

Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation



Newsletter

Message from the Federation Executive Co-Headteachers

As we come to the end of this academic year, we would like to acknowledge all the hard work, effort and dedication that the staff team have given. As we celebrated our end of year events our Family, Faith and Fellowship values were seen shining through a wide range of events: the Year 11 & 13 proms, the leavers' services at school or at Southwark Cathedral, the art exhibition and the Year 6 productions.

This Summer term we saw the end of Mr Hussain's journey with the Koinonia Federation. Mr R Hussain has been a member of our family for 18 years and started as an NQT back in the 'old' Woolwich building in 2006. He is leaving his Principal role with us to continue his career as an Executive Principal at the Dixons Academy chain in Manchester. Having been a part of his professional life for so long, we know that he will be missed by many. We would like to thank him for all that he has done for the pupils of St Mary Magdalene. His dedication and commitment to our children has ensured that thousands have had a successful start in life.

In September our secondary phase will be led by Jason Benn and Marvin Riley (Interim Co-Heads of School) ably supported by Monica Brady (Interim Vice Principal).

We also say goodbye at the end of this academic year to several staff members who are retiring after many years of service:



Miss Browne - Woolwich Campus (an incredible 25 years of service)

Mrs Spearman - Woolwich Campus (12 years of service)

Mrs Osteritter – Christ Church (7 years of service)

Mrs Thornborrow – Woolwich Campus (5 years of service)



Each one of them has had a huge impact on the lives of so many of our primary pupils and we thank them for the difference they have made. They will all be missed very much and we wish them well as they enter a new chapter.

As we look forward to the summer break, in anticipation of some sunshine, rest and positive exam results, we would like to thank all the staff, Governors and families for their continued hard work and commitment. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing community where fellowship is at the heart of all we do.

We wish everyone across our Federation family an enjoyable and safe summer.

With best wishes,

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright

PRIMARY

Bishop of Woolwich

The Venerable Alastair Cutting named as the next Bishop of Woolwich

His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of The Venerable Alastair Cutting, Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich, as the fourteenth Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark. Archdeacon Alastair will be consecrated as Bishop of Woolwich in a special service at Southwark Cathedral on 3 July.

Announcing the appointment, the Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun said: "It is with great joy that I share news of Alastair's appointment to this key role in the diocese. Alastair is already very well regarded in the Woolwich Episcopal Area and has excellent relationships with clergy and lay people across both archdeaconries. I welcome him into the Episcopal Team and have no doubt that he will prove to be a wise and gracious Bishop of Woolwich who will prioritise our parishes and unify our churches in their mission and ministry. I commend Alastair and Kay to your prayers."

We were very honoured to host the new Bishop of Woolwich at our Woolwich Campus for one of his first public engagements! Previous to his new role of Bishop, Alastair was our local Archdeacon and has been a friend of our Federation for many years. We were delighted he decided to spend the day with us when his appointment as Bishop was announced. He led the school in collective worship, spent time touring the classes and speaking with our pupils.



PRIMARY

Mental Health Champions

We are pleased to inform you that our Mental Health Champions (MHC) across our three campuses are thoroughly enjoying performing their duties and have taken on the responsibility with great pleasure and satisfaction.

Our MHCs share strategies with the children weekly to support them in managing their emotions or coping with stressful situations.

Some of our MHC have suggested children can take five deep breaths when feeling stressed or overwhelmed. They have also modelled and explained how to use the calm jar. "Shake the jar and as you watch the sparkles settle, that should help you stay calm, when upset."

Please look out for our Mental Health Champions' banners outside the school as we continue to celebrate our children's mental health and wellbeing.

Mr Richardson, Mrs Amao and Miss Okungbowa



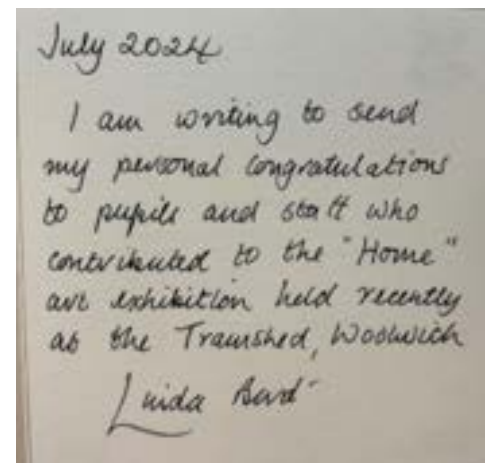
World Refugee Week

Our children took part in the Greenwich Borough of Sanctuary art project. They had to draw or paint their idea of 'Our Home', which is the theme of this year's Refugee Week. From the places we gather to share meals to our collective home, planet earth: everyone was invited to paint, draw or create what 'Our Home' means to them. This was an opportunity to celebrate the Royal Borough of Greenwich being recognised as a place that welcomes and values the contribution of refugees, migrants and those seeking sanctuary.

Some children designed posters about Greenwich being so welcoming, the United Kingdom being friendly and homely, refugees are always able to stay in Britain. Children also discussed being empathetic towards refugees because they have left all that is dear to them and moved into a completely new place to stay. Everyone utterly appreciated World Refugee Week.



Art, Equalities and PSHE Team



PRIMARY

Year 6 Events

Woolwich Year 6 Production

Last Monday, Woolwich's Year 6 pupils shone as they presented their end of year production 'The Rest Is Still Unwritten' to their peers and their parents.

The children performed fantastically throughout and really made the adults who have worked with them all year very proud. They have worked so hard to bring the performance together and they did not disappoint on the day. We were amazed by their singing and acting, Mrs Savva-Brown, Mrs Badesha and some parents were close to tears! They really showcased their best qualities and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We really have a talented Year 6 and we will forever remember them.

Mrs Badesha & Mr Chamberlain



Woolwich Year 6 leavers service

Year 6 children had their leavers service at St Mary's Magdalene Church. It was a lovely service with singing and readings from the bible. We wish the children all the best in the next stage of their education. They have worked hard this year and we are proud of everything they have achieved.



PRIMARY

Year 6 Events

Peninsula Year 6 leavers service

Last Thursday, Peninsula's Year 6 pupils presented their end of year production to their peers and their parents. We learnt all about 'a day in the life of a St Mary Magdalene Year 6 pupil'.

The children performed amazingly throughout and really made the adults who have worked with them all year very proud. We were thrilled by their singing and acting. They were able to impersonate some staff members so accurately that they had us all in stitches. They really showcased their best qualities and we all appreciated their hard work in rehearsals. We looked the interactive dance section and thank many parents for joining in!



Christ Church Year 6 Production

Year 6 worked extremely hard on their production of 'Christ Church Musical'. They learned their lines and lots of new songs. As a class they created dance routines for each song. On the night, they produced an electrifying, energetic and elaborate performance that captivated their parents and carers. Safe to say it will be one to remember.



Christ Church Year 6 leavers service

Year 6 took part in their end of primary church service on Monday. They shared some special memories from their time at Christ Church and sang some of their favourite songs - we are really going to miss this class of year 6 student

Ms Stock

PRIMARY

Reception Graduate

The end of the academic year has brought about many celebrations of achievements. Reception classes have taken part in a graduation to mark them completing Reception. We are incredibly proud of them and can't wait to see all that they achieve in Year 1.

Miss Battey



Wimbledon Tennis Championship

To mark the Wimbledon Tennis Championship, Reception children at Peninsula Campus were incredibly grateful to be joined by coach Rose. Rose taught us how to move into a 'ready position', as well as return a ball using a forehand shot. We really enjoyed our session and are confident that there are definitely some future tennis stars amongst us!

Miss Battey



School Crossing Patrol

Peninsula Reception children have been joined by Ann, a Greenwich School Crossing Patrol Officer.

Ann taught us the importance of taking care when crossing the road. We know the hazards to be aware of when near vehicles and we know how to stay safe on our bikes and scooters. Thank you, Ann!

Miss Battey



PRIMARY

Hero Day

On Friday 14th June the primary St Mary Magdalene Campuses had 'Bring a male hero to school day'. We had uncles, brothers, dads and cousins come in to experience a morning or an afternoon of school life.

They took part in Maths, art and crafts, games and role plays, read books and many more activities!

Ms Williams & Ms Thomas



Year 5 Science

Our Year 5 students from across the Federation had the opportunity to work in our Secondary Science laboratories, taking part in a science lesson led by our Secondary Science teachers.

Student quotes:

Nifemi- 'I enjoyed the lesson in the laboratories because we could use the secondary school equipment. We saw that when chemical reactions happen sometimes the chemicals changes colour or expand.'

Jeshurun- 'We learnt about chemical reactions, we put different powders into hydrogen peroxide and observed the changes that happened.'

Miss Battey



PRIMARY

Platform Cricket Inter School Festival

Some of our Year 4 students had a brilliant time at Platform Cricket's Inter School Festival at Greenwich Park. Our players showcased their cricketing skills and had a great day playing against students from other Greenwich borough schools. An extra well done to Noah and Timmy who were awarded the title of 'Most Valuable Players'.

Miss Battey



British Museum Trip

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed visiting The Africa Galleries at the British Museum. Our children had the opportunity to see the extraordinary cultural, artistic and historical diversity represented by the collections.

Children were able to observe, sketch and draw some of the vibrant art on display. The galleries exhibited a variety of materials and artistic traditions, including forged metalwork, textiles, pottery-making and sculpture. Some children were ecstatic when they saw artworks from Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria as they identified with their homeland. Children had a go sketching the carved doors by Olowe of Ise. Children were particularly awed by the salt-cellar made of ivory and the brass head of an Ooni (king) of Ife, Nigeria.

Miss Ribera-Hurtado and Miss Okungbowa



PRIMARY

Finance Day with Life Savers

St Mary Magdalene, Peninsula celebrated Finance Day with children across all key stages. It was a great opportunity to explore how we think about money and how we use it. Early years and Year 1 engaged with the Milo's Money resources where they read a storybook, played some games and used Milo the toy that helps introduce key money concepts to children. After using the Milo's Money resources, all children understood the importance of knowing how to look after their money. In year 1, children discussed the significance of spending but also saving some money. In years 2 to 6, children explored some questions out the Five Big Questions. The resources included cross-curricular activities for Maths, PSHE, English and Drama.

Some of the big questions included discussions on

- Where does our money come from?
- How does money make us feel?

Some children shared that money makes them feel excited when they receive it. Our year 3 children said money makes them feel joyful when they give it. Year 5 shared they will feel upset or angry if they accidentally lose their money. Our year 2 children wrote some prayers on being generous and helping others with our money.

Mr Richardson, Mrs Amao and Miss Okungbowa



Ecology Park

Continuing their learning about the local area and minibeasts, our Reception children enjoyed a trip to the Greenwich Ecology Park! They had the experience of listening to, and identifying, different bird calls and even inspected pond life under the microscope. Towards the end of the trip, they had the opportunity to handle different minibeasts. Many students came over their nerves and built up the courage to handle animals such as worms, millipedes and newts!

Miss Battey



PRIMARY

Bigfoot Art Education

On June 18th, 2024, Paige, from Bigfoot Art Education to me to St Mary Magdalene Woolwich to talk to the Yr5 and Yr6 classes about knife crime and how young children can face peer pressure. It was a fun and interactive workshop to tell us about a story in Gabriel's life and how Gabriel must face a difficult time in his adventure.

The theme was 'Powerful Choices' and the story told us how Gabriel must stand up and say that it is not right to carry weapons. We spent an hour, answering our questions about any concerns or worries we have about knife crime. Overall, it was a joyful workshop that I wish to experience again. - McKenzie Yr6 Einstein

In the powerful choice's assembly, we learnt that you have the power to decide your actions and that the people you hang around with is very important. As it can reflect or come back on you if anything happens. The workshop was informative and very helpful. - Ahlam Year 6 Walker

Mrs Amao



Greenwich Park

Last week Year 4 enjoyed their trip to Greenwich Park where they explored historical sites in their local area for their history topic!

Miss Hall



PRIMARY

Cricket Tournament

On Monday 24th June, Year 4 Christ Church took part in a cricket tournament for schools in Greenwich and Blackheath at Greenwich Park. This gave the students the opportunity to practice the skills they had learnt from cricket coaching during PE in the Autumn term. The class was split into two teams and had to take turns to bat, bowl and field. Only 8 members of the team could be on the field at any time so they took turns to enable everyone to develop their cricket skills further.

The students had a great time competing against the other teams!

Ms Jean-Baptiste



Sports Day

All of our campuses had a wonderful sports day. Although it rained this did not curb the children's enthusiasm as we made use of any dry space available! It was lovely to see everyone having such fun and the children were able to show their talents as well as demonstrating how to be good teammates to one another.

Summer Fair

Only a few weeks ago, Ms Minlah suggested hosting a summer fair and some said it couldn't be done in such a short time frame. How wrong they were! Ms Minlah began at speed working on a summer fair plan. We are very grateful for her passion in getting this off the ground.

Everyone enjoyed the cakes, popcorn, hotdogs, games and books on offer, as well as the performance from some of our talented Year 11 students. The candy floss was a massive success and the face painting was very popular, we had lots of happy spidermen and butterflies running about. A huge thank you to everyone who came along to help us raise funds for the school, but an even bigger thank you to the staff and volunteers who ensured that the event was a huge success! We are very pleased with the generosity shown from our federation community, and proud to share that we raised an amazing This is a fantastic achievement, thank you once again!

Mrs Savva-Brown



SECONDARY

Yoto Carnegie Awards Book Shadow Club

During this term, 9 year 7 students have been attending a book club in the Library with Mrs Topcu every Monday lunchtime to shadow the prestigious Yoto Carnegie awards for authors and illustrators.

Over an 8-week period they have looked at and shared the short-listed books, written reviews and drawn pictures relating to the stories. They have listened to videos of the authors on what inspired them to produce the books they did, and about their background including how they became an author.

The students voted on the books choosing who they thought should win, and had the amazing opportunity of being able to attend the live award ceremony on 20th June 2024.

The winners were revealed at an in-person ceremony held for the first time at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End, home of the RSC's award-winning Matilda the Musical – with the actress who plays 'Mrs Phelps' the Librarian in the musical on stage to give out the awards.

The winner of the Yoto Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Medal for Writing was Tia Fisher for her powerful debut novel told in verse, 'Crossing the Line'; and Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration was Aaron Becker's 'The Tree and the River'.

Over 600 children enjoyed the ceremony in-person with the event live-streamed and watched by thousands of shadowing groups in schools around the country.

Mrs Topcu



I would like to congratulate Mr Gayle on receiving the Tender award for our school.

Tender are an organisation who work on fostering healthy relationships. They aim to build a society based on care, kindness and respect.

Tender have over 170 schools who they work with on a national level. Out of all of these schools, Jermaine has been recognised for his outstanding contribution and our school has won the 'Outstanding Secondary' award for Tender.

They said 'We agree that the commitment your school has shown to ending domestic abuse and violence and promoting healthy relationships in the lives of young people has been exceptional.'

TENDER Award

I would like to say a personal thank you to Mr Gayle for his continual work for EDI. It is important we remember that the momentum we have gathered for EDI continues and is something we consider in all aspects of school life and is at the core of our decision making.

I am very proud of the fact that we have received this award.

Mr Hussain



SECONDARY

Cultural Day

On Thursday, July 11th, St. Mary Magdalene School was abuzz with excitement as students from year's 9 and 10 gathered for a vibrant Cultural Day celebration. The event was a resounding success, with around 125 students attending, many of whom were dressed in their unique cultural attire, ready to enjoy an evening filled with music, dance, and a variety of delectable foods representing the diverse cultures within our school community.

The evening kicked off with food provided by our dedicated canteen staff, parents and staff followed by a captivating array of performances, showcasing traditional dances and music from different cultures.

The joy and enthusiasm of the students were palpable as they shared and celebrated their heritage with pride.

A highlight of the evening was the impressive spread of food, ranging from Sushi to Jollof rice and chicken, generously provided by our wonderful staff and parents.

The Design Technology (DT) department went above and beyond,

preparing an assortment of cakes, brownies, and savory dishes from the Caribbean that delighted everyone's taste buds.

I also want to give a huge shout out to all the staff who attended and supported this memorable event. A special thank you goes to Mr. McKinnis, Ms. Mensah, Ms. Abebrese, Ms. McKenzie, and Kassy, our dedicated food technician, for their invaluable contributions. Additionally, we owe a huge thank you to Ms. Choudry, who played a crucial role in organising the event, and Miss Edwards and Ms. Liagki, who skilfully handled the decorations, making the evening truly spectacular and I am sure there were others who contributed to making the evening the success it was.

Cultural Day was a beautiful reminder of the rich diversity within St. Mary Magdalene School and the strong sense of community that binds us together. We look forward to many more celebrations where we can continue to share and appreciate our diverse cultures. Thank you to everyone who made this event a remarkable success!

Mr Gayle



SECONDARY

Sparx Maths

All our secondary maths students have been completing their homework this year on the Sparx Maths website. We are very proud to say that thanks to the hard work and consistent effort of the vast majority of students, we have completed over 1 million questions correctly on the website this year. This is a huge achievement and a testament to the dedication of all students and especially those who go above and beyond using the website to revise and improve their maths knowledge even further.

Thank you to all parents and carers who have been keeping track of their child's homework and giving them encouragement and support so that they have the best chance at success. Thanks to your backing over 80% of students in the school complete every question correctly in their maths homework each week and we look forward to the progress we can make together in the coming year.

Mr Todd

Year 11 Prom

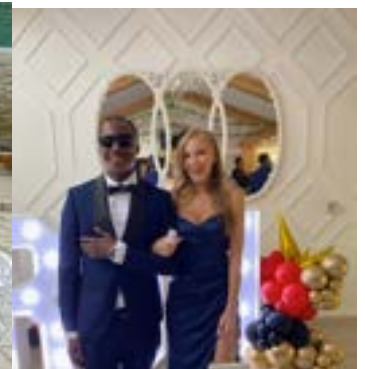
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Our Year 11 Leavers turned out in style for their Prom to mark their time with us at SMM! It was an evening of celebration at the Oaks venue in Eltham, who put on an excellent night complete with a photo booth, candy floss machine and DJ.

Students danced the night away and had also voted for a number of Yearbook awards, for their peers and staff. A big thank you to their Head of Year Siobhan Douglas for organising a fantastic event, and for guiding this cohort through from Year 7. It was a great opportunity to see our young people enjoying themselves and share some final reflections on their memories of SMM.

Good luck to all our Year 11s on the next step in their educational journeys!

Mr Greenhalgh



SECONDARY

Saturday Fair

The Saturday fair was another experience which is uncommon, and I have to say I enjoyed it immensely. To go out and perform for the public is not an everyday thing, to show them my values and what makes this school different and special is amazing and I believe we did just that and it was a beautiful thing to be a part of.
-Glorian 9LKM

Thank you so much for your participation in the East Greenwich Fayre. I passed on a short video of their performance of Heavy is the Head to Stormzy and he replied 'Bless em man, send em my love!' - Stormzy

Ms Mensah and Mr McInnis



EDI Forums Group

Joining the EDI forums group has greatly expanded my views and opinions definitely making me have an open my mind and see a lot of things in a different view, I had the opportunity to sit with the John Roan students and discuss various different topics from cultural appropriation and appreciation too equality and equity. I believe that we were able to discuss and see eye to eye and unite on different topics that we feel the need to discuss and how we are able to seek a change for the future.

I have a strong sense of happiness as we were able to take part in such a group that allowed us to see how the world or things work in our society and how we can correct or give our opinions if we do not agree with others.



Friday Dance Blocco

Being invited to a dance workshop was a great experience. To understand different genres and learning a whole routine allowed me to understand what people go through to dance and performance. It gave me a wider perspective. I loved that experience as my first dance workshop with my friends.



SECONDARY

Filmmaking Club

The Y10 Filmmaking Club have been inventive at producing their very first multilingual short film, using both French and Spanish. This enabled the students to practice their linguistic skills in a meaningful and creative context. Students have written a stimulating script, which is now currently in production. We look forward to sharing the final finished film, which will be ready in September 2024.

Mr Tarjot



Urban Visions Art Exhibition

At this year's annual GCSE and A Level Exhibition, we welcomed parents, students and the wider school community for a night of music and art. The theme this year was "Urban Visions", aiming to capture the cultural diversity of our student body. Each piece serves as a testament to the boundless imagination and skill nurtured within our school community.

As you step into the gallery, you are immediately greeted by a monumental sculptural piece that explores identity and feminism. Another standout piece is a stunning mixed-media installation that captures the dynamic interplay of race and what it means to be a black female. The exhibition incorporates digital art, multimedia installations, and other media, showcasing the students' adaptability and proficiency with modern technologies, adding to the emotional depth and technical sophistication on display.

We were delighted to have our primary students across the Federation visit the Art exhibition in secondary. This enriching experience not only fostered a deeper appreciation for the Arts but sparked inspiration and excitement for their own creative journeys as the young learners envision their own potential as future artists.

Congratulations to our young artists for their remarkable contributions, and a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated art staff and Ms Anderson the Art Lead, who made the event possible. This year's exhibition is a resounding success, promising a bright future for the Arts in our school.

Ms Anderson



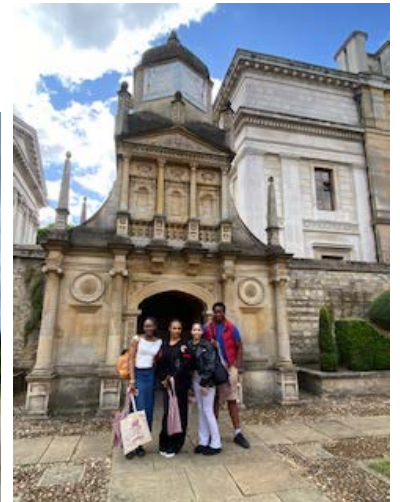
SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Cambridge University Visit

A group of our year 12 students visited the University of Cambridge with Mrs Harrison. The trip was an enlightening and, quite literally, a footsore experience! Students spoke of how the day began with excitement as they arrived and set off to explore the historic halls and colleges. Each college, with its unique charm and storied past, captivated the group, sparking imaginations of future academic glory. Throughout the tour, the students discovered the blend of ancient architecture and modern student life. They peeked into various accommodations, ranging from quaint rooms with picturesque views to more contemporary setups. These glimpses into potential future homes were both inspiring and a bit daunting. Students spoke of how they were particularly impressed by, Trinity, and specifically the library which was designed by Christopher Wren.

Our students had the chance to attend lectures and sample seminars, including a law lecture. They also spoke to current students and admissions officers. Despite the sore feet and the sheer amount of walking (apparently, students walked 20,000 steps over the day) the day was a resounding success. The students left with a deeper appreciation for Cambridge's rich history and a fresh wave of motivation. We look forward to supporting these students' applications in the new academic year.

Mr Marshall



Year 13 Prom

The Year 13 students said goodbye in style, enjoying a wonderful meal and the dancing the night away at the sixth form prom! The Tower Hotel hosted, and our students enjoyed gourmet food, a DJ and beautiful views of Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. The event is always bittersweet and it is obviously sad to say goodbye to such a wonderful cohort of students, but we are also very happy to see them moving on to the next stages of their lives.

Mr Marshall

