



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene  
Secondary

Issue No 01 | September | Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Parent/Carers,

A very warm welcome to the new academic year. I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful Summer with your children. A special welcome to our new year 7 students as well as our very first year 12 students as part of our Sixth Form.

As always with the start of the new year, there is much to share. Firstly, please read the attached punctuality letter, explaining our expectations for students to be in on time. Please note that all students will need to enter and exit via the secondary entrance located on Neal street from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Early next week, you will also be receiving a welcome letter from your child's family tutor; please do ensure you read these letters with your children.

Please also discuss your child's timetable with them. It is important all students know when they will have their PE lessons and as such ensure they bring in their full PE kit on that day - students will no longer be allowed to wear PE kit to school and will need to change in the changing rooms. In addition to student allocated lessons, there will be a number of lunch time and after school enrichment clubs for your child to sign up for. Please encourage your children to look out for these opportunities.

You will be aware of the changes to COVID protocols nationally and the following are the three key changes we are implementing as a school, using government guidance:

### **1. Mixing and 'bubbles'**

Keeping students in year group bubbles to reduce mixing is no longer a requirement.

### **2. Tracing close contacts**

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing.

### **3. Face coverings**

Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, staff and students should feel free to wear them.

Even though the above three points have changed, Coronavirus hasn't gone away so there will still be a need for schools, pupils and students to follow basic measures to avoid the spread of the virus:

1. Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools.
2. We will ensure good hygiene including frequent and thorough hand cleaning and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
3. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
4. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
5. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

If there are a number of cases in one class or year group, we may increase testing, temporarily reintroduce face covering and restrict attendance as a short-term measure.

Please note, if someone tests positive or has symptoms, they must still self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test as soon as possible. If you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild, you must get a test:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Pupils should only self-isolate if they have symptoms or if they get a positive PCR or Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test. If a student is asked to get a PCR test as a result of contact with a positive case they may continue to attend education until they get the result of their PCR back.

If you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, individuals are not required to self-isolate, even if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, if any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. They do not need to isolate while awaiting the PCR test.

### What's on in art- Ms Anderson



During the summer term year 9 students participated in the **Rivers of the World Art Exhibition Project** in collaboration with the British council and the Thames festival trust. Following on from the Art workshop students' artworks will be exhibited at the following locations

23 August - 30 Sept - **Tate Modern on the South Bank**

1 Sept - 29 October - **National Maritime Museum Greenwich**

30 Sept - 6-8pm - Open View event at **National Maritime Museum Greenwich** for staff, students and parents

As Art lead at SMM, I am extremely proud of our students' achievement. I would like to use this opportunity to invite everyone to see our students' artworks on display at the various locations.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussain  
**Principal**

### Message from Rev Dom

This week will undoubtedly be filled with waves of anticipation, excitement and anxiety.

Some will start new schools, others new classes and our new Year 12s will start new qualifications. As you walk through the next few days – whether you are a parent or a young person - be encouraged that you do not go alone.

As a School Federation we travel together in Faith as a Fellowship – a group connected by our values. We are connected as a wider Family who strive to see everyone succeed. And above and beyond this, God promises that His Holy Spirit goes with us to support and care for us.

Imagine now – stepping into your day, into your week – being encouraged by a whole team, being inspired by the creator of all things, being loved and valued by God and by all those who will see you at school.

May God bless you as you ready yourself for each new day.