



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene
Secondary

Issue No 08 | December | Tuesday 14th

Dear Parent/Carers,

Staggered dismissal- Thursday 16th December

For the last day of term, students will be expected to attend their lessons as normal, with the addition of an end of year Christmas service and Achievement assembly for each year group. Year groups will be dismissed at the earlier times of:

Year 7 & 8 – 12.15pm

Year 9 – 1.15pm

Year 10 & 11 – 1.00pm

Year 12 – 2.00pm

Spring Term

The official return to school date is Tuesday 4th January. Over the first couple of days, we will again be testing all of our students before we resume lessons. This is an expectation for all secondary school within the Local Authority; we will update you with the exact time for each year group and their date of returning to school. For any period of absence, we will provide online learning for our students. We plan for Autumn term reports to be emailed home to you in the second week of Spring term.

Year 7 sets

As of January, students will be set for English, RS, Modern Foreign Languages and Social Sciences. These sets have been decided using CAT4 tests and assessments students have sat over autumn term. Students' sets will continue to be reviewed over the course of the year. Year 7 students will be given their new timetables on Wednesday 15 December, they will appear on Satchel in early January, and students will begin their new classes on their return after the Christmas break.

Year 7 Mixed Ability in Maths

Following a trial in the Autumn Term, the Mathematics Department have made the decision to keep Year 7 pupils in mixed ability groupings for the time being, as we believe this is the best decision for all pupils within the year group. The mathematics teachers at SMM have been working together to plan lessons that both support pupils where they struggle with concepts, but also allow pupils to increase their depth of understanding of the same concepts, and this is something that we are passionate about continuing to do. Following the disruption of the past two years, this decision will allow us to ensure all pupils are provided with high-quality teaching of the fundamental concepts that will underpin the mathematics they study at secondary, allowing opportunity for the variety of gaps in knowledge that may have occurred between pupils to be corrected in a timely manner.

Charlton Athletic Club Traineeships (CACT)

For Year 11 students considering their options next year please see attached a flyer with details of traineeship programmes run by Charlton Athletic Club. These traineeships are not specific to sports and can help students to pursue work experience for a career area of their choice, as well as a certificate in Job Search and Employment Potential and a course preparing them for work experience. For more information and testimonials about these courses please also watch the videos below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTkdTFDaTxE&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AnzvllezQc>

Apprenticeships, traineeships & T-levels

On Thursday 2nd December Year 11 students were visited by a representative from ASK Apprenticeships, who delivered an assembly informing them of some of the options available to them next year. If you would like more information about these opportunities and how to help your child to fully explore their options please see attached the slides from this assembly. In addition to the website listed here students can also use their Unifrog accounts to explore apprenticeships, traineeships & T-levels, as well as directly comparing these options with A-levels and BTECs.

Message from the Chaplain

Heavenly God, Good Father of us all.

As we approach a time of excitement and celebration, we remember those who feel uncertain and unsafe. Give them hope in their hearts, good Lord.

As we prepare for fun and festivals, remind us of those who feel sad, lonely or unwell. Help us to share our joy and offer our prayers that your spirit might be with them at this time.

Lord God, you are our strength and your grace blesses us all as we need. We thank you Father God.

Amen

Jack Petchey Award Nominations

For this term we have been able to nominate two students for the Jack Petchey Award. This is in recognition of outstanding work and efforts in specific departments, and awards funding to those departments from the Jack Petchey Foundation in order to help foster these students passions and interests. This term's nominees:

Tj Ogunyemi (Y9) - TJ has not only been excellent in all PE lessons this academic year but has also committed more than any other pupil in the year group to extra-curricular sporting activities. TJ was brilliant in his Rugby lessons and soon gained a reputation for being a great tackler and team mate. TJ has been to every Football afterschool club and has since represented the school Football team on three occasions, two of which he was named Player of the Match. Due to his excellence in PE, TJ was invited to attend extra-curricular Boxing sessions and has been progressing very well since joining, impressing the Boxing coach. I hope TJ continues to excel in PE, he is becoming a great athlete!

Max Slowinski (Y9) - Max always goes above and beyond in science, and regularly plans his own investigations to do with the science technicians outside of class. He already has an admirable understanding of the practical investigations required at GCSE as well as many at A-level, as well as others outside of the curriculum.

Congratulations to Tj and Max!

Library opportunities:

RBG Poetry Competition

As a part of enrichment programs in the Library some of our students have participated in the RBG Poetry Competition.



Eniola's poem "Other" stood out to many of the judging panels for its emotion and powerful use of repetition to challenge attitudes effectively. The use of questions also added to the overall effect. As a result poem "Other" by Eniola Oladimeji 10AOU is the runner up in the whole KS4 in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

We hope, this continues to inspire Eniola and rest of the students at SMM to write and engage even more with poetry and many opportunities at SMM. Well done Eniola!

Library Gazetteer

We are excited to introduce "What 2 Read"! "What 2 Read" is the new library gazetteer which is created by students for students, where all pupils at SMM have a platform and opportunity to share and showcase their stories, arts, book recommendations, reviews, and more.

This week's fixtures and results

Y9 Boys Football

SMM 3-2 Woolwich Poly

Goalscorers – Christian Adebomojo, Tafara Matandirotya, Dave Lapa.

Player of the Match – Chinedu Ukah

SMM 4-1 Halley Academy

Goalscorers – Tyrone Rogers x3, Nathaniel Gabriel x1

Player of the Match – Tafara Matandirotya

Y7/8 Rugby

SMM 20-15 Prendegast

Player of the Match – Nekemka Agulanna

I hope you all enjoy the coming Christmas break. Merry Christmas to all - wishing all our families a safe and relaxing break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussain
Principal