



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 5 | December | Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Trips:**

### **Year 10**

Letters for the New York and the Iceland trips containing the final price and information about activities have been sent out to those who have paid a deposit. This can also be found on the school website. The balance is also open on School Gateway for you to pay. A letter for the trip to Jersey will be sent out in the new year.

### **Year 9**

Please continue to send in your medical and dietary forms into the school office or to [info.secondary@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:info.secondary@koinoniafederation.com) for those attending the trip to Belgium. All forms must be in by the first week back after half term.

### **Year 8**

Thank you to those who have paid the deposit for the Year 8 trip to Barcelona. The balance will be open soon on School Gateway for you to pay.

### **Year 7**

There are still spaces left for the trip to France. If you would like your child to attend this day trip, please pay on School gateway. The deadline for payment is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January. If you are unable to pay before this time but are still interested in your child attending, please call the school office and ask for Miss O'mard

## **School election:**

As Britain's adults went to the polls in the December 12 general election, students here at St Mary Magdalene discussed the election, debated the parties' policies and cast their ballots in our own mock election. Our results produced a very different outcome to the national picture...

The Labour Party: 84.4%

Conservative Party: 9.6%

Liberal Democrats: 2.4%

Brexit Party: 2%

Green Party: 1.3%

Scottish National Party: 0.3%

Plaid Cymru: 0%

## **DofE:**

Unfortunately, due to the lack of students who have decided to enrol onto the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award; the school is unable to offer the award this current academic year. However, the school will hopefully be offering the Silver Award in the 2020-2021 academic year. In addition, the school will be exploring ways in which to reduce the initial cost of the Award. The school will still be offering the Bronze Award and is looking forward to taking the next cohort of Bronze participants in summer term. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Jack Brown via the school reception.

## **Library books:**

All students must return or renew their borrowed library books as soon as possible

## **Year 10 Work Experience:**

All students in Year 10 have received the Work Experience letter, 'Own Find' Form and further guidance for parents via email. Please be reminded that the 'Own Find' Form needs to be returned by Friday 24th January 2020 and parents/carers are required to sign and return the consent slip by **Friday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2020**. If your child is having difficulty securing a placement, they need to speak to their Family Group tutor in the first week back.

## Our Memory Verse

"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another."  
Hebrews 10:24-25

## Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January-**  
Year 7 Project trip

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January-**  
Year 8 Project trip

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January-**  
Year 9 Parents Evening  
3:30pm-6:30pm

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February-**  
Year 7 Parents Evening  
3:30pm-6:30pm

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February-**  
Year 7 France Trip (day trip)

### **Autumn term reports**

We expect to send Autumn term reports home at the end of the first week of Spring term. Please expect these to be sent home with your child, along with a letter explaining the assessment system.

### **English Year 10 revision guides**

Please note that Year 10 students can order a Collins Snap Revision book for A Christmas Carol at a special school's rate of £2.50. If you would like to purchase a copy, students must put their name down for one with their English teacher. Payments will be taken via School Gateway once orders are in. Deadline to order: Friday 10th January 2020.

### **Parent Survey**

You should have received a text from the school with a link to a survey. Please complete this, as your feedback is important to us.

### **Message from the Chaplain Rev. Dom Hubbuck:**

*Christmas is a Time of Gathering.*

*As families, as communities, as faithful people. Mary and Joseph were faithful and gathered with their community in Bethlehem. The Shepherds and Kings gathered to worship the baby that was born to be Saviour of the World because they were faithful to the messages they received.*

*During our year, we may not have been faithful all the time - to friends or family, neighbours or strangers. We may have found it hard to remain faithful to a promise or a plan for whatever reason. Jesus came in order that we might be forgiven and be granted a life that is more faithful and a future full of blessing and joy.*

*Christmas is also a time of giving and receiving of gifts. These gifts might be big or small, they could be of our time or our talents but in order for them to be as valuable as the gifts of the Wise Men, they need to be given out of love and joy.*

*It reminded me of the John Lewis advert from 2011 - a small boy waiting eagerly for Christmas. His impatience is not to get presents though, but to give them. His Joy is in giving and seeing the joy in others.*

*It is my prayer this Advent that you may be filled with Joy this Christmas and that in remembering the birth of Jesus you will be reminded of the gifts that God has given you and continues to give you as you grow in faith.*

*May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas.  
Amen.*

It has been a long and extremely busy term for all involved at our secondary phase. We have welcomed our fourth year group, who have all settled into secondary education. Our Year 9s have begun their options process and will have further opportunities in early January to gain more support in making some difficult but exciting choices. Our Year 10s have started their actual GCSEs and will look to make further progress through the Spring term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for the continued support you provide us in dealing with all school matters.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and wish the new year brings you all happiness, peace and prosperity.

Mr R Hussain  
**Principal**