



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Co-Headteachers' Message

Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring term 1 has been extremely busy in the secondary phase at St Mary Magdalene School where our students have had a wide range of opportunities to develop both academically and personally due to the relentless commitment of our teaching and support staff.

A key focus of the term was on students' academic progress following on from their assessments and mock examinations. This is particularly a pivotal time of year in terms preparing students for their GCSE and A Level examinations as they approach rapidly. Central to this, will be the second set of mock examinations for our Year 11s and Year 13s which commence on Tuesday 25th February. It is also an important time for our Year 9 students as they consider their GCSE options and this process begins in earnest during Year 9 Options Evening which takes on Thursday 6th February. We look forward to welcoming all of our Year 9 parents to school on that important evening.

We are delighted with the number of trips and extra-curricular opportunities that we have been able to provide for our students. As you read through the newsletter, it will give you a strong sense of the experiences the students have been involved in and we are thrilled with how well they have engaged with these. The school has also been working in partnership with Charlton Athletic FC and Community Trust to create more broad range of experiences for the students. We are particularly pleased with the 'Greener Game Project' where some of our Year 10s had the fantastic opportunity to work with Charlton and have their work filmed by Sky Sports.

We remain firmly committed to working with you and your child as we approach the end of Spring Term 1. We kindly ask for your support in helping us to maintain high standards in relation to students' behaviour, uniform, attendance and punctuality. In terms of punctuality, we are fully aware of how congested the traffic can be in the mornings, so please support your child to leave the house earlier to enable them to arrive at school on time irrespective of the traffic. These fundamental elements that are central to creating a strong and successful school culture that is underpinned by our Christian Ethos.

SPRING 1 –
Theme: Patience
Federation Value – Respect
SMSC: Generosity

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Memory Verse



Upcoming Diary Dates

Tuesday 4th February 2025 - Diversity Competition at Secondary

Wednesday 5th February 2025 - KS4 Behaviour and Culture Autumn reward Trip

Thursday 6th February 2025 - Year 9 Options Evening (finishing time 5:30pm)
Y7 British Museum Trip (60 students attending)

Friday 7th February 2025 - Y11 GCSE Kew Gardens Art Trip

Monday 10th February 2025 - Y9 DTP/Men acwy vaccinations

Tuesday 11th February 2025 - Y10 Cutty Sark STEM Careers Day
Y13 Woolwich Works Apprenticeship Fair (plus some Y12)
Y10 Cutty Sark - Careers Fair day

Thursday 27th February 2025 - Y12/13 Keats House Trip (10:30am - 12:30pm)

Friday 28th February 2025 - Y10 Maths Competition to Thomas Tallis School
Music Trip to Ormiston Bushfield Academy, Peterborough

Monday 10th March 2025 - Year 10 and 12 Mocks Open



Uniform

Uniform plays a crucial role in providing the students with a strong sense of identity, belonging and respect for our school community. It reinforces who we are as a community and allows students to feel proud of their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for the workplace. We expect all students to be in full and correct school uniform in line with our policy.

- Full school uniform must be worn at all time, including a blazer, tie, black/gray socks, black shoes and lanyards.
- Students without the correct uniform including; black shoes or blazers, will be required to borrow school uniform from student welfare or will be sent home to collect the correct uniform.
- No hoodies tracksuit tops, trainers, or footwear such as; Uggs or Crocs are allowed to be worn in the building.
- One pair of stud earrings may be worn, no more than one per ear.
- No false eye lashes or acrylic nails to be worn
- Kits should be knee length
- No lip-gloss or other form of makeup should be worn. These will be confiscated if seen.

Issues	Consequence 1	Consequence 2
No blazer and/ or shoes or tie	Y9-11: Uniform letter sent home	C3 (with HoY following day)
Wearing banned clothing items in school	Y17-12: Given HoY	Item will be confiscated and returned at the end of the week

The uniform policy is on the school’s website for further reference.

Please check the following on your child’s uniform and replace what’s needed:

- Broken or misplaced shoes
- Damaged or too small shirts and trousers
- Damaged or broken trousers
- Enough trousers and shirts for five-day week
- Enough black or dark grey socks for five-day week



Year 7 British Museum Trip

Our Year 7 students went on a trip to the British Museum to explore the Silk Roads exhibition. The visit offered a fascinating glimpse into the ancient trade routes that connected civilisations across Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

From intricate silk textiles and shimmering treasures to ancient maps and cultural artefacts, the exhibition brought history to life. Students marvelled at the rich exchanges of ideas, art and goods that shaped our world.

The day was not only educational but was also an inspiring reminder of the importance of cultural diversity and global connections.



Competitions



On 15th January 2025, the school hosted an Inter-House Flag Football Competition for Year 10 students, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and competitive spirit. The event brought students together on the field to battle it out for house pride in a series of fast-paced and thrilling matches.

The winners emerged as 10VNE, 10DGO, and 10RGR, each demonstrating exceptional talent and determination. Congratulations to the champions and all participants for making this event a memorable success!



Workshops

Title/Topic: Greener Greenwich Campain -Motivez

- Year Groups Involved: Year 10
- Date and Time: 22/01/2025

Key Learning Outcomes:

- Our school as part of Greener Greenwich. Twenty seven of our students participated in a workshop that focused on sustainable development. The team they were part of won in one of the categories. As a result of their success, they have been invited to attend an additional workshop and present their ideas to the industry experts followed by Q&A.

Clubs and Extra-curricular Updates:

- New clubs for this term (Knitting Club, DT Textiles, Pottery club, The Library club, Drama Club, Dance Club, Cricket Club, Netball Club, Table Tennis Club).



Careers

Year 10 Students Get Creative with Sustainability at Charlton Athletic Workshop

Eighteen of our Year 10 students recently had the exciting opportunity to participate in a sustainability workshop, hosted by Charlton Athletic Football Club. The students were split into teams and tasked with coming up with innovative ways to improve sustainability at the club. Ideas ranged from reducing waste at match days and designing eco-friendly kits to creating social media campaigns to raise awareness about sustainability.



The team with the best ideas will have the chance to present their proposals at Charlton Athletics home ground on 8th February, just before their “Greener Game” event. The workshop was also filmed by Sky Sports, and a special feature on the collaboration will be broadcast soon.



This is a fantastic example of how our students are engaging with real-world challenges and making a positive impact on the environment. Well done to all who took part!

Sixth Form Students Gain Insight into Auditing with Pippa Horton from Bank of America

Our Sixth Form careers talks continued with a fascinating session led by Pippa Horton, an auditor from Bank of America. Pippa shared her career journey, giving students an in-depth look at what a career in auditing entails and the various pathways into the banking sector.

Her talk provided valuable insights into the world of finance and auditing, helping students better understand potential career options and what working in banking is really like. It was an inspiring opportunity for our students to hear from a professional at the top of her field and explore the possibilities ahead!



Year 10 Students Shine at Motivez Workshop Grand Finale

Our Year 10 students who participated in the Motivez workshop earlier this year recently took part in the exciting grand finale at the Knight Dragon offices, where they pitched their ideas for a new company focused on sustainability. The students presented a range of innovative and creative solutions, with the top prize of £200 awarded to a team for their brilliant concept—Thriftcycle, an app designed to help people recycle their clothes more effectively.



Each team did an outstanding job, showcasing well-researched ideas that addressed real-world sustainability challenges. This project highlighted the growing importance of careers in sustainability, as labour market trends indicate that this sector is expanding rapidly. With sustainability becoming an ever more relevant field, the skills and knowledge our students gained from this experience will serve them well in their future careers.



PE/Sports Clubs: Spring Term

Monday

Volleyball with Miss Liagki
Y7 Basketball with Mr Walsh
Netball with Miss Woolsey

Tuesday

Gymnastics with Miss Hinds
Y10/11 Basketball with Mr Lawrence
Y11 BTEC Sport Intervention with Mr Mudge
6th Form Basketball

Wednesday

Flag Football with BIGKID
Foundation

Thursday

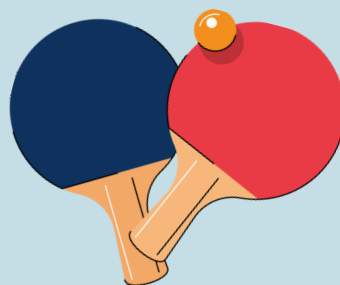
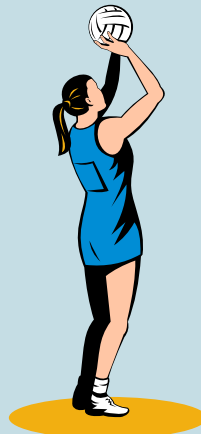
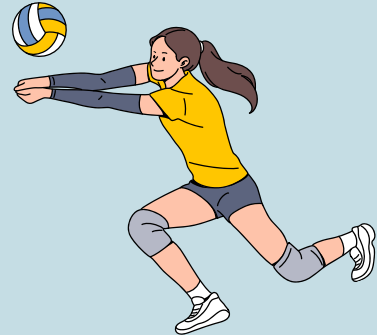
Y10 BTEC Sport Intervention with
Miss Hinds and Miss Woolsey
Table Tennis with Mr Walsh
Cricket with Mr Mudge

Friday

Y8 and Y9 Basketball with Mr Ashong
6th Form Football

Coming Soon

Padel Club
Girls only Flag Football
Table Tennis



Jack Petchey “Speak out” Workshop

On Thursday 23rd January, 60 Year 10 students were given the opportunity to take part in a Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Workshop. The workshop was led by two public speaking experts, who guided students through a range of interactive activities. The students engaged extremely well, and even finished the day by performing their own speeches! Topics ranged from 'Why Women In Football Deserve Greater Pay' to 'Autism is a Strength.' Everyone who took part performed extremely well, and students should be very proud of their courage and support of each other!

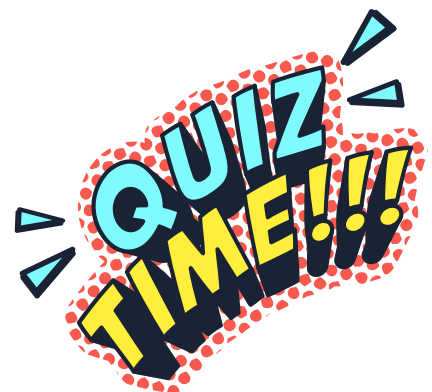
Students' feedback on the workshops demonstrated increased confidence in public speaking:



Greenwich Literature Quiz

A couple of Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Greenwich Literature Quiz at Eltham Hill School against 10 other Schools on Friday 24th January.

They came 4th Place out of 10. Huge congratulations to them for their efforts.



Reminder: No Chewing Gum or Sweets at School

Dear Parents,

We would like to kindly remind all families that chewing gum and sweets are not permitted in school. While we understand that these items may be a treat for students, they can lead to distractions, littering, and issues with students' health and well-being.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a focused and clean learning environment for all students. Please ensure that your child comes to school without gum or sweets, and help us encourage healthy habits throughout the school day.

Thank you for your support!



Message from the Chaplain Re: Dominic Hubbuck

This Christmas my wife was given a calendar for 2025. January's dates have all got celebrations or memorial days assigned from a particular website for celebration days around the world. Recently we had World Pizza Day, today was Squirrel Appreciation Day. Monday 20th was Blue Monday.

During the year, we all will choose what we want to celebrate or remember. Each moment will represent something enjoyable or significant, a time for merriment or to remember sadness. The good new we have though is - We get to choose.

What will you put in your diary or on your calendar to mark the passing of the year?

How will you mark them-with a raised toast, a party or a family gathering. Even remembering the sadnesses can be reframed into thankfulness and a celebration of life an relationships.

Blue Monday is that point in January when the month feels like it has gone on forever, the weather feels more grey and more bleak and our memories of Christmas celebrations have turned back to the plod of a more normal life.

At that point, what will you give thanks for? What will you choose to bring to mind to warm your heart and give yourself a smile? What is on the horizon that can bring you hope an djoy?

Lord God

As the year rolls on and our memories of fun fade,

Warm our hearts with faith that the sun will rise and the nature will bloom.

Help us to mark our days with thankfulness.

Open our eyes to the blessing we have that show your provision for us.

And guide us always in the ways of peace.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Rev. Dominic Hubbuck School Chaplain Koinonia Federation Schools
Assistant Priest with East Greenwich Team Ministry

