



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 18 | May | Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and safe. As you will be aware, further national restrictions will be lifted this coming Monday. We are excited at the opportunities this will bring for all our staff and families, but urge our students to be cautious when going out and remembering to regularly sanitise and wash their hands and wear face covering whilst travelling on public transport.

### Eid Celebrations

I would like to wish all our families who observed the month of Ramadan these past few weeks and celebrated Eid on Thursday - Eid Mubarak. I hope you all had a wonderful day and enjoyed the celebrations.

### Face covering

Face covering will not be compulsory from next week (Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021) in school, however students may wish to wear them at their discretion. Please do note that they are still expected to be worn on public transport and in shops.

### Confiscated items

We have noticed as a school that an increasing number of students are bringing in sweets, chocolates and energy drinks into school. As you are aware these are not permitted. This is to ensure that students are to remain focused and do not get an energy crash in lessons. It may be that students are stopping at the shops on the way to school. Please can you support us in ensuring that these are not bought in. We will also do some bag and blazer pocket checks on the morning gates in coming weeks. Please note, any item which is not permitted on school premises will be confiscated.

### Author event – school librarian

As an end of term treat, students will have an amazing opportunity to hear two incredibly popular middle-grade authors discuss their books and more. Anna James is the bestselling author of the Pages and Co. series which, celebrates all that is best in life: books, adventure, friendship – and cake. Nicola Skinner is a rising star whose previous books have been longlisted for both the Blue Peter Book Award and Branford Boase Book Award. It will be a live event where pupils will have a chance to ask questions to award-winning authors.

### Dance update

This half term we have been able to begin a wide variety of clubs, some of which have never before been done at St Mary Magdalene. These include dance clubs for our Year 7 and Year 8 students. On Monday after school in the dance studio Greenwich Dance have begun the 'NRG Dance' programme for Year 7. Additionally, on Thursday after school, the Jack Petchey Foundation have begun the 'Step Into Dance' programme for Year 8. Both clubs focus on contemporary and street style dance and are both led by extremely talented dance teachers, so please encourage your children to take part if they can!

### Upcoming school dates:

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – half day (year 7/8 dismissal at 1230 and Year 9/10/11 at 1pm)

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May–Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June: Half term holiday

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June: School re-opens

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July: INSET day – school closed for students

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July: Year 7 and 12 induction day – Years 7-10 carry out remote learning from home

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: Last day for students (Half day)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July: INSET day – school closed to students

Mr R. Hussain  
Principal

### Message from the Chaplain

This half term our Federation has been looking at Faithfulness and Gentleness. I shared with the school some thoughts on being Faithful – to God, to ourselves and to each other.

St Paul wrote to the Thessalonians saying 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God' (1 Thess 5:16-18). As we give thanks for the day ahead, we are faithful to God. As we try our best, remain genuine and make our own good choices, we are faithful to ourselves. And as we act with love, speak with gentleness and encourage each other, we are faithful to those around us.

As students and staff take a break, give thanks for the term that has passed, for the growing freedoms we have to meet again and the way God's Holy Spirit supports and encourages us through our faith and the fellowship we have around us.  
May God bless you and your family at this time. Amen!