



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 09 | December | Monday 14th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

We have reached the end of an incredibly challenging, yet incredibly successful term. As I have mentioned before, it has been a monumental team effort to ensure all of our students have been able to access a full curriculum whilst adhering to government guidelines on keeping students COVID safe in school.

As you will have read yesterday, today is the last day of term for our students at school. This has been a decision made by our local authority and even though it may cause challenges with child care, we hope it supports all residents of Greenwich in reducing the amount of positive COVID cases.

Home learning: please note, all students are expected to log on to Satchel between Tuesday and Thursday and complete all of their set work. It is an expectation that all of this work is completed and will be set in accordance with student timetables.

Key Workers:

If you are a key worker parent and your child attended school during the school closure in the Summer term, your child will automatically be placed on the registers to attend school until the end of the school term. However, please email eholliday@koinoniafederation.com by 4pm to confirm their attendance for the rest of the week. **School will be closing on Thursday 17th December at 1pm.**

If you are a key worker and your child did not attend school during the school closure in the Summer term but you would like them to attend until the end of the school term, please email Ellis Holliday eholliday@koinoniafederation.com by 5pm today. As explained in our previous communications we need you to confirm details of your employment if you wish your child to attend school. We need parents to send us full details of their job title and employer. As well as this please can you email the following:

- A copy of your work identification card (if you have one)
- Details of your line manager with a contact e-mail. If you have a work e-mail address this may outline the details needed so where possible please use this when communicating with us.
- Which days you know there will be no-one at home to look after your child and you require school provision

Reporting COVID over the holiday

If your child returns a positive COVID test between the **14th December and 20th December** then we will need you to inform the school so that contact-tracing can be undertaken and appropriate advice given to others to self-isolate if necessary. (If your child attends school as you are key workers, then the dates are from **Thursday 17th to Wednesday 23rd**). Government guidance states:

For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

To enable contact-tracing to be undertaken by the school over the Christmas holidays, I would like you to email romard@koinoniafederation.com as soon as possible. This will allow all parents to report positive cases without needing to call the school. Please note: where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

If your child is required to self-isolate due to potential contact with a confirmed case in the last 48-hours of the term we will notify you via email.

Online learning survey

Please access our school website and complete an online survey about remote access to learning; this can be found on the latest news section.

Movember – Trainer day

On Friday 27th November the school participated in trainer day in aid of raising money for the Movember foundation, who raise awareness of men's health issues such as prostate cancer and testicular cancer. Thank you to all who paid £1. We are pleased we raised £210.

Annual Winter Celebration

Last week we had our annual Winter Celebration which was performed to staff. Year 7 choir and the St Mary Magdalene Gospel Collective have worked extremely hard preparing for our Winter Celebration which was themed 'Count it All Joy'. Socially distanced, outside our beautifully decorated chapel, students showcased their talents through singing, dancing, acting and memorising scripture verses. Year 7 drama students performed a Christmas themed silent movie sketch delivering a touching message about giving. A big congratulations to the all students who took part! In the future, we hope to be able to present these performances virtually.

Emotion coaching for parents

Attached is a support poster for parents, providing guidance and techniques for coaching your children at home with their emotions and behaviour. We understand that changes to learning can feel unsettling for young people, as well as long periods at home under the current national restrictions. We hope some of the suggested approaches may be useful for our families.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas. I hope you are able to safely spend quality time with your family and friends over the Christmas period.

Sincerely

Mr R Hussain
Principal