

FAITH, FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP

Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation

Edition 2

A message from the Executive Co-Headteachers

We hope everyone enjoyed the half term despite the inclement weather. The staff used the break to refresh which was certainly timely as this week Ofsted inspected St. Mary Magdalene. Thank you to everyone who completed a survey for the inspectors. The Ofsted report will be published within 30 days and as soon as it is available, we will share it with you.

This edition of our Federation newsletter celebrates some of the activities which took place in October spotlighting Black History Month. The primary pupils very much enjoyed all the creative activities on offer as well as our International Food tasting! Our secondary students have been considering the role of black women throughout history and the impact they have made, particularly advocating social justice.

Thank you for all your Harvest donations- these have now been sent to the local food banks and the Greenwich/ Bexley Hospice.

We hope you enjoy reading our good news.

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Wainwright

A message from Rev Hubbuck

Over the road from the Peninsula Campus is a building site.

Part of that site includes some blocks of flats being built. As they go up, there are numbers painted on the towers – floor numbers, 1, 2, 3 and so on. They are up to 8 so far.

It made me wonder about the mistakes that have happened before on sites when people didn't know what level they were on. Or had misjudged what level other people were on.

At school, all our children and young people are in year groups. Each year group is split into classes or family groups. Within these though we are all on different levels according to skill, ability or our passion for that subject. Sometimes we assume what levels people are on because of our own knowledge or understanding.

God, however, has a different way of knowing what level we are on. Regardless of age or popularity, God chose David as King. Without judging personality or integrity, Jesus chose a tax collector, fishermen, and competitive siblings.

My prayer for our community at this time is to consider that everyone has value. God loves everyone, regardless of age, stage, level or ability. God cares for everyone even when the world has judged them, even though their actions make them feel unworthy and unlovable.

As we go through life, remember that in times of trial we are encouraged by God to remember we are made in God's image, that we are children of the same Heavenly Father, that God has a purpose for us.

In the words from the film 'The Help' – I am smart, I am kind, I am important!
Maybe these can be God's words to you when you need them. Amen.

Black History Month

Primary

During Black History Month we have been celebrating the theme of **'Saluting our Sisters'** which highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities. We have been learning about pioneering black women who have made remarkable contributions to literature, music, fashion, sport, business, politics, academia, social and health care and more. Our children have also celebrated black females in our families who have inspired us. Our homework projects showed us how we have many wonderful black female role models in our school community and beyond.

The children have experienced African drumming, storytelling, and other events in school. On Thursday we welcomed our school community to come together and share food in our International Evening celebrations. A very warm thank you to everyone who contributed food and other items. On Friday we dedicated the day to celebrating our own cultures and this began with a parade in the hall with children proudly showing off their wonderful outfits and learning from the term.

Thank you for supporting the children and staff to celebrate Black History Month – your support is very much appreciated. We are privileged to be part of such a diverse school community. We hope that you enjoy seeing the learning and fun that has taken place over the month.

Mrs Savva-Brown



Secondary

At St Mary Magdalene, we have continued our work on raising the profile of different groups of people that come from groups with protected characteristics. As such, we have started our Equalities program with our celebration of Black History Term to be in line with the national celebration of Black History Month (BHM). To do this we have come up with a number of different activities designed to inform our students and to allow them to express their opinions.

How lessons have been supporting Black History at SMM:

This year to ensure that the work we were doing to support and celebrate Black History Month is weaved into the curriculum, we asked our subject leads to come up with ideas that they could deliver in lessons to support BHM. Below is an example of the list of topics that would be discussed in lessons.

WHAT'S ON AT SMM FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH	
Subject	What are we doing for BHM?
Maths	Opportunity to learn about prominent Black Mathematicians in lesson.
English	Every class will have focus on a black author, poet or playwright and their contributions to Literature.
Geography	Every class will take part in the "Hidden Histories of Black Geographers".
Social Sciences	Exploring the impact of Stephen Lawrence in Year 11. The lack of social representation in Parliament, and the impact figures like Dianne Abbott had.
Computing	Every class will delve into the contributions of black women in computing.
PE	An open discussion on contribution of prominent black athletes, as well as the opportunity to discuss why there is a lack of black coaches/ managers.
Art	Basquiat drawing with Y9 club (Friday lunchtime) Collage exploring Black British artists with Y7/8 club (Tuesday lunchtime)
DT	Every class will engage with a lesson on black designers in the UK and abroad.

FG sessions on black history and intersectionality

Quiz from the black empowerment forum

Subject based black history activities, see the table

How Family Group time has been used:

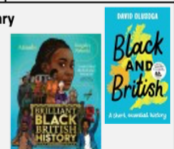
In addition, we have had a focus during our Family Group sessions on the role of Black Women throughout history, as this is a group that are often under represented. This has allowed us to look at the importance of influential women such as Olivette Otele. We have also used quizzes designed by staff and students during Family Group to further engage our students. We also showed a BBC short documentary called 'Subnormal, A British scandal' which looks at the deliberate attempts by the UK Government to deny Black students the opportunity at an equal education by placing them in schools designed for students with severe SEND needs. If you are interested in watch this yourself please feel free to use the link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/ks3-gcse-history-subnormal-a-british-scandal/zcvqwnb>

St Mary Magdalene Black History 2023

Black women have been at the heart of social justice movements throughout history, courageously battling oppression and ~~adapting~~ **advocating** for change. However, their accomplishments have frequently been neglected or forgotten. Black History Month 2023 offers a significant opportunity to ~~acknowledge~~ **acknowledge and celebrate** the outstanding achievements of black women by focusing on honouring the matriarchs of movements and saluting our sisters.

1. Kamala Harris, First black woman to be vice-president https://youtube.com/watch?v=aet9kZ0_chM&si=VwGsM3u3quS2MBu	2. Cocoa Girl, first UK black girls magazine https://youtube.com/watch?v=-dd-AySoR24&si=m2WRumQNXdd9Kx	3. Fay Allen: Britain's first ever black police woman https://youtube.com/watch?v=Ci5fDBZjDM&si=bGkeHCYbKZvR8Lf	4. Emma Clarke: UK's first black female footballer https://youtube.com/watch?v=LQfmI_PnhH8&si=4IY2V48mZGdGD	5. Jessika Nabha: UK's first blind, black, female barrister https://youtube.com/watch?v=IWPVdrWgCFM&si=BJQ9KBUtAHCBjKNa	6. Judge Ketanji Brown to be first black woman appointed to US Supreme Court https://youtube.com/watch?v=kkDNO3CmPF4&si=bx6qJwSg108CmTW	7. Marsai Martin: youngest person to serve as an executive producer on a major Hollywood film https://youtube.com/watch?v=A9h71LJEYvU&si=CfAbpRnpAGh1bDp
8. Michelle Obama: first black woman to be First Lady of the United States https://youtube.com/watch?v=VxW5D5VPg_0&si=E4G0MfKgt496Us6y	9. Dr Shirley Jackson, physicist https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKAgAdHajw0	10. Madame C.J. Walker: The First Black Millionaire https://youtube.com/watch?v=mfB1VRE7s7E&si=1QGOyDHTGwixZATG	11. Harriët Tubman, leader of the Underground railroad https://youtube.com/watch?v=fmKoA4odI8sI&si=52lv0Hqawb3RxeLj	12. Barbara Walker, artist https://artuk.org/discover/stories/celebrating-black-british-artists-in-public-collections	13. Katherine Johnson: NASA mathematician https://youtube.com/watch?v=xDeIWN6lqc&si=3X9vEwujneHJG6JZ	14. Mary McLeod Bethune: Fighting for Equality in the Classroom and Beyond https://youtube.com/watch?v=9uVeYQmmLs&feature=shared
15. Sojourner Truth, Fierce Warrior for Social Justice https://youtube.com/watch?v=S6q8ojdzW30&feature=share	16. Shirley Chisholm: First black female to run for president https://youtube.com/watch?v=9DhKf89C7A&feature=share	17. Ida B. Wells, Journalist and Anti-Lynching activist https://youtube.com/watch?v=wYIKHLZII9Q&feature=share	18. Story of Ballerina Janie Stevens https://youtube.com/watch?v=RvHQofpLZY&si=5kFbZbRnf0Q-nvkg	19. Nneka Akudolu: The sixth, black, female QC in the UK https://youtube.com/watch?v=wj93HUAyrc&si=uGVwHKpKHZ7OAmJQ	20. Bernadine Evaristo, writer https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/bernadine-varisto	21. Yvonne Conolly: Britain's first black Headteacher https://youtube.com/watch?v=WBzIgeTL4g&si=U47ofKDFkCPK8cB
22. Bessie Coleman, first black female pilot https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/bessie-coleman	23. The Ivory Bangle Lady 400AD https://youtube.com/watch?v=yUNP1GDJ0&si=OhnOu7HQAfDuo2IE	24. Simone Biles: American four-time Olympic champion https://www.bbc.com/sport/gymnastics/66045761	25. Windrush Pioneer: Dame Jocelyn Barrow https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/windrush-pioneer-dame-jocelyn-barrow/	26. Introducing: Baroness Doreen Lawrence: Finding the Inner Strength https://youtube.com/watch?v=OYGYGyMiH8Y&si=FjQv88AMOhSg9Z	27. Nicola Adams: Olympic gold medal-winning boxer https://youtube.com/watch?v=KPCOBFcq8T0&si=HkekTyqJWSm7pa	28. Olivette Otele, first black female professor in the UK https://www.concordia.ca/graduation/convocation/honorary-doctorates/spring-2022/ottele.html
29. Mary Prince: first black woman to publish her autobiography https://youtube.com/watch?v=7MY4SPg-F8&feature=share	30. Lilian Baderone of the first Black women to join the British armed forces. https://youtube.com/watch?v=6JfypN4ijDw&si=vWOBkjoyCVlinMn	31. Olive Morris: political activist https://youtube.com/watch?v=ZfcEepuEiHY&feature=share	<p>Digging deeper: Remember to check out our dedicated space in the library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton, theatre by an all black cast https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5CKRkPaGHC • Black History Month website https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/ • Black and British, A Short Essential History by David Olusoga • Black and British BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0499smp • National Archives, Black British History on Record https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/black-history 			



Displays around the school:

Our year 9 students have also been creating posters to be displayed around the school as part of their engagement with BHM. These have been designed to allow student to express the reason they feel BHM is important. Here they could also share examples of literature linked to the topic so that staff and students alike can improve their knowledge and understanding of the topic.



How staff have celebrated BHM:

To highlight the importance of reading we have also asked staff to share what they are reading that links to BHM. These have then been displayed outside their classrooms so that others can see what is happening and where they can get more information on Black history.

What we will be doing next:

Following on from BHM we will be looking at disability History over the years. Examining the impact, it has on people and what we can do to be an ally to all peoples of protected characteristics.

Mr Gayle

Primary

The Koinonia Federation had Harvest Services for all their schools to which parents were warmly invited. The Pupil Faith Team from the three primary campuses enjoyed helping with conducting the Services and the prayers which centred around not just those living in difficult times but gave thanks to all the farmers shop keepers and medical services who are always there to support them. We thank all parents for their harvest gifts, which will not only be used to support the local hospices and community but also those within our own school community.

Mrs Kristensen

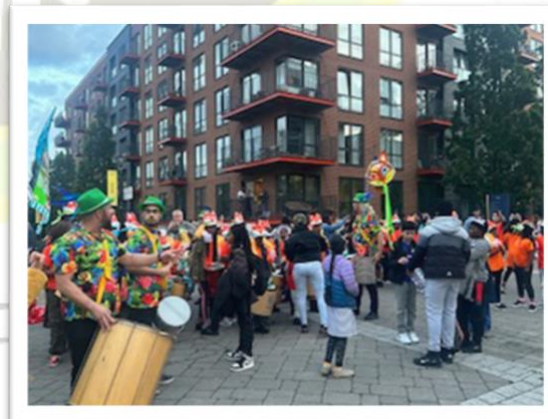


St Mary Magdalene Woolwich Campus



The students in year 5 had the opportunity to take part in a wonderful workshop with the Taru company, creating a carnival for the Woolwich High Street. It was a pleasure for them to play a variety of handmade instruments that are typically heard in the southern part of America. Their samba music was paired with an amazing choreography and parade, spreading joy and samba music throughout Woolwich.

Mrs Badesha



St Magdalene Peninsula Campus

Mary

EYFS have been learning about 'people who help us.' We were so excited to have a special visit from Police officers Ben and John! We asked them lots of questions about their job as police officers.

Since their visit, some of us have been dressing up as police officers and have been designing 'wanted' posters.

Miss Baptiste



Koinonia Forest School and Community Garden

With a new automatic watering system and a small team of gardeners made up of families from SMM primary and community members, the garden has flourished over the summer months.

During our main growing season we harvested tomatoes and courgettes, marrows and raspberries. We grew wheat that we have now harvested, threshed and winnowed. We will make bread with it at Messy Church Goes Wild for our families to cook over the fire pit.

Our gardening team have also blessed us with flowers and roses, whilst trimming back our shrubs and bushes.

Our school has used the space as well as church and parents too. Secondary students with additional needs have used the space as a calming place to spend their lunchtimes, whilst some of our primary children have looked for insects, bugs and tree bark.

My next plan is to continue to apply for funding to hire a garden outreach worker who can host events, maintain the space and manage fair access between community and school groups.

Rev Hubbuck



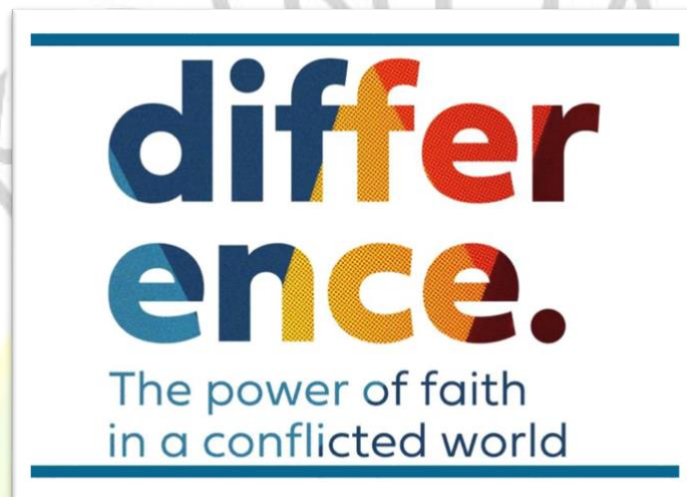
The Difference Course

Headed up by Mr Gayle and Rev Dom, some members of our student leadership are going to be piloting a new course for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

As part of his ministry on reconciliation, his office have produced a new course aimed at schools and youth groups to look at the theme of difference. Over the course of six sessions, our young people will explore things that divide people and how to break down barriers and open up communication between people. Through videos, discussion and tasks provided in the course, we hope to provide valuable feedback to Lambeth Palace so that this course might be rolled out to every secondary school for use with its students.

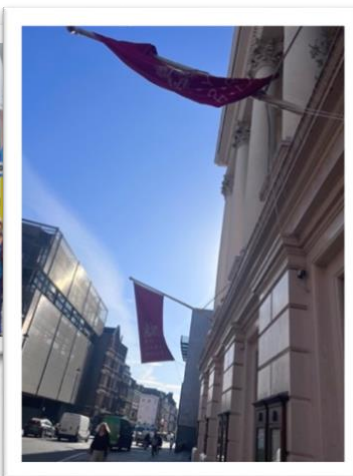
Watch this space to see what our young people think about it.

Rev Hubbuck



Secondary

Six of our students took part in an exciting opportunity offered by the WOW foundation, this included going on the London Eye and taking part in 'speed mentoring' with inspiring women who are skilled in their field, offering advice. The girls all came away with huge smiles on their faces after meeting so many empowering women and girls from other schools.



Poetry by Heart

We are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for all Year 7 students to embrace the beauty of poetry through the Poetry by Heart competition. This event promises to be an inspiring journey that encourages our young scholars to engage with the world of verse like never before.

What is Poetry by Heart?

Poetry by Heart is a prestigious national poetry speaking competition for schools and colleges in England. It's not just an event, but a valuable platform for teaching and learning about poetry, igniting the joy of reciting it from the heart, and celebrating the myriad voices within the world of verse.

Why Should You Get Involved?

Participating in Poetry by Heart is more than just a competition; it's an invitation to unlock the world of poetry in a fun, accessible, and engaging way. By students immersing themselves in the world of poetry, they will:

- **Develop Confidence:** Speaking poetry aloud builds confidence and public-speaking skills.
- **Discover the Magic of Poetry:** Explore a wide range of poems and find those that resonate with them.
- **Cultivate a Lifelong Love for Poetry:** Uncover the timeless beauty of verse that will stay with them.

For All Year 7 Students

We are excited to announce that Poetry by Heart is open to all Year 7 students as part of their SMM journey. This means everyone in the year group has the opportunity to take part, explore the enchanting world of poetry, and let their voices be heard.

In order to support your child please could you do the following:

- Talk to them about poetry and let them know if you have a favourite poem.
- Look up some poems together and help guide them towards one they could learn (here is a link to one poetry anthology [Poetry By Heart | 11+ Timeline](#)).
- Encourage them to practise their poem and memorise it.

All students will recite their poem to the family tutor and tutees before Christmas and the best orators will go through to the school finals. We will then select our school champions to take part in the national competition.

Mr B Freeburn
Royal Opera

Last half term the Year 7 students had the incredible opportunity to visit the Royal Opera, and watched a fantastic opera called "L'elisir D'amore."

As the students entered the grand Royal Opera House, everyone was in awe of the stunning architecture and the beautiful chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. The whole place felt so magical and fancy.

The opera itself was absolutely amazing. "L'elisir D'amore" is an Italian opera, and even though they couldn't understand the language, the story was quite easy to follow. It's a romantic comedy, and everyone found themselves laughing at some parts and feeling emotional during others. The singers had the most incredible voices, and the music was so beautiful. I was especially impressed with the soprano's high notes.

The costumes and stage design were also amazing. The characters wore these elaborate, colorful outfits, and the sets changed to create different scenes throughout the opera. It felt like I was watching a real-life fairy tale.

Overall, the trip to the Royal Opera to watch "L'elisir D'amore" was an unforgettable experience. It opened the students' eyes to a new form of art and culture that some may have never experienced before. They can't wait to explore more operas and other types of performances in the future.

Ms Liagki



On
Wednesday

the

27th of September Year 13s and their parents were invited to attend an evening of discussion around our students' destinations, the application progress and alternative routes to academia. Many families and students attended and information was shared regarding how to apply; writing the personal statement; references and predicted grades. The evening allowed for open discussion between the school and those supporting at home, with various questions raised and some spirited dialogue from both sides.

The school Careers Lead Miss McKenzie then delivered a talk on how to effectively compare different universities and apprenticeships in order to make an informed choice on which options are best suited to each student's individual preferences and needs. This included guidance on how both students and parents can use the Unifrog platform to create longlists, shortlists, and access information about each institution.

Mr Marshall

Sports Updates

Football Results

Y7 Boys

SMM 7-2 John Roan

Y8 Boys

SMM 9-0 Sedgehill

Y9 Boys

SMM 3-5 Welling

PoM: Samad B

Y8/9 Girls

SMM 4-1 John Roan

PoM: Rebecca M

Y10 Boys

SMM 5-2 John Roan

PoM: Elroy B



Y11 Boys

SMM 3-1 Greenwich Free School

PoM: Sonny S

SMM 0-1 St Columba's

PoM: Kane S

SMM 4-1 Wilmington Grammar

PoM: Maxwell S



Y11 Girls

SMM 8-0 Sydenham Girls

PoM: Sacha S

Sixth Form Boys

SMM 2-5 Habs Knights Academy

PoM: Ola O



Mr Lawrence





We're now using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Arbor App



Why we've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school.

The Arbor App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way.

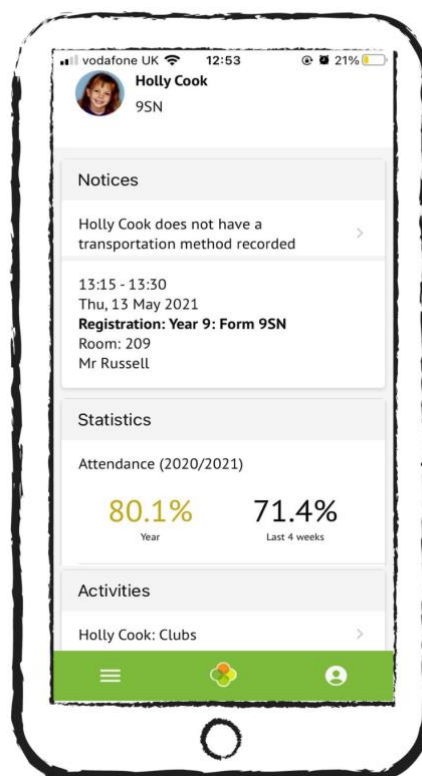
You will need to log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go! The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Arbor App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started?

You should have received an email from us with instructions on how to login. Additionally, you can always contact our school offices to help you use the app, and we will be hosting online and in-person information events throughout the year.

Main features:

- **Real-time access:** to all your child's information.
- **Communications:** All announcements and updates will be communicated to you through Arbor.
- **Attendance Tracking:** You can monitor your child's attendance records, helping you to ensure your child is attending school regularly and addressing any concerns promptly.
- **Academic performance:** You will be able to access detailed reports and insights into your child's academic performance.
- **Booking Events:** including booking and changing clubs, trips and your parent's evening slot.
- **Payments:** make all payments in one place.
- **Secure Access:** Online security has never been more important, and Arbor MIS ensures secure and private access for you.



If you haven't received a welcome email or text from the school, or have any other questions, please email our dedicated Arbor support email: arbor.help@koinoniafederation.com