above topics, SCY will be able to provide more on the reflection week)

UCAS update:

99% of students applied (along with 4 from last year's cohort) – we have had 335 offers from universities to date.

6th Form Applications:

Open and applications are currently being considered. Closing date is Feb 29th with interviews taking place in March.

Mr Shimirty

SPORTS UPDATES

Basketball

Our Y9 Boys Basketball Team have had their first three fixtures of the Spring Term.

SMM 13-12 Greenwich Free School

MVP: Josiah S

SMM 10-66 Hatcham (London Youth Games)

MVP: Jayden G

SMM 26-20 St Pauls Academy

MVP: Michael S



Football



Our Y10/11 Girls Football Team won a dramatic semi-final vs Crown Woods and are the FIRST SMM Football Team to reach a cup final!

They will now face Prendergast Hillyfields in the final – date TBC.

Crown Woods 3-4 SMM

Player of the Match: Sacha S

The Y11 Boys Football Team continue to compete in the 'group stage' of the North Kent Cup.

They now need two more victories to qualify into the 'knockout stage' of the competition.

Welling L-W SMM

Beths 2-0 SMM

Player of the Match: TJ O



Jiu-Jitsu Club

This week self-defence Jiu-Jitsu Club was back.

This club is for girls in Y8 who wish to learn self-defence whilst building confidence and socialising!



Boxing Club

Boxing Club is back and will be running every Tuesday.

Pupils need to sign up with Miss Hinds if they wish to attend.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kids eat free or for £1 during the February half

IKEA

Kids eat from 95p at IKEA. Your little ones can enjoy Kids Pasta with Tomato Sauce and a soft drink for 95p or any other

Morrisons

Kids can eat free at Morrisons. You can enjoy a free kids meal when you purchase any adult meal at £4.50 or more. Kids get one free meal, including fruit and a drink. Offer valid for children under 16 and excludes Café specials.

Sainsbury's Café

Kids eat for just £1 at Sainsbury's Cafe. Purchase an adult hot main meal from £5.20, and get a children's hot main meal or lunch bag for £1. This offer is valid daily from 11:30am until the cafe closes

Kids eat FREE at Tesco

Children can enjoy complimentary meals at Tesco. For each item purchased by an adult in The Café for dine-in (Monday to Friday only, excluding weekends), one free Kids Hot Meal Deal, Kids Breakfast, or Kids Pick 'n' Mix deal is available per child present. This exclusive offer, requiring a Clubcard/app, is valid from 12/02/2024 to 23/02/2024, subject to availability, and kids' meal options may vary in cafés.

Greene King Pubs

At Greene King pubs, enjoy a free kids' meal during this half term when you buy an adult meal. Their Kids Eat Free promotion offers family-friendly dining every weekday, Monday to Friday. Seize this great offer, valid from February 12th to February 23rd, 2024.

Bella Italia

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of every adult main from 4-6pm on Monday-Thursday!

Primary Campus Breakfast Club

- Everyday 7.30am – 8.40am
- £6.00 per session
- Book a block of 10 sessions and receive the 11th session free
- Not booked – pay £7.00 on the day

Please contact your campus office for more information

