

Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation



Newsletter

Message from the Federation Executive Co-Headteachers

As we come to the end of 2024 we have so much to celebrate across the Federation. It has been a joy to attend the very many nativity plays, Christmas carol services and Church services in each phase and campus.

We are extremely proud to be able to offer such a wide range of enrichment activities for our pupils across the age ranges and we hope you enjoy reading about them. We not only had local and national trips but also many abroad. This term some of our secondary students have been lucky enough to visit Paris or Berlin.

As this term draws to a close, yesterday we joined other staff from across the Federation to give thanks to both Mr Ermellino and Mr Siri who are retiring. Mr Siri has worked at Christ Church since 2008 and supported so many children over the years. His dedication to the children has shone through his work and he will be very much missed. We wish him well in the next chapter of his life in Sri Lanka. Mr Ermellino began his time with us at the Woolwich campus in 2011 and over many years of service with us, has taught primary and secondary as well as carrying out a number of leadership positions. He will definitely miss leading Christ Church as their Deputy Headteacher and we look forward to hearing about his adventures in retirement. We give thanks to both Mr Siri and Mr Ermellino for their years of service and dedication.

Finally we would like to say a big thank you to all our Federation families for the support you give us as a community. All the staff across our campuses have worked tirelessly this term (the longest of the year) and everyone is certainly ready for a break now! We appreciate all their hard work and commitment.

With best wishes and blessings for a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright



PRIMARY

Christmas Productions

Woolwich

Well done Monet Nursery, Makeba and Hawkins classes from the Woolwich Campus. All the children of the Early years performed and sang beautifully today using the music from 'The Nursery Rhyme Nativity.' They sang about the story of Jesus's birth and who went to see him. The children ended their concert by singing 'Jingle Bells' and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas.' Well done to every single child who at such a young age performed in front of the school, teachers, parents and carers.



Upper Key Stage 2 in our Woolwich campus set our final week of school for 2024 off to a wonderful start with their Carols by Candlelight. Parents and staff enjoyed a great range of Christmas songs, sung beautifully by Years 5 and 6. Each class performed well, one class even treated us to a little dance too.

Peninsula

On Wednesday 18th December, PEN celebrated the end of term, with a lovely Christmas Service, led by Rev Dom, who helped us focus upon the true meaning of Christmas.

The children sang enthusiastically, our new Christmas song 'Hear the Bells' by Nick and Becky Drake.

Stephens class helped to create a lovely tableau of the nativity scene.



The Pupil Faith Team did a wonderful job lighting the Advent candles of Joy, Peace, Hope and Love as well as reading the bible and leading us in prayer.

We really appreciated the support of the parents who were able to make the time to attend.



Christ Church

This year's Carols by Candlelight was a magical evening of carols, candles, twinkling lights and the re-telling of the nativity story. All the children in Key Stage 2 sang beautifully and the readers retold the story of the nativity with clear loud voices.

The parents and carers really enjoyed the carol service and all the staff were very proud of our pupils for an excellent performance. A huge thank you to the Key stage 2 team for their hard work.



PRIMARY

Disco

On the 28th of November and 10th of December, St. Mary Magdalene Peninsula Primary had its school disco. The children and staff were very excited about both the KS1 and KS2 disco. Both events were very well attended. The dances were filled with lots of games and competitions with deserving winners. There was even a long conga line (KS1 disco) and a mass candy dance (KS2 disco).

A massive thank you to all the staff who turned out to support our young children to make sure they all had fun. The feedback from the children was that they had a lot of fun and wished it could have gone on for longer.

Ms Minlah



Road Safety

Our Reception class at Christ Church were joined by Ann, Greenwich's School Crossing Patrol Coordinator. Ann taught us about the dangers of crossing the road and showed us how we can stay safe whilst using, and being around, transport.

It was lots of fun and has also prepared us really well for using the local roads safely.

Ms Battey

PRIMARY

The Painted Hall

Year 3 visited the Painted Hall in Greenwich to enhance our sketching skills and explore creative inspiration. During the visit we delved into the history of Greenwich sailors by dressing up in period costumes and learning about their stories. At the Painted Hall, we uncovered the symbolism behind the stunning images by investigating the images on its walls and ceiling. We also made our own paints by experimenting with items such as turmeric mixing it with either oil or water.

Ms Byran



Cinema Trip

Year 3 went on an exciting journey to the O2 for a special treat – a trip with IntoFilm Festival! As part of their extracurricular activities, the children got to watch the action-packed Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles!

Ms Byran

Garden of Hope

We are delighted that our Reception classroom at Christ Church has been transformed over the weekend, now showcasing 'The Garden of Hope'. The Garden of Hope is an art installation created by artists Mary Banker and Eliana Peracchio and is made of entirely recycled materials. The Reception class were lucky enough to be joined by Mary and her team this week to take part in an art workshop of their own!



Miss Lamont and Ms Battey

PRIMARY

Year 4 School Journey

Year 4 pupils from across the Federation embarked on an unforgettable school journey to PGL Swindon from 11th to 15th November.

The trip was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The children had the opportunity to participate in exciting activities such as rock climbing, abseiling, raft building, zip lining and more. Some challenges tested their bravery and courage, while others required problem-solving skills and teamwork.

We were incredibly proud to see the children stepping out of their comfort zones, with many trying new things for the first time and having a great time doing it!

Check out our photos to see all the fun and adventure we had!

Year 4 Team

Pupil voice (Palmer class):

Isaiah: "My favourite part of PGL was when we went on the scooters and we learnt new tricks. I also enjoyed sharing a room with my best friends"

Kaiden: "I really like the giant swing; it was very fast. I also enjoyed the food and desserts, especially the hash browns"

Mya: "At first, I felt a bit nervous but then I climbed to the top of the climbing wall"



PRIMARY

Year 6 School Journey

On the 2nd of December, Year 6 embarked on an exciting trip to Norfolk, where they took part in a wide range of adventurous activities, including air rifling, kayaking, rock climbing and cave exploring.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the children to step out of their comfort zones, challenge themselves and develop essential life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and resilience. Throughout the trip, the students formed lasting friendships with their peers from the other schools, working together to tackle each activity and support one another.

It was a truly memorable experience, full of fun and adventure, that allowed the children to create great memories and build strong connections while learning and growing together.

Year 6 pupils said:

Two weeks ago, myself and the other Year 6 students went on a school journey to Norfolk. I would personally rate the trip a 9.5 out of 10 because I enjoyed so many different activities, especially kayaking. It was also hilarious watching some of my friends fall into the freezing water! I really enjoyed sharing and staying with my friends, and I would definitely go again if I could. Israel A

On the 2nd of December, my friends and I went to Norfolk for five days. My personal favourite activity was axe throwing because I got the highest score. I also really enjoyed exploring the cave, especially because of the random ball pit, and we were even allowed to play Among Us. I especially enjoyed spending the nights talking and playing games with my friends. I can't wait for the next trip! Esther J



PRIMARY

Monet Class

Monet Nursery class have had a wonderful term celebrating Christmas and learning about Jesus's birth and why we celebrate Christmas. They looked at videos of children celebrating Christmas from around the world and performed in the EYFS nativity service. A huge achievement for such young children.

The children made angel 2025 calendars using their hands for their parents, Christmas tree cards using bottle tops to print with and they designed their own Christmas tree decorations out of coffee lids!

The children have also been learning about the season Winter and what we have to wear to keep warm.

Mrs Turner



The Sixth Form Deliver Care Home Christmas Cards

Children across the Federation have been very busy over the last couple of weeks making Christmas cards for the residents of Puddingstone Grange care home, in Plumstead. Our Primary students spent a lot of time designing some really creative cards which were then hand-delivered to the care home residents by a group of our Sixth Form students. The residents were delighted to receive their cards and we look forward to working with the care home more in the future.

We wish the residents at Puddingstone Grange a truly merry Christmas!

Miss Battey & Mr Ogunmefun

SECONDARY

Solidarity Christmas Cards

We are delighted to celebrate the relaunch of this year's "Solidarity Christmas Cards" project, which took place in the week beginning 2nd of December where our year 7, 9, 10 and 11 classes eagerly took part in a heartwarming inter-school charity project. Our fellow students were given the opportunity to write their greetings and well-wishes in French on decorated Christmas cards, which were then sent to elderly people in a retirement home in a town called Le Creusot, in eastern France.

This project is a true reflection of our shared values of solidarity, compassion, and commitment as we have fostered solidarity and connection among students and retirement home residents. It also allowed our students to use French in a real-life context as well as representing the school values of respect, kindness, and support. By creating and sharing greeting cards during this festive season, we reinforced connections across generations and spread love, respect and generosity.

In the last academic year, some of our students happily received some greeting cards back from a retirement home in Bordeaux, allowing a cross-generation and cross-national exchange. Such interactions built special bonds and showed how important it is to care for one another, regardless of age.

We are highly proud of our students' linguistic competence, creativity and crafting skills as the outcome was their improved confidence in their writing skills in French within a real-life context.

We truly hope we have brought joy and purpose to the elderly while teaching students empathy and respect. The initiative has strengthened our shared values and its success has sparked interest in replicating it every year, showcasing the transformative power of simple community efforts.

Mrs Hamdi & Mr Tarjot - French Department



SECONDARY

Artwoks Showcase

GMV Community Centre Grand Opening with SMM Art on display

Exciting announcement!! Secondary Art has partnered with the new community centre on the peninsula to exhibit some of our students' artworks. The artworks were showcased at the grand opening of the GMV Community Centre on Wednesday, November 20th.

Ms. Anderson, the Head of Art at SMM, met with Councillor Jit Ranabhat, Mayor of the Royal Greenwich Borough, to discuss the importance of schools engaging with broader community events. Displaying students' artwork in such spaces elevates the profile of Art in our community and serves as significant publicity for our school.

We are incredibly proud of our student's achievements for this opportunity to share their creativity with the community. We invite you to join us in celebrating the students' work by visiting the GMV Community Centre located at 2 Oswald Gardens, London, SE10 0SH (just 6 mins walk from SMM school).

Ms Anderson



Tate Modern

On Thursday, 21st November, our Sixth Form Art students visited the Tate Modern to explore the powerful and thought-provoking work of Zanele Muholi. Renowned for their striking black-and-white photography, Muholi's exhibition delves into themes of identity, LGBTQIA+ rights, and the celebration of Black queer and trans lives.

Students were captivated by the raw emotion and storytelling in the portraits, sparking insightful discussions about the intersection of art, activism and representation. The visit offered an inspiring opportunity to connect with contemporary art that challenges societal norms and celebrates individuality.

Ms Anderson



SECONDARY

A Magical Paris Adventure for Year 10 and 11 Students

Forty Year 10 and Year 11 students had the incredible opportunity to travel to Paris for a three-day residential trip during the penultimate week of the December term. Accompanied by Ms. Brady, Ms. Choudry, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Tarjot, the students explored the highlights of the famed French capital, beautifully adorned for the Christmas season.

The itinerary included visits to iconic landmarks such as Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur Basilica, the River Seine, the Tuileries Garden Christmas Market, the Champs-Élysées with its prestigious shops, the Arc de Triomphe and the Montparnasse Tower, offering a breathtaking panoramic view from 200 meters above the city. The students also ventured underground to the fascinating and historic Catacombs of Paris. Beyond the monuments, students relished the chance to stroll through Paris, taking in remarkable views of the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum and the newly reopened Notre-Dame Cathedral. Many enjoyed shopping at Christmas market stalls and Parisian boutiques, while others sampled freshly baked French pastries for the very first time—an unforgettable culinary highlight!

In addition to the cultural enrichment, the trip provided valuable opportunities for students to practice their French language skills by interacting with locals, adding a practical and immersive element to their learning. We are incredibly proud of what our students achieved and how they embraced this experience, embodying our school values of cultural awareness, openness and a curiosity for the world around them. Their enthusiasm for linguistic and cultural exploration was truly inspiring.

We look forward to organising another trip to France in the future, so even more students can experience the wonders of this remarkable country and its iconic cities.'

Mr Tarjot



SECONDARY

Maths Meets Art

On Friday, 15th Nov, Year 10 Art students embarked on an exciting trip to the Guildhall Art Gallery for "Maths Meet Art"—an event designed to explore the fascinating connections between creativity and mathematics.

Students discovered how geometry, symmetry, and patterns underpin many artistic masterpieces; by analysing works in the gallery's collection through a mathematical lens. Hands-on activities and guided discussions brought the synergy between these disciplines to life, offering a fresh perspective on how art and maths influence and enhance one another. It was an inspiring day that showcased the beauty of interdisciplinary learning!

Ms Anderson



SECONDARY

'Yule' Love What We've Been Up To!

This term has been snow joke – we've had an avalanche of exciting trips and activities, and our students have been shining brighter than a Christmas star! Here's a little wrap-up to keep you in the festive loop:

Ms Freeburn



Silk Roads: The Gift of Connection

Camel caravans dashing through the sand, silks and spices jingling all the way – the Silk Roads weren't just about trade but about sleighing barriers between continents! This visually stunning story of connectivity took us from Tang Chinese ceramics heading west to Indian garnets glittering in Suffolk. Students were intrigued by the tales of a balsam-smuggling Willibald (sounds like someone was on the naughty list) and a Chinese princess who 'unwrapped' the secrets of silk farming. The Silk Roads show that centuries before globalisation, humanity was already knotting ties across deserts, mountains, and seas. Truly, history is the gift that keeps on giving.



Year 7 at the British Museum

La Bohème: O Holy Night at the Opera

With its festive charm and a love story as tender as figgy pudding, La Bohème swept us into a world of first love, heartbreak, and friendship. Rodolfo and Mimì's bittersweet tale unfolded against a twinkling Christmas backdrop, offering the perfect mix of jingle and tearful mingle. Whether opera buffs or first-timers, students were enchanted by the music and moved by the story – proving that a night at the opera really is snow much fun.



Form groups 7HGH and 7MAE visited the Royal Opera House

SECONDARY SPORTS UPDATE

Girls Football

Girls Football Results and upcoming fixtures:
Y7 and Y8 Football - SMM 1-3 St Pauls Academy
– PoM: Scarlett M R
Y8 and Y9 Football – Halley Academy 5-1 SMM –
PoM: Scarlett M R
Thursday 5th December - Y7 and Y8 vs Trinity
Thursday 12th December - Y9 and Y10 vs Trinity
Tuesday 17th December - Y9 vs John Roan



Boys Football

Y10 Boys Football Results:
John Roan v SMM (Blackheath Cup) – SMM awarded the
victory.
Cleeve Park q-6 SMM (North Kent Cup) – PoM: Toks O

Y9 Football Result:
T.Tallis 5-1 SMM – PoM: Fola Ogunleye

Y8 Boys Football Results:
St Matthew Academy 2-5 SMM – PoM: Thomas G

Y7 Boys Football Result: Deptford Green 3-5 SMM (Blackheath
Cup) – PoM: Stephen A
The Y7 Team will now face Stationers Leigh Academy in the ¼
Final.



SECONDARY SPORTS UPDATE

Basketball

Y10 Basketball Results:

St Pauls Academy 49-51 SMM – MVP: Josiah S

Plumstead Manor 44-39 SMM – MVP: Joshua E

UTC 22-23 SMM – MVP: Jayden G

SMM 49-35 John Roan – MVP: Michael S



Cricket

Our Y7 and Y8 Cricket Team competed in their first Indoor Cricket Tournament of the season, finishing second place!



Netball

The Y7 and Y8 Netball Teams competed in a friendly 'triangular' tournament with Royal Greenwich Trust and The John Roan. This tournament was hosted at SMM, well done to all girls who participated!