

# **FAITH, FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP**

## **Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation**

### **Edition 3**

## ***A message from the Executive Co-Headteachers***

It has been a very busy half term, especially with St. Mary Magdalene's successful Ofsted visit in the first week back. There have been lots of good news stories to share over the last few months across all our phases and campuses from the Year 6 residential trip to the Year 9 textiles workshop with artist Ellie Bird. It has been encouraging to see our primary pupils visit our secondary classrooms for specialist teaching as well as watch our secondary student faith team leading collective worship across all three primary campuses.

The end of the term has been packed with Christmas celebrations and we hope you enjoy reading about them in this bumper edition!

We look forward to seeing you on our return in the new year on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024!

With very best wishes for a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Wainwright

### **A festive message from Rev Hubbuck**

Are you feeling festive?  
Do you start quite early or only feel festive when everything is done?  
Maybe you don't feel festive. Maybe this year you are not quite feeling it.  
Maybe you never do.

If we look at the reason for the season, Mary and Joseph didn't feel festive either. Both had been surprised by the events that unfolded. Both had been forced to uproot themselves for the sake of a government decree.

What followed then was a time of uncertainty and a journey that would land them in a different country until it was safe to return.

Despite the visits of angels and shepherds and the wise – they didn't have decorations, a tree or time to shop.

Many people may be thinking about how they might celebrate this little bit of time we have together over the next few weeks. Whether we get fully into the festivities or whether we visit family and friends, we pray that this will be a time of reflection and celebration.

As Advent gets closer to Christmas – the church recognises Love coming into the world, recognises the joy and hope in a new life born in the world and the peace that comes from one intent on sharing all they had for the sake of the world.

This year, we pray for hope in a world where hope is sometimes hard to come by. We pray for love to be shared and joy to be seen in the lives of those we care for and those who need it most. And above all – wherever there is conflict, upheaval, stress, anxiety or illness – we pray for God's amazing Peace that is beyond all our understanding to be in our hearts and homes at this Festive time.

Have a Joy-filled Christmas and we will meet again in the New Year.      Amen

We had 13 primary productions across our campuses as well as our Church services – it was a joy to watch them all!

### SMM – Woolwich

In Woolwich not only have EYFS and KS1 completed wonderful Christmas Production but also two carol concerts (Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2) and a special Christingle Service attended by the parents. Rev Dom lead the Service in school along with members of the Pupil Faith Team who wrote the Prayers of Intercession and had some responsibility for the choice of songs.

KS1 at Woolwich really kicked off the Christmas festivities with a bang! They sang, danced, acted, and remembered so many lines! We were all very impressed with their performance of Stable Story! Our parents were delighted with one telling people on his way out that it was: "absolutely marvellous!"

Years 5 and 6 at Woolwich wowed us all with their wonderful singing during the Carols by Candlelight service. We had children drumming, bible readings and Mr Chamberlain on his guitar - it was a real treat. At the end, we were all able to join in with a song that we all knew - the parents even got to have a little dance.

Y2 travelled to Christ Church to go on a wonderful Christmas Journey, where they participated in an interactive retelling of the Christmas story. The children had lovely time exploring the different parts of the story

It was wonderful to see the children contribute so much of their time and energy as well as money to support the Children's Society and we say thanks to the parents for Supporting our Charities this term.



### Christ Church



At Christ Church our very own host of heavenly angels sung us through the Christmas story. They did a wonderful job and made us all very proud of them. They certainly got us all in the Christmas spirit.

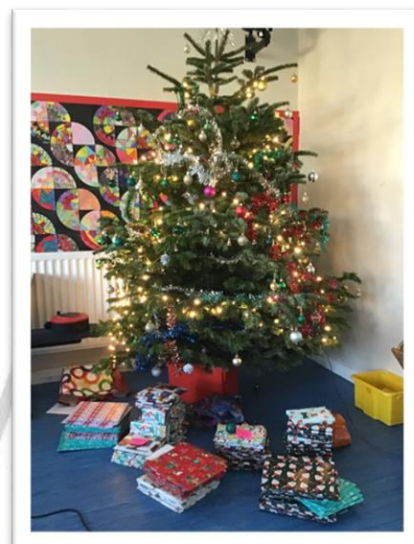
All the children at Christ Church had the opportunity to make a Christingle. Some Year 6 children helped the younger children to assemble their Christingle. Each child had been told about the symbolism of the orange, red ribbon, candle, cocktail sticks and the sweets.

The Christingles were then taken to the church service and some of them were lit during the service.

The children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 wowed the rest of the school, our parents and families with an impressive performance of "Prickly Hay." They sang, danced and remembered all their lines which got us all in Christmas spirit.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December the children wore their Christmas Jumpers and had a lovely Christmas dinner. Afterwards they enjoyed a pantomime performance of Cinderella in the school hall.

Father Christmas paid an early visit to Christ Church – he left lots of presents under our Christmas tree which caused a lot of excitement!



### SMM - Peninsula

It has been a busy last few weeks at the Peninsula Campus. Many thanks to our parents' and carers for their support, attending the various events as well as donating money and oranges for good causes.

Bellamy Class had an amazing Christmas party which involved lots of dancing and playing game such as pass the parcel. Thank you to parents who donated food, we had plenty to eat!

Reception Classes have been making, baking, painting and gift wrapping some amazing Christmas tree decorations which we are looking forward to giving to our loved ones.



On 7<sup>th</sup> December we had our EYFS nativity –



Nursery Rhyme



On 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December, we had our KS2 Carols by Candlelight and on the 19<sup>th</sup> our Christingle Service.



15<sup>th</sup> December was our Christmas dinner and jumper day.

Peninsula Primary raised £160 for the Save the Children charity. Finally on 20<sup>th</sup> December, children were treated to a pantomime which came into school.



# Primary

Anti-Bullying Week



This half term we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week (ABW) in collaboration with the Anti-Bullying Alliance and this year's theme was 'Make A Noise About Bullying.'

We came together to discuss what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful and what we can do to stop bullying. Children took part in Odd Sock Day to launch ABW, we also had an assembly to share the learning that had taken place throughout the week. Some of these activities were showcased on our ABW display board. Children contributed a pound towards the ABW wristband to make a stance against bullying. We hope to announce some Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in the near future.

Year 7 & 8 student voice secondary phase students worked with some Year 6 students to produce anti bullying materials that can be displayed in all campuses. A big thank you to the secondary students that helped.

Miss Okungbowa



### Pupil Faith Team

At the beginning of December, members of our Secondary Pupil Faith Team, planned, rehearsed and delivered Collective Worship on all 3 campuses. Asking pupils about what they hoped for at Christmas, telling the story (with actors!) of the first Christmas and leading a reflection and prayer, our students did really well to lead worship in 3 very different spaces – SMM Woolwich, SMM Peninsula and Christ Church Primary.

They plan to lead more in the future as everyone felt it was successful and encouraging as well as giving our secondary students a great sense of service and achievement.

Rev Hubbuck

### St Mary Magdalene, Woolwich

Year 6 had a delightful and festive activity week, beginning 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023. They created a Christmas display for the school foyer, which encouraged them to be creative and build on



teamwork. The children worked together to design and assemble the display, bringing their unique perspectives and talents to the project.



Mrs



Virdee

### St Mary Magdalene, Peninsula - Yr5 Spanish Workshop

Fifteen lucky Year 5 pupils were given the opportunity to visit the secondary phase for a morning to work with Ms Tormo, Head of Spanish. The pupils began their lesson by writing down Spanish words they remembered for two minutes. They then learned about Spain and its culture, revising basic greetings and how to say "my name is".

Next, they learned about Christmas in Spain and compared it with other countries' ways of celebrating the holiday. They discussed the meals, presents, and customs that Spanish people have.

The children were so enthusiastic during the lesson, asking questions and giving their opinions, that they didn't even have time to make a Spanish Christmas card. Ms Anderson, the Federation Outreach Associate Assistant Principal, reported that the students had an amazing experience. Ms Anderson





## Messy Church Goes Wild

Since our last newsletter, Messy Church Goes Wild have picked and carved out pumpkins - grown by us, picked by us and decorated by us!! Go us!!

We considered how we need light for life and how to Shine our lights - even when it feels dark.

And recently we have thought about the Christmas story. We ate sweets, shared our hopes, sparkled with sparklers, ate marshmallows and sung carols.

The Messy Church team wish you a very happy Christmas and we will see you in February for our next session in the community garden.

Rev Hubbuck



## Ootiboo Workshop

Year 3 from across the campuses all came to Christ Church to take part in the Ootiboo workshop based on the new book launch for Deborah Meaden's 'Why Money Matters'. We learnt about what happened before we had money, and we thought about the value of different things, both in terms of money and in terms of sentimentality. We also learnt a bit about Deborah Meaden - did you know she started making money by selling flowers from her garden?

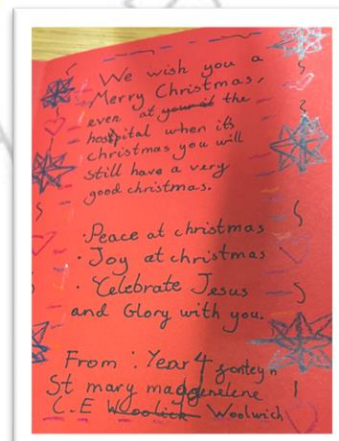
Mrs Gibbs



## St Mary Magdalene, Woolwich - Year 4 Fonteyn

Fonteyn class made Christmas cards for patients at Queen Elizabeth Hospital - well done to them for supporting our local community!

Mrs Amao

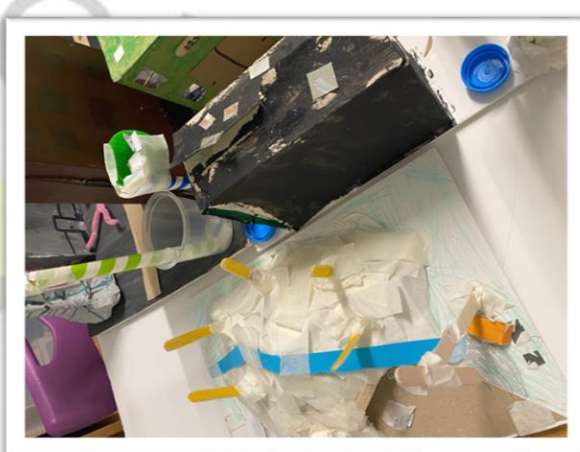
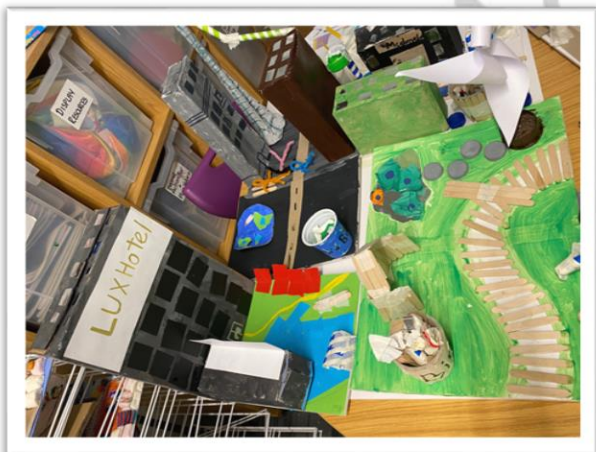


## A More Sustainable Greenwich Peninsula



Year 5 children across the Federation had the opportunity to work with architects and other members of large companies. Following our workshops with architects and the visit to the Stratford area, Year 5 at Peninsula then spent time creating our own sustainable Greenwich Peninsula. Initially, we used the resources provided but soon realised we needed other recyclable items to create our vision. Included in our model is the O2, the Lux hotel, park, a small retail area, residential area and the Shard.

Mrs King



## Year

## 6 School Journey

Earlier this month, 82 Year 6 pupils went to Norfolk Lakes for an action-packed week of activities. Children and adults enjoyed water sports like canoeing and giant stand-up paddleboarding, as well as dryer (and warmer) activities, including fencing, climbing and caving. This year's trip saw the addition of axe throwing to our programme, and also a disco on the last night. We all got back to London with great memories and a lot of muddy clothes!

The Year 6 Team





# Secondary

## French Christmas Card Event



On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of December, two Year 7 French classes eagerly took part in a heart-warming inter-school charity project. The students wrote Christmas cards to be sent to elderly people in a retirement home in Bordeaux, France. The project allowed students to use French in a real-life context as well as representing the school values of respect and kindness. Students created these cards in the hope of bringing some comfort and warmth to people who may experience loneliness and isolation during the Christmas period. Students could expect a response back from these letters, allowing a cross-generation and cross-national exchange. We are very proud of the student's linguistic and creative work on these letters, as the outcome was their improved confidence in their writing skills in a meaningful context.

We look forward to taking part in this rewarding project in the next academic year.

The French Department

## Daily Devotion

Several of our students use daily devotion resources. Three of our students – two from Sixth Form and another from Year 9 shared the resource they use – Teevo with our Key Stage 5 students during a recent Collective Worship.

Supported by Rev Dom, they led the worship using the scripture readings, the points of reflection and the challenging questions for that day. They then offered any students who wanted a free sample copies for this month.

It can take great courage to share our faith with others, and more so with our peers and friends sometimes. We give thanks for these students who are looking to set up a Lunchtime Bible Group in the coming terms.

Rev Hubbuck



Favour Y13, Adome Y13, Isaiah Y9

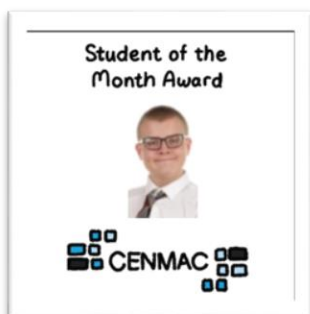
## CENMAC Student of the month

Congratulations to Luke R in Year 11 who has been nominated for student of the month by CENMAC.

This newsletter is shared across London so this is a great achievement.

<https://cenmac.com/student-of-the-month/>

Mrs Graham  
School Library



The school Library is now open after school every day from 3.10pm to 4.10pm for Homework club and to borrow / return books,

If any students struggle with completing homework this is a lovely peaceful resourceful environment for students to complete work and use the computers for online homework.

### **Visit the Library Web App – continue reading during the holiday season**

Our Library Web App is an interactive user experience where students can engage with the online library catalogue and access to thousands of wonderful eBooks. To find out more visit: <https://uk.accessit.online/stm30/#!/dashboard>

Find our library and log in using your school ID – you can also download the free ePlatform app from your app store. Borrow an eBook to read on multiple devices.

Mrs Topcu



### **Reader Leader Training Programme**

A secondary school reading scheme where Year 7 pupils (Readers) are mentored by students in Years 9-12 (Leaders) for 18 weeks or more has been launched.

Selected students in Years 9 to 12 recently attended a Reader Leader training programme run by the Children's Literacy Charity, the students learnt how to be reading mentors to younger pupils. It was a wonderful experience for the students, and at the end of the one day training programme the student leaders were presented with certificates and qualified as Reader Leaders.

The student Leaders gained knowledge in phonics, the reading process and barriers to learning as well as mastering invaluable mentoring skills. In the New year the newly trained Reader Leaders will begin one-to-one mentoring with Year 7 students helping them benefit from improved literacy levels, allowing them to engage more effectively with their studies.

Mrs Topcu

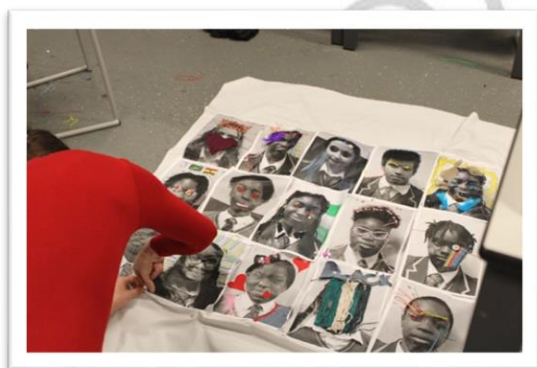


### **Textiles Workshop**



On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of December, London artist Ellie Bird hosted a textiles workshop for selected Year 9 students. The workshop aimed to introduce students to textiles as an art form as well as get students interested in doing GCSE Art as an option. The workshop taught a variety of embroidery stitches and encouraged students to reflect on their identity, including their cultural heritage, music preferences, and hobbies. They then incorporated these aspects into a self-portrait embroidery art piece. The finished artworks were compiled and stitched together into a quilt that will be displayed in the school.

Ms Anderson



### Performing Arts

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December the Performing Arts Department held a Christmas Celebration with the theme of 'This Christmas'. We would like to say a special thanks to the performing Arts team, Music, Drama, Dance, Art, Food Technology and Premises for their hard work.



On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December our St Mary Magdalene Gospel Choir performed at the IFS Cloud Cable Car Greenwich. Thank you to the Music Department and students involved – it is great to hear we have brought some Christmas cheer to the community!



# Sixth Form

## Careers

Year 12 have been focusing on Careers through their Friday Family Group sessions, they have looked at things such as: planning for post-18; individual interests; using Unifrog; application processes; and CV writing.

For those budding doctors, we have agreed to partner with Greenwich Health Ambassadors who will provide 1-2-1 mentoring for year 12s and 13s that desire to enter the field of medicine post-18. We are really looking forward to being paired with our NHS practitioner, who works and practices medicine in Greenwich borough, whilst providing voluntary support to our students.

In January we will begin our year 12 careers interviews with an external careers advisor. These are valuable sessions which allow pupils to start planning their next steps. Each student will have a thirty-minute 1-2-1 meeting.

## UCAS Applications:

Looking to build on the success of last year, with 80% of our students going on to places at a higher education institution, we continue to support our students with the application process. At the time of writing, we are approaching half of the applications being sent off, well in time of our internal deadline of the Christmas holidays. Almost all of these students have received at least one offer of a place, with several students achieving five offers at this early date. Some notable success so far include; a student being awarded a place at the prestigious London Met Film School; several students being offered places at Russell Group institutions; places to study Law and also International Relations at Warwick; two students being offered places at SOAS, including one for Law and one student securing a place on a course in accounting which includes a year placement at PWC. The process will continue well into December and we look forward to more success.

## Reflection Week

For this term's reflection week, we followed the theme of Humanism and the exploration of other worldviews. This was a great opportunity for a lot of students who weren't familiar with the idea of Humanism and its rising popularity in the UK, and it allowed them to inquire into themes such as morality and practices.

This month, we had a speaker from the Humanist Society come in and speak about their experience as an ex-Christian. The students were very welcoming and really engaged with the talk - asking questions about personal exploration and whether or not they felt they have to explain their beliefs to a lot of people. Overall, the reflection week's success was highlighted by the fact all students walked away with a greater understanding of Humanism and how other worldviews fit into society.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, we held our open evening, hosting parents and Year 11 students from across the borough of Greenwich and Bexley. On the evening we had over 100 visitors who all experienced a sample of 6<sup>th</sup> Form life with taster sessions in each subject area as well as a talk from the 6<sup>th</sup> Form team. The feedback we received at the event was positive and we look forward to the start of the next enrolment process to help our community grow.

Mr Shimirty



# Sports Updates

## Football

Y7 Boys Football Team are in the semi-final of the Blackheath Cup and remain unbeaten in all competitions! They will face Prendergast School in the semi-final.

Y11 Boys Football Team are also in the semi-final of the Blackheath Cup and remain unbeaten in all competitions! They will have Hatcham College in the semi-final.

U16 Girls Football Team are in the semi-final of the Blackheath Cup. They are waiting to find out which team they will face in the semi-final.

We look forward to hearing how our teams progress!



## Basketball

U16 Girls won the Greenwich School Basketball Tournament and will now attend the London Youth Games Tournament and will be the school representing the Greenwich Borough! Congratulations to the team- we are very proud of you!



All Basketball Clubs will resume after the Christmas Break.

## Boxing

Boxing Club will begin again after the Christmas Break. There is a sign-up sheet in the PE Block. Please see Miss C Hinds or Mr Lawrence if you are interested.

Well done to this Y10 class who have completed a 5-week cycle of Boxing lessons at Royal Resistance Boxing Gym, Kidbrooke.



Congratulations to Sonny in Y12 who won his debut Boxing bout! Sonny has been training with Royal Resistance for a couple of years now and is loving it!

### Jiu-Jitsu Club

Well done to all the Y7 Girls who have attended the Jiu-Jitsu 'self-defence' club on a Monday, the instructors have been very impressed! The girls have been learning how to defend themselves safely and have grown in confidence over the past 10 weeks of training!

After the Christmas Break the club will be for Y8 pupils, please see Miss C Hinds if you are interested.



Mr Lawrence



## Cheap eats during the Christmas holidays



**Asda** Kids eat for **£1** all day at Asda Cafés, with no adult spend required.



**Ikea** Kids eat from **95p** in Ikea restaurants. Available every day from 11am.



**Morrisons** Kids eat free when an adult spends **£4.49** or more on a meal.



**Sainsbury's** Kids eat for **£1** with the purchase of an adult hot meal from the café, from **11.30am** every day.

# CHRISTMAS

*at Holy Trinity Church* Greenwich Peninsula

★ **SAT 16<sup>th</sup> DEC: CAROLS IN THE PARK, 4 PM**

*East Greenwich Pleasance*

★ **SUN 17<sup>th</sup> DEC: CAROL SERVICE, 11:30 AM**

*St Mary Magdalene School chapel - entry via Hendon Street*

★ **SUN 24<sup>th</sup> DEC:**

**NATIVITY IN THE SQUARE, 11 AM - 1 PM**

*Oval Square, off John Harrison Way*

- Mulled wine and mince pies | Craft | Explore the Christmas Story
- 11.15-11.45 - Pop-up Nativity service for young and old

★ **SUN 24<sup>th</sup> DEC:**

**MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS COMMUNION, 11:30 PM**

*St Mary Magdalene School chapel - entry via Hendon Street*

For all that's happening in in our three local churches, visit  
[www.eastgreenwichparish.org.uk/christmas](http://www.eastgreenwichparish.org.uk/christmas)

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

