



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 2 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Dear Parents/carers

I hope you are all keeping well. With half term next week, I hope you all have some fun-planned activities with your children.

## Upper school lunch

On 11 November, Mr Greenwood emailed all parents regarding a proposed change to upper school lunch. Following consultation with parents/carers, students and staff, we have decided to make permanent the change to upper school lunch. Most respondents were very positive about the proposed change and we have seen it work effectively in school. As such, as of 31 October, the length of upper school students' lunchtime will shorten from 60 minutes to 50 minutes. Upper school students' school day will therefore end at 15.20 rather than the current time of 15.30.

This will not lead to a reduction in the amount of learning time for any students, and there will be no change to the timings of the school day for students in Years 7 and 8. Thank you to all parents/carers and students who gave feedback.

## Attendance & Absence reporting

To report your child's absence please do not call the school office unless necessary. Parents should be using the [Absence reporting form](#) that can also be accessed on the school's website and a dedicated medical evidence email: [medicalsecondary@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:medicalsecondary@koinoniafederation.com). Thank you for your ongoing co-operation and support in ensuring your child continues to attend school on time. Please click for letter sent out earlier in the week on [School Attendance Matters - A Parent's Guide to Good Attendance](#)

## Accelerated reader

At St Mary Magdalene we understand that literacy helps our students make sense of the world, thus offers choices and better life chances. In order to improve literacy we are introducing a number of strategies that will help students become competent in their subjects.

As of next half term, Key Stage Three students will partake in the school's Accelerated Reader Program. The program is designed to motivate, monitor, and manage students' independent reading practice and watch as students develop a true love for reading.

As a school, we are extremely keen to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to become confident readers and are engaging in the range of skills that literature has to offer.

## Y11 post-16 options in Greenwich

For parents looking to support their children in exploring different post-16 options within the borough please use the following link to see the different sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships in Greenwich as their open days. [https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200289/post\\_16\\_education\\_and\\_training](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200289/post_16_education_and_training) Both parents and students can also send any queries they have via email to [studentcareers@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:studentcareers@koinoniafederation.com) using their school email address.

## Prayer from the Chaplain

We are entering a period of change. The days are getting darker, the nights are getting longer, the weather is getting more changeable. Many families will notice the shops selling things for Halloween, Divali and Christmas.

These festivals centre about Light and Dark as well. As we travel through this season, remember that the light of God can never be extinguished, however dark the days seem. Remember that although our news and our neighbourhoods can feel full of dark times, there are people who bring light into the dark places. There are places that shine in the dark.

***My prayer for all of us is that we would feel the light of Christ in our hearts, that we would share that light in word and action, and that the light of our faith would be felt by those who need it most.***

**Amen**

## Y12 Volunteering

Across the Autumn term the Y12s who expressed interest in MDV (medicine, dentistry & veterinary), STEM and accounting, banking law & finance have been volunteering in the community, before they swap to careers sessions in Spring. This has been to increase interpersonal skills and employability whilst also fostering compassion for their community. Some of the places our students are volunteering are charity shops, libraries, primary schools and tutoring younger students within our secondary school.

## Y12 Guest speaker – Minal Sthankiya (National Security Communications)

Across the Autumn term the Y12s who expressed interest in public sector, creative & business careers have been attending careers sessions in school, before they swap to volunteering in the community in Spring. Recently the students were visited by Minal Sthankiya, a member of National Security Communications for Prime Ministers Cabinet office. The students were able to gain an insight into working in the Ministry or Defence as well as other areas of the Civil Service.



## 6<sup>th</sup> form Guest speaker – Kat Jones (Ardent Recruitment)

An assembly was delivered to the 6<sup>th</sup> form by Kat Jones, a member of Ardent Legal Recruitment. The focus of this was looking at what labour market information (LMI) is and how to access LMI specific to both Greenwich specifically and also London. This will help students to assess which career sectors are likely to grow and expand in the coming years and thus have a larger number of jobs, as well as what salaries look like in different jobs and sectors. Students were also provided with information on what employers are looking for when hiring entry level graduates, in terms of both hard skills and soft skills.



## Road safety around the school

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 and from school.

## Pre-loved uniform

As we continue to set up our very own uniform swap shop, we are asking parents to send their child in with Pre-loved uniform that could be used to stock our uniform supplies ready for students to be able to trade items. For example, if your child's blazers was too small, we would offer a swap where we would take the small blazer, if it was in good condition, and in return we would give the student the size up at no additional cost. For this week we are also offering a free breakfast to students that submit pre-loved uniform. All they need to do is submit it to their family tutor who will take their name down so they can receive a free breakfast the following day.

## PE and Sports Club 2022-23

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

	CLUB	STAFF	MEET WHERE?	WHAT TIME?
Mon	Y7 Basketball	Bball Coach	SPH	3:15pm-4:45pm
	Running Club (all welcome)	AML	PE Block	3:30pm-4:30pm
	Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12 Girls Football	CHS	SMM 4G	3:30pm-4:45pm
Tues	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
	Y11 Boys Football	JME	SMM 4G	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Y11 Basketball	Bball Coach	SPH	3:15pm-4:45pm
	Boxing @ Royal Resistance	CHS	Student Welfare 3:15pm	3:30pm-4:30pm
Weds	Y10 Basketball	Bball Coach	SPH	3:15pm-4:45pm
Thurs	All Girls Rugby	BBN, LAY	Student Welfare	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Y9 Boys Football	OOE	4G Pitch (AM Session)	7:15am-8:20am
	All Boys Rugby	DLH, DOE, JME	Student Welfare	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Y7/Y8 Boys Football	YSY, OSY	SMM 4G	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Y10 & Y11 Netball	EWY	Hard Court	3:30pm-4:45pm
	All Girls Basketball	Bball Coach	SPH	3:15pm-4:45pm
Fri	Y10 Football	FLE	SMM 4G	3:30pm-4:45pm
	Y8/9 Basketball	Bball Coach	SPH	3:15pm-4:45pm

### **East Greenwich Kick Academy**

East Greenwich Kick Academy's free football training is due to start at the Peninsula site on Thursday November 3rd at 7pm **(see attached poster for information)**

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussain  
**Principal**