



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene
Secondary

Issue No 05 | November | Friday 5th

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed half term last week. We are mindful of the darker evenings and recent events in Woolwich and the local area. Please ensure your child is at home safely straight after school.

Year 11 Work Experience

Over this half term holiday, the Year 11s completed a week of work experience as a part of their continued careers education. This is an important part of students professional progression, allowing them to get a first taste of both the job application process and also the working world itself. The students were required to find their own placement by networking and approaching employers using the CV and interview skills practised in PSHE. A large number of students were successful at securing placements at a wide variety of workplaces including pharmacies, solicitors, libraries, hotels and other local businesses. These experiences have allowed our students to develop new employability skills and get a clearer idea about which direction they would like their personal journey to progress.

SAFE Ambassadors

Over the last few days we have trained up 11 students to become Wellbeing Ambassadors for the school. The role of the Ambassadors will be to provide peer on peer support for students and to raise awareness of mental health. They will provide information on coping mechanisms and the services out there for young people to access. The Ambassadors will be creating ideation and plans around how we as a school can raise the awareness of mental health and promote wellbeing.

A big congratulations to the following students for becoming our Wellbeing Ambassadors!

- Isaiah Myrie - Smith
- Maximilian Slowinski
- Marvella Ashong
- Temitope Olayiwola
- Anjola Phillips
- Muqtadir Eytayo
- Ogechi Ndubuisi - Otusi
- Cordae Elie
- Jimmy Yusuf
- Katrice Banton
- Rowena Kisembo

British West Indies Regiment workshop

Recently, Year 9 have been given the opportunity to spend the day with Historian and Documentary producer Tony T from Sweet Patootee Arts. Year 9 have been studying the role that the men from the British West Indies Regiment played in the First World War; their experiences and the impact the First World War had on Caribbean independence and the struggle for equality. Students have been using documentary footage produced by Sweet Patootee and the first-hand accounts that Tony himself researched twenty years ago. The workshop with Tony explored the importance of the First World War in the much wider context of Caribbean History. Students loved the opportunity to come face to face with a historian and documentary-maker.

Prayer from the Chaplain

Heavenly God,

Creator of the earth and heavens.
As the seasons change we consider the changes in our own lives and the lives of others.

We give you thanks that your love and your strength never changes. That however much our world feels too much, your care for us will never overwhelm us. Give to the leaders of these lands wisdom to bring solutions to our fragile climate and environment. Lead us to pray for and work towards a day when all will be safe and secure, when all will feel accepted, loved and cared for within their community.

God bless us and our endeavours.

Amen

New devices for disadvantaged children and young people in school or college are available to order through the Get Help with Technology service

The Get Help with Technology (GHwT) service is [providing an additional 500,000 laptops and tablets](#) so that disadvantaged children and young people in school or college can access remote education and social care services.

Further [information about these grants, including the eligibility criteria](#), is available on GOV.UK.

CAT4 assesment

Year 7s will be sitting CAT4 assessments next week; please check your email for a letter that was sent earlier this week regarding these CAT4 tests.

Congratulations - Frankee Hayes- MTK Box Cup champion

One of our year 8 students was recently involved in a national boxing competition during half term. I am incredibly proud to share that Frankee won the competition for his weight category. His next competitive bout will take place tomorrow – best of luck Frankee!



Year 11 mock examinations

Please check your email for a letter from Mr Greenwood that was sent today with detailed information about the mock exams and an exam timetable.

Library author event:

On Friday 12th November, our students will have an amazing opportunity to attend a live Virtual Visit by Jacqueline Wilson!

This Virtual Visit is the perfect opportunity to ask questions to one of Britain's best-selling children's authors, encourage reading for pleasure, introduce new books and author, and inspire a love of reading. Taking part will support pupils' literacy, creative writing and encourage the habit of reading widely and often.

2021 BHM competition

To celebrate Black History Month SMM Library has run the yearly whole school Poetry Competition inspired by Black History. We have had a huge amount of entries and among many amazing works from students, we are pleased to announce that the following poems;

“FROM WHAT I HEAR AND SEE” By Funanya Odu 11KMS

*If I were to take out your heart,
Move all your organs away
And inspect it with a glass,
Would I find it missing pieces?
Eroded by the words they say.*

*I heard them calling you by the name
That they created years ago,
To refer to us as animals
And dehumanise our souls.
I heard them blowing up the alleyways
With guns in the dark of night,
Thinking no one would catch them
Though I fear their thoughts were right.
“Dark skins” are seen as problems
When we’re facing the worst issues,
Not even on the surface,
Do they see what it is that they accuse
Of us
Assume of us
As we are forced to stand in silence for them to choose
Our response
Make up stories of what never once
Was true.*

*If I were to take out your brain
And look into your mind,
Inspect it for a day
Then I am sure I would find
A mind so brilliant, that I would question all the hate.
And why they say what they say.*

“OTHER” By Eniola Oladimeji 10AOU

*My posture remains calm and tranquil,
My thoughts and hands kept to myself,
I’ve done nothing at all to disturb you,
So why do you think the way that you do?*

*What makes me so “other”?
Hmm,
Tell me...*

*Is it the colour of my skin,
The tone of my voice,
The span of my hips,
The size of my lips,*

*The way that I walk,
The way that I talk?*

*Or is it the way that I move,
Run, skip, jump,
Just like every other kid?*

*You didn't notice my smile,
My self control,
My ability to keep things in.*

*You didn't notice my patience,
My ambitions,
Or what I strive to be,*

*See the first thing you noticed about me is how “other” I am,
But I guess that's just the way it is.*

Both poems above are outstanding and therefore were selected as the winners of the 2021 BHM competition. We would like to also highlight the wonderful poems from the students named below:

“Melanin” by Wlodek Soroczynski 10AOU

“Remember me” by Ariel Thiga 7KHS

“Rosa Parks” by Caleb Owen 7KHS

Please could all named students see Ms Mnatsakanyan to collect your rewards!

These amazing poems will be featured as part of our student library collection of poems where all members of the school community will have a chance to read them. Well done all!

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussain
Principal