



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

C OF E SCHOOL

SECONDARY PHASE

*Excellence through innovation,
founded in faith since 1840.*

FEDERATION EXECUTIVE CO-HEADTEACHERS

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright

PRINCIPAL

Mr Razwan Hussain

Dear parent/carers,

Earlier this year I wrote to you about some of the work we have carried out to promote equality and celebrate diversity in our school community.

At the time, I asked you and your child to complete a survey with your views on this work, and I wrote to you in the newsletter sent on 11 October about the outcomes of this survey.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to ask you [to complete another short survey](#) so we can find out more about what you think about the school's work, the challenges you think we face as a society, and what your priorities are.

My previous letter, from September, contained a lot of detail about the work we had done up to that point to promote equality, challenge discrimination and celebrate all parts of our diverse community – and [you can read that letter here](#). Since that time, having taken on your feedback, I thought it worth also pointing out some of the new work we have done in this regard...

- We have provided more training and reflection opportunities for teachers on these themes.
- We are well aware of the financial difficulties that affect many families in our school community and we have been working with the Child Poverty Action Group to make sure no child misses out or feels different or excluded because of how much money their family has.
- We have used PSHE, Collective Worship and assemblies to focus on the rights of girls and women, and more generally ensuring all students feel a welcome part of the school community.
- We have set aside space for Jummah on Fridays.
- We have improved displays in classrooms and around the school to highlight the school's diverse and representative curriculum, and to celebrate the different backgrounds and heritages represented in the school community.
- The bulk of my letter sent in September was based on the curriculum and the work done to decolonise and enrich the curriculum. I have included a few examples of what further work our subject teams have done over the course of the last year:
- When English students study historical texts, the experiences of women and people of colour have been a focus; for example, the voice of Mary Seacole to understand the perspective of a woman in the 19th century. In English in Year 9, we have introduced a poetry scheme of work which specifically focuses on contemporary poems by writers of colour whilst at GCSE, students have been given texts from a wider range of cultural and gender backgrounds.
- In Religious Studies, we have looked at religions from a wider variety of perspectives; for instance, how churches based in Africa have made efforts to evangelise and serve as missionaries to the UK, and the experiences of Eastern and Ethiopian Jewish groups.
- In History, further enquiries have been carried out to learn about the histories of people from across the world, including enquiries into an Indian suffragette and the racial injustice that men from the Caribbean experienced during the First World War. The History team's work has been recognised in their being asked to collaborate with the National Maritime Museum on diversifying and decolonising resources, and with the Historical Association in a project about Muslim-ruled Spain.
- In Music and Drama, a wider range of musicians and artists from across different socio-cultural backgrounds have been studied, enabling a greater understanding of these histories, and of how music and drama influence different cultures positively.
- In all the social sciences, students have studied recent examples of racism in our society and used research into Home Office policy as examples for written work.
- In PE, the team have introduced a wider range of sports from around the world.

- A sample of our schemes of work have been reviewed by 'The Black Curriculum' with improvements made as a result.

Please complete [this short survey](#) on our school website using the link below. The closing date for this survey is Tuesday 21 June. Every response will be read and considered but we regret we can't reply directly to anything entered on the survey.

<https://www.koinoniafederation.com/form/?pid=420&form=67>

Yours sincerely,

Tom Greenwood
Vice Principal

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