



# Parent Newsletter

## St Mary Magdalene Secondary

### Co-Principals' Message

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025



Autumn 2 -  
Theme: Flourishing  
Federation Value - Resilience

John 10:10 I have come that you  
might live in all its abundance

### Memory Verse

Dear Parents & Carers,

The Autumn term has been a busy and memorable one for the Secondary Phase of St Mary Magdalene School. We were delighted to welcome the Prime Minister, Sir Kier Starmer, the Safeguarding Minister Jess Phillips, award-winning actress Olivia Colman and Georgia Harrison to our school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025. They all observed and participated in a Tender Workshop which focused on teaching young people about healthy relationships to tackle violence against women. We were thrilled with and very proud of our Year 7 and Year 12 students who took part in the workshop. Sir Kier was very impressed with the students and complimented them on how informed and articulate they were with regard to a very important, but sensitive topic. Please tune in to the BBC and ITV News this evening (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025).

Our Year 11s and Year 13s have completed their first set of mock examinations for this academic year and will have received their results and feedback from their teachers. These exams are an important indicator and guide to inform us where all students are at in terms of their academic progress and journey. Staff will continue to work closely with the students to provide targeted support and guidance once we return from the Christmas break. It is also equally important for the students to play their part by working as hard as possible and to respond to the feedback from their teachers. We strongly encourage all parents of Year 11s and Year 13s to continue to support their child at home with their studies by ensuring they have clear revision schedules that they follow with purpose and intent.

We also had our fantastic inaugural talent show which was extremely well attended by students, staff and parents. There were close to 30 high-quality performances by the students who should be very proud of themselves. We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to Ms DaCosta for organising the event and to all the other staff, especially the Performing Arts Department who supported before and on the evening of the talent show. We also had the Christmas Carol Service which was a lovely occasion and another opportunity for the students to showcase their wonderful talents.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a warm and joyful Christmas and we look forward to working with you and your child after the holidays.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Riley and Mr Benn  
Co-Principals



## Key Dates for Year Groups



### **Year 7:**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026** - Year 7 Parents' Evening

### **Year 8:**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026** - Year 8 Parents' Evening

### **Year 9:**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026** - Year 9 Options Evening

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026** - Year 9 Parents' Evening

### **Year 10:**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026** - Year 10 Parents' Evening

### **Year 11:**

No upcoming events at present to report

### **Year 12:**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026** - Year 12 UCAS Event (Virtual)

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026** - Year 12 Parents' Evening

### **Year 13:**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026** - Year 13 UCAS Event (Virtual)

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026** - Year 13 Parents' Evening

### **INSET Days:**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

### **Bank Holiday:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Please note that the dates listed are subject to change**



# Prime Minister Visit



A memorable and historic day for the school - Prime Minister Sir Kier Starmer and Award Winning actress Olivia Colman and Safeguarding Minister Jess Phillips interacting with staff and students after the Tender Workshop which focused on promoting healthy relationships to tackle violence against women.

# Sixth Form Applications



We would like to remind you that the applications are now open to apply for our Sixth Form.

If you are interested in joining our Sixth Form, please click on the link below and complete the form as soon as possible.

## [Sixth Form Application](#)

Our internal students are already registered and have received a welcome email with instructions on how to login and complete their application.



# Careers

Year 11 students have been attending their one-to-one careers guidance meetings this term. These meetings provide essential support in planning their next steps after GCSEs. Applications to sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships are now underway, and all students should ensure they have applied for both a first option and a back-up option following their mock results.

Year 13 students have been working on UCAS and Degree Apprenticeship applications. A number of students have already received excellent offers from institutions including Sheffield, Warwick, York and Manchester. In addition, some Year 13 students attended a careers fair at Tottenham Stadium, where they had the opportunity to speak directly with employers currently recruiting. This experience offered valuable insight into employer expectations and how best to prepare for work after sixth form.

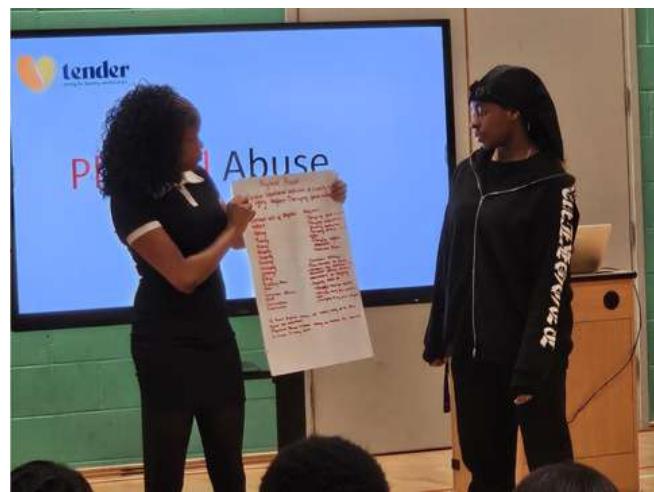
A group of high-achieving Year 12 students took part in the 'Elephant Access' programme at Senate House. This initiative supports students aiming for competitive university pathways by helping them prepare throughout Year 12 for applications in Year 13. The day provided detailed information about the application process to top universities.

At the other end of the school, Year 7 students have been invited to complete the Future Skills Questionnaire. This allows us to understand the skills and attitudes students bring with them as they start secondary school, helping us to shape careers education to meet their needs. Year 7 will also be exploring careers further in upcoming PSHE sessions linked to the questionnaire.



# Tender Workshop Assembly

Our recent Tender Workshop gave students a valuable opportunity to explore respect, communication, and healthy relationships through engaging and age-appropriate discussion. The session was well received and encouraged thoughtful participation from all students.



# The Elephant Group Launch



We were excited to launch our Elephant Group for the year, bringing our school community together to build connection, teamwork, and a strong sense of belonging. It was a positive and inclusive start to the year for all involved.



# Sixth Form FIFA Night



# SMM's First Talent Show

This night was organised to showcase the amazing skills and talent our students have, from Year 7 to 6th form.

I wanted to shine the light on experienced performers as well as the most unexpected students - giving them a platform to build their confidence, and the courage to display it.

For the last two months we have been working towards this night, and alongside me I had the help of some amazing 6th form students and Ms Aberese & Ms Steele.

This is an idea I wanted to see come to fruition for a while and I'm glad it was able to happen. I also want to say we are very proud of the performers who have been working hard in rehearsals for the past few weeks. I hope this night has inspired other students.

Thank you to all the staff, students, and parents who came to support.

Please click the link below to watch the highlights fo the talent show:



# Greenwich Great Debate Worship

Last week, Deborah, Favour and Precious in Year 10 led a debate workshop for students from Cardwell Primary School, helping them prepare for the Greenwich Great Debate Primary Competition.

Having taken part in the Secondary Competition last summer, where they achieved an impressive second place, the girls shared their experiences, answered students' questions, and offered excellent advice. They also performed their own debate to model how a debate should be structured and delivered.

Throughout the workshop, Deborah, Favour and Precious demonstrated confidence, strong communication skills, maturity and leadership. The primary school students left feeling motivated, confident, and excited for their upcoming competition.

Well done to our students for being such fantastic ambassadors for the school!



# Head2Head Theatre for SEND visit to Charlton House

Oh no! The greedy Queen has locked up the miller's daughter and demanded she spins straw into gold. Rumpelstiltskin to the rescue! He's clever, mischievous and fun. But is he a friend?

We are welcoming Head2Head theatre for their fourth SEND friendly visit to Charlton House.

Perfect for all the family, full of multi-sensory and interactive moments, songs and silliness, and led by a professional cast experienced in working with children with special needs and disabilities.

£8 per child (plus booking fee). One free carer ticket per child. Wheelchair accessible venue. Quiet/sensory room available. Information and tickets: [www.greenwichheritage.org](http://www.greenwichheritage.org)



RAISE MUCH NEEDED MONEY FOR THE  
SCHOOL - it won't cost you a penny!



Make your last minute Christmas or January sales online shopping count with easyfundraising. Join today, and every purchase you make at over 8,000 online retailers will turn into free donations for Koinonia Federation. The best bit is that it won't cost you anything, you can use easyfundraising for any online purchases from your weekly shopping to holidays,. Sign up to support us:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/koinoniasfederation>

# FUNDRAISING FOR YOUR KIDS' SCHOOL

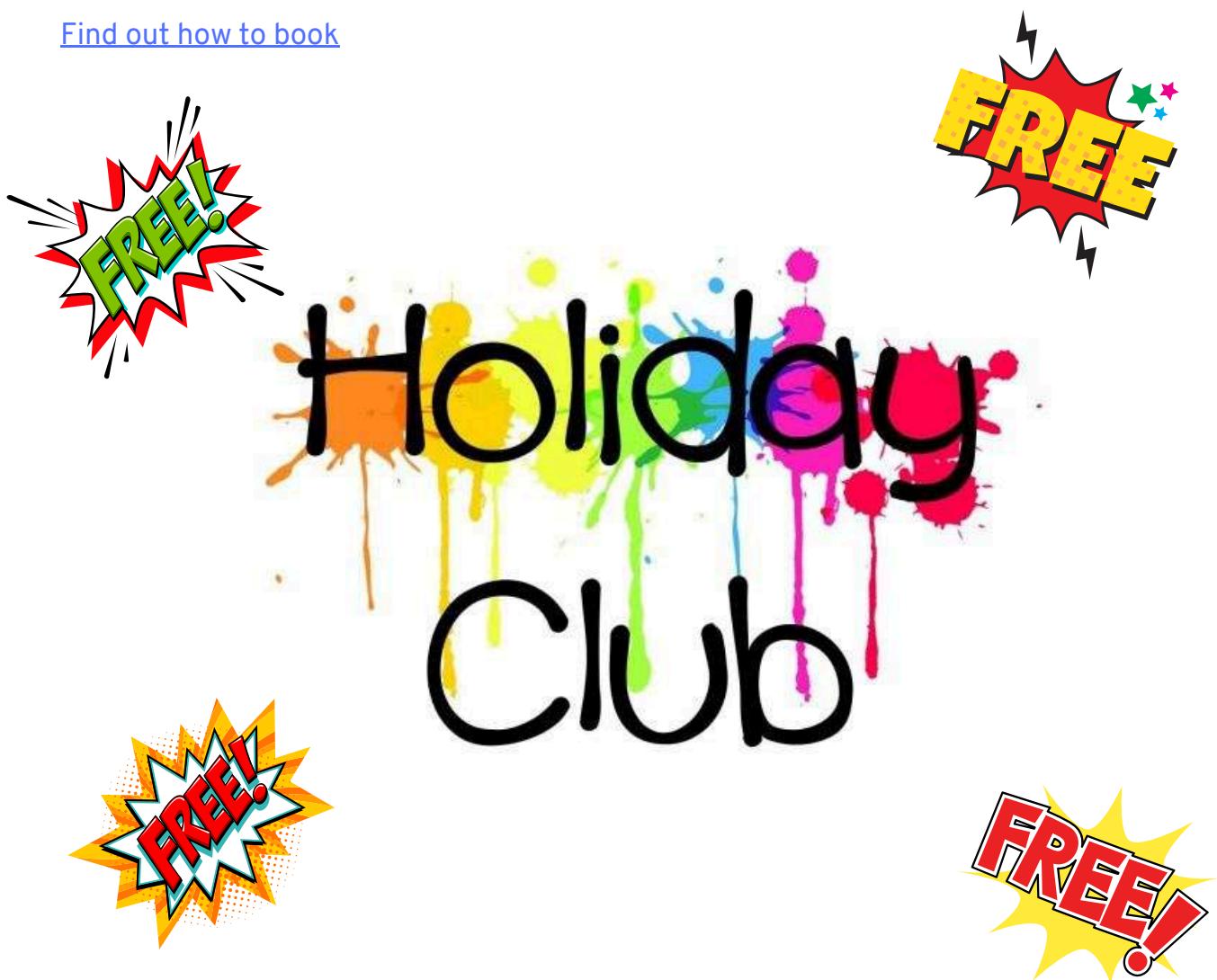


# Free Holiday Clubs for Kids

## Information

Children aged between four and 16, and receiving benefit-related free school meals, can get a free holiday club spot this winter through Holiday Food and Fun. From sports to performing arts, there's something for everyone. Plus, all clubs will provide a delicious, filling lunch every day too.

[Find out how to book](#)



# Co-Curriculum Timetable

## Monday

### Before school:

Y9, Y10 and Y11 Netball 7:30am - 8:30am Hardcourt - Ms Woolsey



### Lunchtime:

Lunch/Social Skills Club at the SEN Hub - Ms Ikhlaq

### After school:

Y10 & Y11 Basketball 3:30pm - 4:45pm Sports Hall - Mr Ashong

Y7 Football 3:20pm-4:45pm Sports Hall - Mr Mudge

Y11 Art Intervention 3:15pm- - 4:15pm, CH6 - Mr Ashwell

Scripture Union 3:25 - 4:25, CS3 - Ms Wilcox



## Tuesday

### Lunchtime:

Drawing Club, KS3, CH6 - Ms Thomas

Lower school Badminton 12pm - 12:40pm - Mr Mudge

Lunch/Social Skills Club at the SEN Hub - Ms Ikhlaq



### After school:

Y7 & Y8 Netball 3:20pm - 4:45pm Hardcourt

Y9, Y10 & Y11 3:20pm - 4:20pm Dance Studio - Mr Abe

## Wednesday

### Lunchtime:

Y9 Indoor Football, Lower school, Sports Hall - Mr Ashong

Y7 Book Club, KS3 Lunch, CS11 - Miss Leach & Miss Choudry

Y9 Futsal, Lower lunchtime, Sports Hall - Mr Ashong

KS Practise and Play Music, CH10 - Ms Steel

Lunch/Social Skills Club at the SEN Hub - Ms Ikhlaq



## Thursday

### After school:

Y9 Football 3:30pm - 4:45pm, 4G - Mr Walsh

Science Club 3:15pm - 4:15pm, RD1 - Ms Akeju, Miss Townsend & Mr Spyrou



## Friday

### Lunchtime:

Girls Indoor Football, Lower school lunchtime, Sports Hall - Mr Walsh

KS3 Practise and Play Music, CH10 - Ms Steele

Lunch/Social Skills Club at the SEN Hub - Ms Ikhlaq



### After school:

Y10 Football 3:20pm - 4:45pm, 4G - Mr Lawrence

Sixth Form Football 3:30pm - 4:45pm - Mr Fernandez-Folkes

Y7 & Y8 Dance Club 3:30pm - 4:20pm, Dance Studio - Ms Abe

## Message from the Chaplain Re: Dominic Hubbuck

This month, we as a school and in church have been reflecting on the Advent themes of Hope, Joy, Love and Peace.

We have been thinking about how each of these might transform our world, our neighbourhoods and our school if we were to have more of them visible and attitudes that reflected them more.

I wonder whether you have had any time or space to reflect on these themes yourself.

What had you been hoping for this year? Are you still hoping for something? How might you help it happen?

What brings you joy in life – either yourself or as a family? Can you make space for more joy somehow?

Does your life, your interactions with others – in person and online – reflect what you love?

Is there something you would like more peace with?

As we get closer to Christmas, maybe you could take time to think and reflect.

Advent, like Lent, is a thinking and preparing time for Christians around the world.

It is a time when we focus our thoughts on what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do in the world and in our lives.

May you and all those you love and care for be blessed by the God who loves the world so much that he continues to pour blessings into his marvellously created world.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, born to be a king, born to bring peace, born to be Good News for all, Bless our world, bless our communities and bless us as we seek to celebrate your coming.

We are all God's children. Amen.

**Rev. Dominic Hubbuck  
School Chaplain  
Assistant Priest with East Greenwich Team Ministry**

