

Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation



## Newsletter

### Message from the Federation Executive Co-Headteachers

This half term has been slightly shorter than most but we have certainly packed a lot into the six weeks! We'd like to say well done to all our Year 6 students who have now completed their SATs and we continue to keep our Year 11 and Year 13 students in our prayers as they take their GCSEs and A levels.

As always, it has been a pleasure to see our students from across our campuses mixing for a wide variety of occasions. The support from our Sixth Formers during our primary campus Invention Fairs has really been appreciated. We have been super impressed by the thought and imagination that has gone into developing new ideas for future time inventions! Thank you to all the parents and friends who took the time to view the children's work as well as all the help that was given in producing them.

It was a great honour for our secondary students to write and lead the prayers of intercession for the Bishop at Southwark Cathedral. We are extremely proud of Grace and Favour. Leading worship for such a huge audience is quite an achievement! It was also an honour to welcome a Lord to our Federation and we are pleased to hear that our Politics and History students were able to quiz Lord Hastings about his work in the House of Lords.

We hope you enjoy reading about all the opportunities that have taken place this half term to enrich the lives of our students whether through the arts, STEM subjects, sports or equalities work.

We are very grateful to all the staff team that make our Federation a great place to learn.

Wishing everyone a Happy Half Term!

Mrs Harrison & Mrs Wainwright

#### National Professional Qualifications for Staff

We are proud to say several members of staff across the Federation have recently achieved a National Professional Qualification.

These qualifications are recognised throughout the country as being awarded to teachers and support staff who are committed to developing their roles within their school setting. We are thrilled that so many staff members have gained these qualifications in the last 18 months through giving up their own time to engage in current research, attending training sessions and completing a written assignment that is externally marked and quality assured by universities working alongside the Church of England.

Mrs McCullough & Mr O'Brien

#### Year 6 SATs

To celebrate the end of SATs week and all the hard work that Year 6 have put in, all of our primary campuses spent the day sunning ourselves in Greenwich Park.

We enjoyed a picnic, played games and spent some well-earned time relaxing. Well done to all our Year 6 pupils for their amazing work this week. You've all done yourselves proud.

Mr Chamberlain

# FEDERATION

## Bishop's Lent Appeal

Students from the whole Federation joined schools from around the Diocese to give thanks for the Bishop's Lent Call. Money had been gathered and awareness had been raised about the work of Dioceses of Zimbabwe and Jerusalem and the Middle East, about the need for justice and peace to flow into our world.

The Pupil Faith teams from our primary phases were joined by two representatives from our Secondary PFT. The Secondary team had co-written prayers of intercession with the support of Rev Hubbuck and Mr Walker our RS Subject Leader. Grace and Favour then led Southwark Cathedral in prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer.

We thank all those who supported this Lent Call, those who supported the children and young people to attend and those that gave of their time and money to support valuable work world-wide.

Rev Hubbuck



## Stephen Lawrence Day

This year we marked the 30th anniversary of Stephen Lawrence's tragic murder, students worked in their Family Groups during their PSHE lesson to commemorate his life and legacy.

In honour of this significant day, our students engaged in a series of activities aimed at understanding the events surrounding Stephen's murder, the subsequent failures within the police and judicial systems, and the concept of institutional racism that his case exposed in the UK.

Through thought-provoking discussions and reflective exercises, our students delved into the details of what happened on the night of Stephen's murder and the profound impact it had on his family, community, and the nation as a whole. They grappled with the harsh realities of institutional racism and its pervasive presence in society, challenging us all to confront uncomfortable truths and work towards meaningful change.

It was heartening to witness our students' genuine interest and eagerness to learn more about the issue of institutionalised racism, particularly in light of recent events and discussions surrounding the racial disparities report commissioned by the Conservatives. Despite the report's controversial findings, our students demonstrated a keen awareness of the systemic barriers and inequalities still faced by ethnic minorities in the UK.

As a school community, we stand united in our commitment to honouring Stephen Lawrence's memory by actively challenging injustice, promoting empathy and understanding, and creating a culture of belonging where everyone feels valued and respected.

Mr Gayle

# PRIMARY

## STEM WEEK

During the last week of term, the Primary phase celebrated STEM Week! We were incredibly busy taking part in lots of exciting activities. Each campus took part in, and hosted, an Invention Fair! In which children celebrated the amazing inventions they had made, linked to 'time' based problems. At some campuses, Year 12 students were able to join and led a Chemistry demonstration for us to take part in.

As part of our STEM celebrations, we were also joined by author of 'Women in STEM', Ramya Julian. Ramya taught us about the writing process as well as many influential female scientists.

We really enjoyed her visit and loved reading her book.

At the end of the afternoon, parents were also given the opportunity to see the entries and give their vote. One innovative and amazing 3D designs about Time. There were in total 120 entries!

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our Invention Fairs. The students worked so hard and it was brilliant to celebrate their creations! We hope you enjoyed taking part in the daily science experiments at home too!

Miss Battey & Mrs Badesha

Some innovative and amazing 3D designs about Time. There were in total 120 entries!

Here are some photographs of the children's work from the Early Years, KS1 and KS2. All the children, in the school, were given the chance to vote on four of their favourite designs.



# PRIMARY

## Race to Infinity Ootiboo Workshop



Year 4 children across the federation were fortunate to be able to take part in an Ootiboo workshop called Race to Infinity.

This was led by Grace, who designed the Maths board game. She showed the children how to play the game and then they broke up into groups to play each other. We all had a great time and are looking forward to taking part in the championship on the life-size board against other schools.

Mrs Gibbs

## Art Installation

Earlier in the year, Year 1 students were asked to complete a project in class where they decorated some material leaves with eco-crayons.

The leaves then formed part of a large-scale art installation that is situated in Ashdown Forest.

Mrs Gibbs



## Bikeability Training

Year 5 students at Christ Church achieved level 2 in Bikeability training and Years 3 and 4 completed Bikeability training at level 1.

The training involved them learning how to ride a bicycle safely, before being taught how to ride effectively on the roads, whilst being aware of dangers and fellow road users.

Mr Southcott

# PRIMARY

## Faith and Fellowship Through Art

Our Year 5 students recently participated in a pottery workshop that perfectly aligns with our school's values of faith and fellowship. The workshop was organised by one of our Associate Assistant Principals, Ms. Anderson, as part of a wider initiative to support the transition of our primary students into the secondary phase. During the workshop, Ms. Jardine and Rev Hubbuck facilitated the activities in which students created unique pottery pieces that will be combined to form a beautiful mural in the chapel garden at the Peninsula site.

The workshop not only fosters artistic expression but also reinforces the values of community, collaboration, and spirituality that are at the heart of our school's mission. The importance of working together towards a shared goal was a central aspect of the day.

Thank you to all who made this workshop possible! We are excited to see the transformation of our chapel garden as it becomes adorned with the collective efforts of our Year 5 students. Watch this space as we will post pictures of the transformation of the chapel garden when completed.

Miss Anderson



## Virtual Assembly

Our pupils across the federation joined a live virtual assembly in collaboration with Virtual Soccer Schools and Amazing People Schools. They got the opportunity to meet two Premier League footballers - Tim Ream and Calvin Bassey who play for Fulham FC. The athletes explained how perseverance, resilience, adaptability and enthusiasm play a pivotal role on and off the pitch. Pupils also had the chance to ask the players questions during the Q&A segment.

Our children shared how impactful the session was. It has supported their mindset, mental health and wellbeing. Ellie and Isaiah found it helpful when the footballers said we must keep going no matter how tough it may be and never give up. If you stick with it, you will make it. The discussions have equipped us with useful tools for life. For example; our self-esteem has improved as a result of this assembly. This session has inspired us all.

Miss Okungbowa

# PRIMARY

## Monet Class – Woolwich Campus

Monet Nursery class have been very busy bees this term. They have been learning about What's in the garden. They have had real life caterpillars, learnt about its cycle and helped release the butterflies once they had hatched. The children listened to the story to the of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and did some terrific art work to display the story in class. They learnt how to plant a seed and what a seed needs to grow.

The warmer weather gave the children the opportunity to explore

with water, sand and soil, using a variety of tools such as scoops and spades. The class loved programming the Bee Bots and finally got very excited making their time Tardis and Roger the Robot – the time traveller, for the science fair.

Such a wonderful, exciting and rewarding time with lots of great learning.

Mrs Turner



## Science Club

The Year 3 science club have had a brilliant time this half term, conducting a wide range of practical investigations! They have explored so many topics including; electricity, states of matter, and forces!

Miss Battey



# SECONDARY

## Count On Us Challenge

A Big thank you to the five Year 9 students for representing St Mary Magdalene in the Count on Us Challenge.

Count on Us focuses on collaboration and competition to motivate students. By combining a series of activities and problem-solving tasks linked to the maths curriculum, Count on Us makes maths fun and boosts students' confidence around learning.

It was really pleasing to see our students compete against other schools with such maturity, resilience and sportsmanship!

Unfortunately, we did not qualify for the finals this year. However, all the students should be proud of themselves, for going against such strong competition.

Ms Gazo



## Year 10 Music Trip

On April 25th, Year 10 GCSE music students embarked on an educational trip to gain valuable insights from leading music industry experts. They also had the opportunity to socialise with other GCSE cohorts from the Greenwich Borough and engage in insightful Q&A sessions.

I enjoyed the trip because it gave me a better insight of the music industry, the vast number of options and career paths I can get into. In addition, the educational support was good for me because I learnt a lot on the trip- David 9JTT.

Ms Mensah



## Hampton Court Palace

This half term several Year 8 students went to Hampton Court to learn about the 'religious roller coaster' and life during the Tudor period, as part of their history classwork. The students really enjoyed the day.

Mr Mercer

# SECONDARY

## Tender Session

We are thrilled to share the exciting news about our ongoing collaboration with Tender, a pioneering organisation dedicated to fostering healthy relationships within schools and the Evening Standard Newspaper. On Tuesday, May 7th, 22 of our Year 9 students participated in a one-off session with Tender exploring the ideas behind healthy relationships, which not only left a lasting impact on the students involved but also the facilitators and the journalists from the Evening Standard Newspaper.

The session, meticulously designed by Tender, aimed at cultivating a culture of healthy relationships among our students. What ensued was nothing short of remarkable. Our Year 9 students showcased exceptional articulation and shared profoundly thought-provoking insights throughout the session, as commented by the facilitators. Their engagement and maturity were truly commendable, leaving both Tender and the Evening Standard thoroughly impressed.

Tender's approach to addressing sensitive topics surrounding relationships and personal boundaries resonated deeply with our students.

Their facilitators skilfully navigated conversations, creating a safe and inclusive environment where every voice was valued. It was heartening to witness our students actively participating, sharing their perspectives, and supporting one another throughout the session.

The presence of the Evening Standard added an extra layer of significance to the event.

Their keen interest in capturing the essence of our students' experiences highlights the importance of the work being done in our school community. We are immensely proud of our students for seizing this opportunity to shine brightly on such a prominent platform.

As educators, moments like these reaffirm our belief in the power of fostering open dialogue and nurturing positive relationships within our school. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Tender for their invaluable partnership and commend our students for their exemplary behaviour and insightful contributions.

Let's continue to foster an environment where every student feels empowered to engage in meaningful conversations and build healthy relationships that will positively impact their lives and those around them.

Listen to the Podcast here! -



Mr Gayle



## Lord Hastings Visit

This month our sixth form students were visited by Lord Hastings, a serving member of the second chamber who has a wealth of experience both in the political and business fields.

Lord Hastings met with our Politics and History students to discuss a range of issues related to the curriculum, including the

justification for an unelected chamber, the history and general working of the House of Lords and the progression of various bills.

Our students were highly engaged and spent a large portion of the two-hour session asking questions across a range of current affairs and political discourses.

Mr Marshall



# SECONDARY

## Argentinian Exchange

On April 24th, our Year 10s were thrilled to host a group of students from Argentina, in a language exchange. Both schools organised presentations to showcase their respective cultures, exchanging not only food and drinks, but also discussing the traditions which make our respective countries unique. After a tour of the school, the students had lunch together and played linguistic games. Everyone involved had an amazing time.

### These are some of the things that they said about us:

"Hi everyone, thank you so much for the way you received us the other day. We really liked your school and the variety of activities it has. We had a really good time and we hope you did too!"

"Hi!! We loved your school; we had an incredible time with all of you, we send our love to all of you 💕💕"

"Heyyy, we had a really good time. Thank you for the kindness and the patience, we really enjoyed the time spent with you guys. Hope you had a gorgeous day too!!"

"We wanted to thank you deeply for the warm welcome you gave us yesterday. We really enjoyed spending time with the kids, who were very nice and fun. We were very excited about this meeting and they achieve our expectations to the fullest. I hope to meet in the future and we are very grateful for the opportunity you offered us."

"Hi!! We loved the visit and all the activities we did. Also, we felt welcome as you treated us excellent. Thank you for the welcoming and hope you enjoy as we did. We really appreciate it."

"Hello, thank you for reviving us. All the students were nice, always with a smile. The school tour was very interesting and helpful to our general knowledge. The food was delicious. We had a great time; we wish you too. After all, thanks for the opportunity and hope we see you again, bye!"

"Hi! Thank you for kindly receiving us, we really enjoyed the tour around your school. We hope you had a great time as we"

Ms Tormo



# SPORTS UPDATE

## Y5 Federation Football Tournament

What an incredible day of football! Our young football stars from schools across the federation came together on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May to showcase their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. It was a thrilling event filled with spectacular goals and unforgettable moments despite the rain.

Ms Anderson, Associate Assistant Principal for the outreach programme at SMM would like to congratulate everyone for making this tournament a fantastic success.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

- Game 1: Peninsula 1-0 Woolwich
- Game 2: Woolwich 0-0 Christ Church
- Game 3: Christ Church 0-1 Peninsula

Standings:

1. **Peninsula** P2 W2 D0 L0 – 6pts
2. **Woolwich and Christ Church** P2 W0 D1 L1 – 1pts

**Winners: Peninsula**



## Girls Flag Football

Our Y9 Girls Flag Football Team have been competing since January in a London Flag Football League run by the NFL UK and two NFL Teams (Jets and Bears).

The girls have competed in a weekly league, fulfilling five fixtures and boasting a record of P5 W4 L1. This has resulted in the team qualifying for the Championship Finals Day on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, an excellent achievement!

The NFL UK have kitted our pupils out with personalised jerseys and shorts that they have been wearing for their games. Below are a number of pictures from their recent activity.

## Y10/11 Girls Football - Blackheath Cup Final

Our Y10/11 Girls Football Team competed in the Blackheath Cup Final, becoming the **FIRST EVER** St Mary Magdalene Team to compete in a major Football final. The girls played their hearts out and have made the school very proud!

