



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 1 Thursday 8th September

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back to all our students to a new year at St Mary Magdalene secondary phase. I hope all families have enjoyed a relaxing and pleasant summer. A particular warm welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, and congratulations to our Year 11 students on their GCSE results.

In what has been a challenging few years for young people across the country, the excellent accomplishments of St Mary Magdalene students are testimony to their hard work, and the dedication and support of their teachers. We congratulate all of our students on their hard work and accomplishments, no matter what grade they are awarded. Many students have surpassed their own expectations; many have also triumphed in the face of enormous difficulties. We are very proud of all of our students.

I would like to remind parents that school begins at 0845, but all students are expected to be on school premises by 0840. School ends at 3.15pm for year 7 and 8 and at 3.30pm for all other year groups.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 should enter school via the secondary entrance on Neal Street and students in years 10 and 11 should enter the school via the community entrance. All students are expected to leave school via the secondary entrance and walk along Neal and Hendon Street, straight to the bus stop and home as soon as possible.

Students are not permitted to socialise in the local area. We would like to remind students to be respectful of the public and staff in the local area and on public transport.

If dropping your child off or collecting them from school, please do be considerate of one another and our neighbours as well as being aware of road safety. There is no official designated parking space for parents, so please do encourage your children to get the bus or use public transport yourselves when travelling to school.

Benefits for children at school

Royal Greenwich is promoting the updated 'Benefits for children at school' leaflet which summarises the main sources of help available for low-income families. We hope that this will help ensure that parents don't miss out. Attached to your weekly bulletin, you should receive an article "Make sure families in Royal Greenwich don't miss out!". Please promote this information and the updated leaflet in your school newsletters and/or websites and encourage borough residents to contact the Welfare Rights Service to check that they are not missing out on extra help and support.

[Benefits for children at school" factsheet](#)

Sparx Maths

We are delighted to let you know that this year students will be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student personalised maths homework. Each week, topics are set by your child's maths teacher and your child will have a set of questions tailored to their level of understanding and learning pace. To help you support your child's maths progress so each week Sparx will send you an email updating you on your child's homework completion. We will be sending out a further letter explaining how the platform works and how you can support your child's use of it. We believe that Sparx will play an important role in helping your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths to grow. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Todd (Deputy Head of Maths).

Prayer from the Chaplain

This term we are looking at Belonging. We belong to so many things. Groups, families, clubs, and this school community. This week I have been asking our students what barriers they feel they have to being happy or happier. We could ask the same about what stops us feeling like we belong. Let's take a moment to consider that we all belong to God. We are God's loved children, valued for who we are - regardless of how the world looks at us.

***As we pray this week, let's pray for those who feel lost, isolated or left out. Let's pray for those who worry about the obstacles they see ahead of them. Let's give thanks for belonging.
Amen.***

Year 7 School journey

This year we will be resuming our Year 7 school journey. Please check your emails for a letter that was sent to Year 7 parents earlier in the week.

Post-16 students

All year 12 & 13 students will now enter the school through secondary gate, not main reception. Students can leave the school site from 11:10am if they don't have lessons but must sign out and sign in at main reception. A reminder of the dress code that all students must follow is attached.

Careers guidance:

Across this term all Year 11 students will have a 1-to-1 careers guidance interview with an external advisor. This will provide tailored and impartial support from a qualified professional and help students as they work towards their post-16 options. Any student or parent questions for either the external advisor or an internal member of the careers team can be directed to the following email address:

studentcareers@koinoniafederation.com

Sixth form careers programme:

This term on Thursdays in period 5 all Year 12 students will choose one of six careers pathways, for which they will then have tailored sessions focussed on employable skills pertinent to their chosen sector, visiting speakers and also relevant workplace visits. The options are creative industries, business & enterprise/construction, public sector, medicine/dentistry/veterinary, STEM, and accounting, banking, law & finance.

Three of these pathways will have sessions running this term, and the other three sessions will be run across the spring term. Students who do not have pathway sessions this term will need to find a volunteering placement within the community for this hour each week. This community service will not only build employable skills but also demonstrate compassion and altruism.

PE and Sports Club 2022-23

Below is the timetable for PE and Sports Clubs at SMM. This timetable is subject to change, pupils will be informed of any changes to the timetable.

All clubs will aim to begin in the week beginning Monday 5th September.

Pupils must bring appropriate sports kit for all clubs, pupils cannot participate in clubs in their school uniform.

Please note, some clubs are off-site at local facilities (Charlton Park Rugby Club and Royal Resistance Boxing Gym).

	CLUB	STAFF	MEET WHERE?	WHAT TIME?
Mon	Y7 Boys Rugby	FLE, YSY, BFN	Student Welfare 3:15pm	CPRFC 3:30pm
	Y8 Boys Rugby	FLE, YSY, BFN	Student Welfare 3:15pm	CPRFC 3:30pm
	Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12 Girls Football	CHS	SMM 4G	3:30pm-4:45pm
Tues	Y11 Boys Football	JME	SMM 4G	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Boxing @ Royal Resistance	CHS	Student Welfare 3:15pm	3:30pm-4:30pm
	Y7 & Y8 Girls Football	EWY - AM session	SMM 4G	7:15am-8:20am
	Y9, Y10, Y11 Cricket	JME - Lunch Session	Sports Hall	13:30-14:30pm
Weds	Y9 Boys Football	OOE - AM session	SMM 4G	7:15am-8:20am
Thurs	Y7, Y8, Y9 Girls Rugby	BBN, LAY	Student Welfare 3:15pm	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Y9 & Y10 Boys Rugby	DLH, DOE, JME	Student Welfare 3:15pm	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Y8 Boys Football	YSY	SMM 4G	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Y10 & Y11 Netball	EWY	Hard Court	3:30pm-4:45pm
Fri	Y10 Boys Football	FLE	SMM 4G	3:30pm-4:45pm

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussain
Principal