



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene  
Secondary

Issue No 03 | October | Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Dear Parent/Carers,

## Reminder of weekly LFT testing

It is important that students continue to test on a regular basis as part of the asymptomatic testing programme.

Testing means we will:

- identify and isolate those who are asymptomatic
- reduce transmission
- keep our school covid-secure

The Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care have written a [joint letter](#) to parents about the vaccination of children aged 12 to 15 and the importance of continuing with twice-weekly COVID-19 testing and reporting.

## Equalities summary for parents from Mr Greenwood-Vice Principal

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who took part in the recent survey on equalities. We have also surveyed staff and students, and I have met with student representatives across all year groups to discuss their views in more depth.

All of this has been extremely useful to us in directing our work in promoting equality and diversity in the school and preventing discrimination. Please see below a short summary of the findings from the recent parent/carer survey.

The overwhelming majority of parents/carers 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that:

- Students are treated equally at the school regardless of protected characteristic
- The history and culture of students of all backgrounds are valued and well represented
- The school has effectively promoted equality and diversity in the curriculum.
- The school challenges unconscious bias and discrimination
- The school has a strong commitment to equal treatment of students
- The school has a strong commitment to all students achieving academically

Most respondents to the survey also showed a high level of concern about racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination both in society and – to a lesser extent – in school. We share these concerns and this encourages us to continue this work.

However, we are aware that some parents and carers felt less positive about the steps we have taken, or expressed the view that not enough information had been shared, and many of you also helpfully suggested areas for improvement. We have paid close attention to your feedback, and that of staff and students. Whilst this will feed into our wider action plan, a few small examples of how we have already used this feedback are as follows:

- Creating clearer information for staff and students about how to address instances of discrimination with notices in collective worship and a poster campaign around school
- Arranging further training for staff on sexism and sexual harassment
- Passing on specific feedback to middle leaders within the school to support them in their work

## Operation MAKEPEACE- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Operation MAKEPEACE is award winning presentation dealing with Gang, Knife and Firearms crime and how to make the right choices and stay safe. They will be coming into the school to deliver a presentation to our students.

## Flu vaccine

An alternative flu vaccine is now being offered that does not contain porcine gelatine which may be of interest to some parents. Please see attached information for our clinics.

## Prayer from the Chaplain

### Here is the final prayer and blessing:

*Go forth into the world in peace; be of good  
courage;  
hold fast that which is good; render to no one  
evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of  
the Holy Spirit;  
And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit be with you and all who you love,  
Now and forever more.  
Amen*

## Year 11 examinations in summer 2022

On 30 September, Ofqual and the DfE made a long-awaited announcement about changes to assessment at GCSE, AS and A-Level in summer 2022. This has led to exam boards clarifying arrangements and making changes in a number of subject areas; we will summarise this for you in a letter in due course. Consultations [on contingency arrangements for GCSEs](#) and [for VTQs](#) have also opened, which outline how students would be graded in case exams have to be cancelled for a third year in a row. This suggests that Year 11 students would be graded on the basis of how they perform in assessments that take place over the course of Year 11. Whatever the outcome, we can be clear that how well students work now will directly impact on the grades they achieve this summer.

## InvestIn Education

InvestIn Education are offering an even wider range of career related programmes this year - please see the flyer attached for the courses available and a discount code available to our students.

These programmes empower students aged 12-18 to take charge of their futures through a series of live, interactive and hands-on sessions with top professionals. Students can choose from 28 careers, and attend either in-person across 5 UK cities or live online from the comfort of their own home.

This year InvestIn are also able to offer a limited number of students a 12-month membership to their new state-of-the-art tech platform, AmbitionX, featuring unlimited live online weekend and evening programmes. These will be allocated on a first come first serve basis so please let Miss Botha know as soon as possible if you are keen.

## Parent Meetings 2021/22

Please see the below table with dates for parents' meetings for the academic year. Information on how to book appointments will be given closer to the time so please look out for further correspondence.

DATE	MEETING
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021	Meet the Tutor (ALL YEARS) <b>3.30pm-6.30pm</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Sixth Form Open Event and KS4 Information Evening <b>5pm-6pm</b>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	Year 9 options evening <b>4pm-6pm</b>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Year 9 Parents' Evening <b>3.30pm-6.30pm</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Year 11 Parents' Evening <b>3.30pm-6.30pm</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Year 10 Parents' Evening <b>3.30pm-6.30pm</b>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022	Year 12 Parents' Evening <b>3.30pm-6.30pm</b>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Year 7 Parents' Evening <b>3.30pm-6.30pm</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Year 8 Parents' Evening <b>3.30pm-6.30pm</b>

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussain  
**Principal**