

# **FAITH, FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP**

## **Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation**

February 2023

### ***A message from the Executive Co-Headteachers***

Welcome to our first Federation newsletter of 2023!

We hope you enjoy reading about the huge range of excellent extra-curricular activities and trips across all our phases. These opportunities are so important for our learners' personal development and impact on their wider academic ability. We are very grateful to all the staff who arrange and lead these numerous enrichment opportunities.

We are extremely proud of all the achievements of our sporting teams and are building quite a reputation as local sports champions. Our Sports Apprentices are helping our children across the primary campuses develop their sporting skills from a young age and we look forward to hearing about their future sporting achievements.

If you are looking for something to do over the half term and want to expand your child's cultural capital beyond what we are offering in school take a look at the last page of this newsletter. We have created a list of places you may like to visit over the break. There are numerous places that are free and offer a fun day alongside an educational experience.

The weather for the half term looks bright and we hope you are able to enjoy some time outside in the sunshine.

Warm wishes,

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Wainwright

#### **New Co-Chair of the Governing Body**

We would like to welcome Patrick Elliott as our new Co-Chair of Governors. He is working closely along side Judith Eastaugh, our long serving Co- Chair.



Patrick Elliott is a graduate of Sussex university and the London School of Economics (LSE) and brings substantial experience of leadership of major capital and regeneration programmes. He is currently a Project Director at the Department of Education and previously served as Head of School Place Planning and Development at Royal Greenwich Council.

His association with St Mary Magdalene goes back to 2010 when he led the Council's engagement with the Diocese for the construction of the Woolwich Campus and was also involved in the early phase of the development of the Peninsula campus.

He is Deacon at a local church and has a strong interest in international development from his early career with the United Nations Development Programme.

Patrick has been on the Federation's Governing Body since 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and his expertise is always greatly appreciated.

# Primary Phase

## Christ Church – The Library of Everything

The Library of Everything appeared in the Christ Church Music Hub!! We came back after half-term to find that the door had been removed and replaced with a bookshelf. Our children discovered that a locked book was the key to unlocking the library, which enabled them to enter the magical space.

Inside every nook and cranny, there was another tiny little world! Miniature people inhabit the shelves, guarding the treasures of the library, which has thousands of floors and holds every story ever written! The children were able to explore the Miscellaneous Department, staffed by the master storyteller librarian, Peabody. She told them stories and showed them how the library comes to life with trains running around the shelves, lights flickering and the shelves rumbling as they settle into place.

Christ Church children then wrote their own stories to fill the empty shelf – earning them a golden, lifelong membership card! Sadly, the library had to move on after only 2 short weeks with us. However, keep an eye out at your campuses as it may pop up there! 😊

Mrs Gibbs



## Panto - Years 4, 5 & 6



Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 from across the Federation were lucky enough to receive free tickets to go to see *Babes in the Wood* at the Peacock Theatre in London. Children had a fantastic time watching 'The Babes in the Wood' and having a real theatre experience. All the children enjoyed the pantomime immensely, and the quality of the staging and acting made the experience very magical for the children. They sang and danced along to all the songs and all enjoyed the performance.

PwC, the company that ran the free theatre ticket initiative, visited Christ Church to lead a workshop with the children so that they could create a 'song sheet' for the final song. The children had to come up with words and actions to the song. Some of our children were then invited on stage to teach the song and the actions to the audience! They were really brave as there were lots of people in the theatre! It was truly amazing, real 'once in a life time opportunity'. Everyone was in awe and the cheers and applause could probably be heard all the way down The Strand!



Mrs Gibbs/Ms John/Mr Ermellino



### Canterbury Trip

Twelve Year 6 children across the Federation went to Canterbury Christ Church University to participate in a creative design workshop. The children participated in a competition, where they had to design their own imaginary world and write about it. These entries were sent off to be judged and 4 of our teams won! Their prize was to go to the university to digitise their illustrations, use the greenscreen technology to transport themselves into their world and then work with the sound-design technicians to produce a soundscape to layer over the top. The children loved it!!

We should receive the final videos in the next week or so to see what they turned out like!

Mrs Gibbs



### St Mary Magdalene Woolwich – Extreme Environments

As part of our Geography curriculum, Year 5 studied extreme environments. They had the opportunity to hear from a visitor about his Arctic expeditions during a morning session. During his presentation, Jonathan shared many interesting stories and pictures about what it is like to travel to the Arctic. He also shared what it was like to live there. It was a really insightful workshop as it allowed the children to hear first-hand experience of an expedition to the Arctic. We hope this inspires some of our children to embark on an exciting journey one day.

Ms Yasin/Ms Levesley



### St Mary Magdalene Woolwich – Library Visit



Woolwich library is a wonderful place to explore books on different genres. Year 3 Perry visited the library and they read different stories, colourful fairy tales, poems, and chapter books in the library. The children love going to the library and look forward to attending after the half term!

Mrs Amao

### St Giles in partnership with Greenwich

The charity St Giles in partnership with Greenwich, went to St Mary Magdalene Peninsula and Woolwich campuses to deliver a workshop for the Year 5 and 6 children across the Federation. Christ Church children joined the workshop at Peninsula. These sessions are led by those with lived experience and work to ensure that young people are given the skills needed to make positive choices when faced with peer pressure and outside influences. Furthermore, students (and staff) found them extremely interesting. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop it was relevant and impactful. The children said that it was knowledgeable, emotional, enticing, informative, heart breaking and interesting; they suggest that it should be a reoccurring event yearly (for years 6 and upwards). They were shocked at how easy it could be to be manipulated into lifestyles which could make you very vulnerable and found the workshop extremely informative.



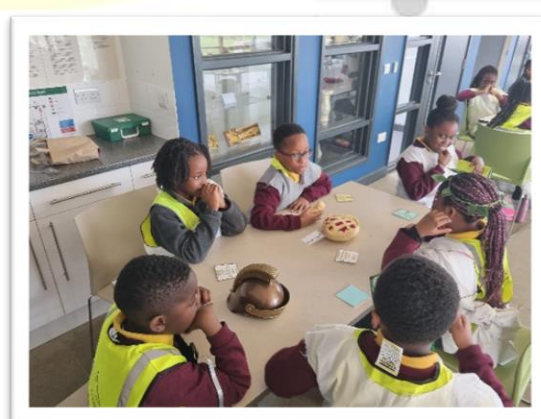
Year 5 & 6 team



### St Mary Magdalene Year 4

Year 4 visited Lesnes Abbey this week to further their learning about Romans. They experienced being Roman citizens, voting a Senate leader, and learned about the different foods and interesting recipes enjoyed by Romans. The children created a timeline of important dates during the Roman period and also recreated a Roman army, marching in formation and creating battle and defence formations. It was great fun and Year 4 definitely have a better understanding of life during the Roman Empire.

Ms Laird





# Secondary Phase



## Poster Competition

In December, all students were invited to enter a competition, creating a poster on the theme 'What makes me a St Mary Magdalene student?'. We received a lot of fantastic entries from across all seven year groups, and Mr Greenwood and Mr Hussain spent a long time trying to choose the best poster.

The winner of the poster competition is **Eniola in 11GAO**, who will receive an R5 and a £50 gift voucher.

**Eniola, 11GAO**

There are also three runners up: Victoria in 10PTO, Malaiyah in 9JAN and Neriah in 8AGZ, who will each receive an R4 and a prize. There were many other fantastic entrants, the best of whom will receive R3s. Many of these posters will be displayed around school to celebrate our school's values and our students' talents.

## RBG Poetry Competition

As a part of enrichment programs in the Library, students from SMM have entered the National Poetry Day competition with children and young people from across Royal Greenwich schools. This year, students were invited to write a poem inspired by the theme of The Environment. The judging panel were overwhelmed by the quality of the entries: the poems were passionate, and emotional and demonstrated impressive engagement with the theme. Published poet Debra Bertulis, who runs the RBG online poetry session this year chose a winner and a runner-up. A huge well done to everyone who entered the competition and I am glad to announce, the winner of the KS5 was "The Environment is in Danger" by Funanya Odu, Year 12! Well done to Funanya.

## Library "Christmas Short Story" Competition

Among many fantastic entries from our pupils the below stories were outstanding, therefore we are pleased to announce the winners of the Library "Christmas Short Story" competition.

Adedotun Adewale 8YHJ - "Christmas, Christmas"  
Oceanne Serago 12AML - "Christmas In Universes"  
Funanya Odu 12ODA - "Pleas Think of The Elves"

These amazing short stories will be featured as part of our student library collection of stories where all members of the school community will have a chance to read them.



### Future Frontiers – careers coaching office visits

This Spring 30 Year 10 students were nominated for the Future Frontiers careers coaching programme. This programme consists of 4 trips to volunteer company offices where students are paired up with trained coaches for 1-2-1 guidance sessions on linking their interests and skills with future careers. The students were split into 2 groups with half going to Zaha Hadid Architecture offices in Angel, and the others going to Argus Media offices in Holborn. This will be followed up by 2 sessions in Year 11 to provide further guidance with post-16 options and applications.

### The Inspirational Learning Group – Y8 National Careers Challenge

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January the Inspirational Learning Group visited the school to deliver the National Careers Challenge to Year 8. This involved students working in groups of 6 to design a brand new zero emissions fleet for Airbus. The students had to consider their customers, unique selling points, slogan, logo & additional features such as hydrogen fuel cells and use of artificial intelligence. Groups who had worked well all day were then selected to present in front of the year group and a guest judging panel, with the winning group from 8AGZ being invited to compete at the National finals in the summer!

Ms Botha



### Sparx Success

Secondary pupils are continuing to make good progress in their maths work at home by completing their Sparx Maths assignments, with a completion rate of almost 80% since Christmas. This resulted in for two weeks the school having the highest completion rates in the borough, and for one of these weeks being in the top 100 schools in the country for their completion. Congratulations should go to the pupils for completing this work, and to their teachers and parents/guardians for supporting them in meeting this standard.

### Maths Links

Mr Pigott and Ms Crutcher spent a morning observing maths lessons in the Primary Phase at the Peninsula Campus to help see how we can make the transition from maths in primary and maths in secondary as smooth as possible. It was brilliant to see the enthusiasm for maths from all of the classes, and to hear pupils explaining their mathematical reasoning so clearly using manipulatives to help them.

Mr Pigott

## Year 10

In the Autumn term, Year 10 family groups were part of a Christmas competition to raise money for their chosen charity: Teenage Cancer Trust. Each family group had to come up with their own events to raise money. It was fantastic to see students working together.

At break times in December, there were cake sales, a mocktail bar, hot chocolate And marshmallow sales. Fundraising ended with an exciting basketball game. 10PTO raised the most money with 10LCR and 10HGH following closely behind. In total Year 10 raised over £500. Well Done Year 10!

Miss Douglas



10HGH with a tasty cake sale during break time

An amazing turnout for the charity basketball game

FELLOWSHIP • FAITH • FAMILY



# Sixth Form

## Year 13 Politics and Sociology



Miss Leach

Last term Year 13 Politics and Sociology had a visit from Heather Phillips, the High Sheriff of Greater London.

She spoke about her role as High Sheriff as well as her charity that supports people who have served prison sentences.

Some of the schemes she runs support people while they are in prison but her main scheme ensures that people have jobs ready for when they come out.

This was a fascinating talk that evoked a lot of deep thought from students about the current criminal justice system and some of the issues it faces at a systematic level.

All students really enjoyed hearing from Heather Phillips and valued getting a different perspective on the treatment of those in prison.



## Y12 Fine Art Articulation Prize



I am extremely proud to share that on Tuesday 17 January 2023, Gracie Bullen of Y12 Fine Art made it through to the regional finals of the National Articulation Prize. Held at The Lightbox Gallery, Woking and adjudicated by Sarah Brown (Director of Exhibitions and Displays) this prize showcases only the very best young public speakers.

Sarah Brown thanked Gracie for introducing us all to the possibilities of sculpture and of body performance. She stated what an extraordinary piece of work 'Unicorn' was and commended Gracie for introducing us all to the work, for showing us how sculpture and performance linked together and how the work remained relevant in today's contemporary world.

It was a great pleasure to hear Gracie speak and we all hope that she is feeling very proud of her amazing achievement.

St Mary Magdalene C of E School was the only comprehensive school to have made it through to the regionals, a testament to the quality and determination of our students. Well done.

Mr O'Brien



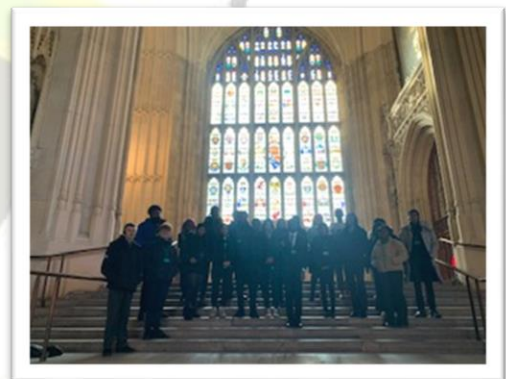
## Houses of Parliament Tour

This month A Level Politics students visited the Houses of Parliament for a tour and workshop to support their work on UK Politics.

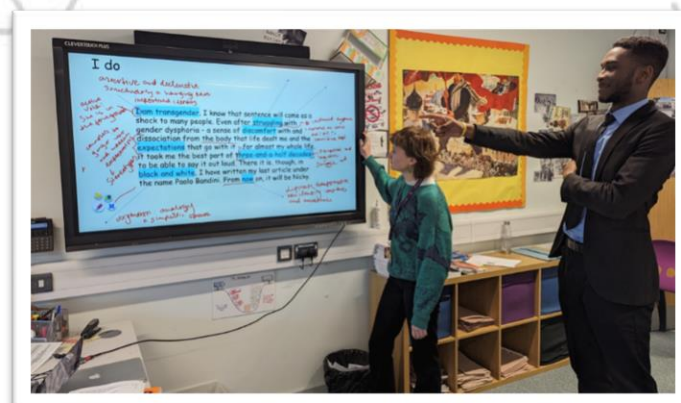
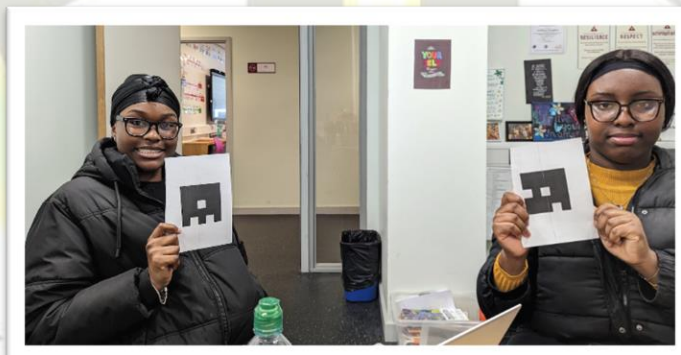
During the tour, students were able to watch live debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords from the viewing galleries which was an incredible opportunity. Students then took part in a workshop about the creation of laws and debating; there were several interesting and passionate debates, with different students acting as party leaders and speaker.

Following our visit to the Houses of Parliament, we walked to Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace to consider their political significance too; some students spotted some interesting people coming out of Downing Street. Overall, it was a fantastic day where the topics that they learned about really came to life!

Miss Leach



Let's keep on using our lovely Sixth Formers for pedagogical practice – whether Esther and Latifah trialling a digital whiteboard called Plickers (have a look at it!) or Martyna and Moses leading a lesson



# This Half Term's Sports News

## WOMEN IN SPORT WEEK: 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 3<sup>rd</sup> March

We will be launching our WOMEN IN SPORT WEEK in the second week of Spring 2.  
If there are sports clubs you would like to suggest, please speak to the PE Department.



## Football

Y11 Boys vs Crown Woods – Blackheath Cup Quarter-Final – SMM win on pens!

After extra-time, the score was 0-0... PENALTIES decided the winner.

An early miss from both teams was then followed by goal after goal and some excellent penalties under big pressure.

It took a save from SMM goalkeeper Michael C to win the shootout and the tie for the Y11 team! Special mention to Nigel N on a top performance, Michael C on some great saves and Daniel B for playing out of position and doing a great job.

PoM: Omotayo O



## Netball

Y8 Greenwich Tournament

We took two Y8 Netball teams to the local Greenwich Schools Tournament. The girls were able to play a lot of games, increasing their experience and rewarding them for their hard work and dedication to Netball club.

Upcoming fixtures:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - **Y7&8** Netball vs Greenwich Free School

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February – **Y7** Netball Tournament



### **Y10 Boys vs Forest Hill – into the next round!**

The Y10 boys team made the journey to Forest Hill for the 3rd round of the London Cup. It was a very tight game but the Y10's finished victorious with a 3-1 win. Goals from Oshea Black (x2) and Rukky Erhijakpor were enough to get through to the next round. Well done to Chevrington Odoh who was voted Player of the Match. We now face STAC Southwark in the 4th round.



### **Y10/11 Girls Football Tournament – SMM Champions!**

The Y10/11 Girls Football Team played in a Greenwich Tournament, winning all of their games and continuing their unbeaten run. They finished winners of the tournament which now makes it two wins in two tournaments for the team!

Upcoming fixtures:

Thursday 2nd February – Y9 Girls Football Tournament

Friday 3rd February - Y10 Boys vs Greenwich Free School

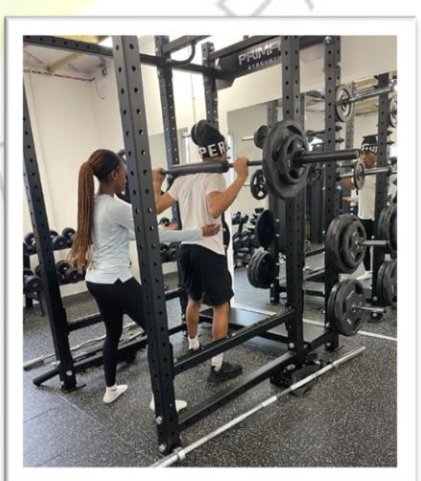
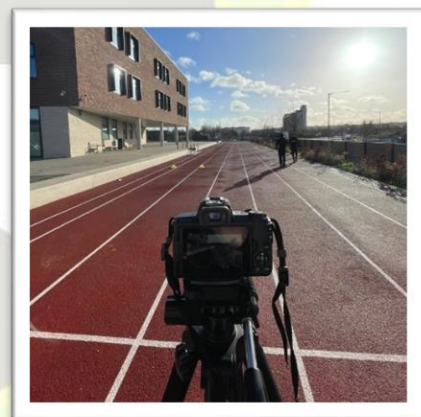
Thursday 23rd February – Y7 Girls Tournament

Friday 24th February – Y11 Boys vs St Matthew Academy

### **BTEC Sport Y12 and Y13**

Our Y12 and Y13 BTEC Sport students have been working very hard on their recent topics of 'Anatomy and Physiology', 'Leadership', 'Coaching' and 'Fitness Testing'. Below are some photos of them completing their practical assessments for these units.

Here are our students wearing their own personalised BTEC Sports T-Shirts that have been donated by our uniform provider Khalsa.



### Basketball Results:

Y9 Boys vs John Roan  
SMM 51-26 John Roan  
MVP – Leonardo Carloto

Y10 Boys vs John Roan  
SMM 30-42 John Roan  
MVP: Lemuel Adeyosoye

Y10/11 Girls vs John Roan  
SMM 22-16  
MVP: Temi Olayiwola

Y9 Boys vs Woolwich Poly  
SMM 30-19 WPoly  
MVP: Elroy Benguela



Y11 Boys vs Woolwich Poly  
SMM 50-63 WPoly



Y11 Boys vs St Pauls Academy  
SMM 44-45 SPA  
MVP: Elroy Benguela

### Upcoming fixtures:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - **Y8** vs Woolwich Poly @ SMM

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February - **Y9** vs Plumstead Manor School (Away)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February - **Y9** vs John Roan School @ SMM

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February - **Y10/11 GIRLS** vs Plumstead Manor School @SMM

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - **Y10/11** vs Plumstead Manor School @SMM

Mr Lawrence



### Girls Football – Primary Phase

The primary phase girls' football team regularly go to Woolwich to play other local schools - they are very new to playing as a team but are enthusiastic. Recently they played James Wolfe and Bannockburn Primary and despite the cold, played well and enjoyed the experience.

Rev Hubbuck



### Boys Football – Primary Phase

The primary boys' football team have got off to a great start in the Meridian League and have been showing lots of potential. This week, they showed their improved teamwork, passing skills, communication and fighting spirit on the pitch - even scoring 3 goals in one game. Well done and keep the great work up!

Ms Laird



### Primary Apprentice Coaches

We have had an exciting three half terms of sporting fun and great skills teaching with our new apprentice coaches. Our coaches, Mr Abrahams and Mr Gil Bejarano have worked with all our primary classes bringing high level coaching to our PE lessons and helping to run a variety of sports clubs. We are now planning to run some inter schools competitions so keep an eye out for future articles about our forthcoming sports events.

Mr Ermellino



# General Information

What can we as parents and carers do to improve or ensure our children experience good mental health?  
Here are a few tips you can use for the upcoming half-term:

1. Encourage your child or young person to engage in activities they enjoy doing. This could be sports, games, cooking or dancing. Activities offer all of us a break and can reduce stress.
2. Try something new this half term – something that will create a sense of achievement if accomplished or laughter if you fail!
3. Be present and ready to listen. Let your child feel and know that they can talk about what's on their mind. Avoid being angry or sensitive. Be reassuring and supportive in your response.

Book your children in for sports and wellbeing sessions this half term



**ASPIRATIONAL FOOTBALL**

Learn to play at your best on the field and in life.

Come and join our **FREE** half-term football and personal development and wellbeing programme. For ages 13-16 year olds.

**13-17 FEBRUARY 2023**  
**10.00AM-1.00PM**  
**SPORTING CLUB THAMESMEAD,**  
**BAYLISS AVENUE, LONDON, SE28 8NJ**

 **PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY EMAIL**  
**PARENTING@PARENTPOWER-ED.CO.UK**  
**BY 10TH FEBRUARY 2023**





**THRIVE YOUTH PROJECT**

Join our two day boxing , well-being and positive relationships programme!



**LOCATION: MOORINGS SOCIABLE CLUB**  
**TITMUSS AVENUE, LONDON, SE28 8BH**

**TIME: 1PM-3PM**  
**DATES: 14TH & 16TH OF FEBRUARY 2023**



**CONTACT NUMBER: 07506762444/07939449692**  
**WEBSITE: WWW.POWERMOBILEGYM.COM**

Parent Power are running parent sessions at Plumsted Library. To make a booking, please email [parenting@parentpower-ed.co.uk](mailto:parenting@parentpower-ed.co.uk)



**NEW MUMS!**

Join us in Plumstead Library at 10.30-11.30 on

Tuesday 14 March  
Tuesday 4 April  
Tuesday 11 April



**PARENTS OF 2-12 YEAR OLDS!**

Join us in Plumstead Library at 10.30-11.30 on

Tuesday 21 February  
Tuesday 7 March  
Tuesday 28th March



**PARENTS OF TEENS (AGES 13-18)!**

Join us in Plumstead Library at 10.30-11.30 on

Tuesday 28 February  
Tuesday 21 March  
Tuesday 28 March





## The best FREE things to do in London with kids...

This half term why not try (for the cost of a bus or train ticket):

- The British Museum
- The Natural History Museum
- The Science Museum
- Take a London bus to see the iconic London sights (kids under 11 travel for free with an accompanying paying adult)
- See the fountains in Granary Square by Kings Cross
- Watch Tower Bridge open
- Visit the Tate Modern
- Watch the street performers at Covent Garden
- Watch the changing of the guard ceremony take place outside Buckingham Palace at 10.45am each day
- Saatchi Gallery in Chelsea
- Imperial War Museum (book in advance)
- Great Museum of Zoology
- Vauxhall City Farm
- Spitalfields City Farm
- Kentish Town City Farm
- Surrey Docks Farm
- Mudchute Park and Farm
- Hyde Park
- Crystal Palace Park Dinosaurs
- Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

