



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 17 | May | Friday 22nd May

Dear Parent/Carers ,

Teacher Appreciation day

Thank you to all of the students who have shared their teacher appreciation this week. I am sure that you will agree, teacher appreciation comes at a particularly deserving time when teachers across the country have shown huge goodwill, lots of flexibility, and a desire to go above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you to all of our teachers.

Year 10 return to school

As you know, we will be offering our year 10 students contact time shortly after half term. Attached with this email are some short questions I would like you to answer and email back to Miss O'Mard on romard@koinoniafederation.com. We value your opinion and concerns at this time and will take your feedback into consideration when planning the phased return to school.

International trips

Thank you to those of you who have provided feedback on my update last week. The final decision to travel will only be based upon authorisation from the UK Government, DfE and Local authority approval. We are in a difficult position where I do not wish for any of our families to incur a significant cost, particularly during this time; equally, we are not in a position where the school can incur the cost of the trips. There will be a separate letter sent to all parents who have paid for any of a trip with more information. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Home Learning

Thank you all for supporting your children with their home learning over the past few weeks. We are pleased that most students are completing their work to the best of their abilities. We also hope that your child has enjoyed regularly hearing from their family group tutor over the last few weeks. Over the half-term break (Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May), students will not be set work. However, if your child has fallen behind at all, we ask they use this time to catch up on work that has not been completed. Home learning will resume on Monday 1 June.

Timetable for next year

As you know, we will welcome a new Year 7 to our school in September. This will be the first year we will have our full allocation of 900+ students on site at the same time. As such, Mr Greenwood and the SLT have been working hard on making a few changes to the school timetable which would mean that break and lunch will take place at different times for the five year groups.

Year 7 and 8 will be grouped together and Year 9, 10 and 11 will be grouped together. Break for all year groups will take place before 11am, but lunch would be later for Year 9 -11 at the time of 1.45pm. We are aware that this is later than what the students have been used to, so for this, as well as various other reasons, we propose to move the school day forward to begin at 8.45am and for the day to end at 3.15pm.

This would enable lunch to take place at the slightly earlier time of 1.30pm for the older year groups and mean that we finish at the same time as the primary site – meaning siblings can be picked up straight after school. This is obviously a major change and as such, I would like to obtain a greater understanding about how our students and parents feel about this. Please, using the link, complete the survey so that the results can be collated.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2GXBPSB>

Happy Eid

To all of our families who will be celebrating Eid over the weekend I wish you Eid Mubarak. Even though you will not be able to spend your time with your wider families as you would normally do, I hope you still have a wonderful day.

Collective Worship

I know many of you have been enjoying the Collective Worship from Heads of Year and Steve Gurnett via Satchel or on our [Federation YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPYn5XG2iDrw9bNOapiuGRg) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPYn5XG2iDrw9bNOapiuGRg>). The Church of England have also produced a weekly worship video, 'Faith at Home' (<https://www.thenational.academy/extracurricular/faith-at-home>) targeted at secondary students which I think you would enjoy.

Prefect Video

Last week, four of our school Prefects- Amirat, Aiste, Joanna and Martyna- took part in a Zoom conversation with Ms. Alderson, where they discussed their experiences of life in lockdown and shared some messages for all our St. Mary Magdalene students. It was great to hear the experience of some of our students during lockdown and they also provide a useful insight into how your children may be feeling. You can watch the video by clicking on the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IttyGkf_9is

Message from Rev Dom

This week we celebrate Jesus going up to heaven – it is called Ascension.

I can imagine what the disciples saw as they watched Jesus going up into the clouds.

But I wonder what it was that Jesus saw looking down on them? And I wonder what he prayed as He went? Why not look on Google Maps for a satellite picture of your street, your neighbourhood, your country, our world. And pray for them. From now until Pentecost in 10 days time churches around the world are praying for all people. You can find more information at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/about-us>

You will find fun ideas of how to pray and care for the people around you and around the world. May your prayers join with people around the world to bring love and care and God's Spirit into all places. Amen.

As mentioned above, there will be no new home learning set next week. It is a well-deserved break for us all! Stay safe - Happy half term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussian

Principal