



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Co-Headteachers' Message

Monday 17th March 2025

SPRING 2 –

Theme: Love

Federation Value – Respect

SMSC: Inclusion

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

Memory Verse

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of another busy spring term, I'd like to share some highlights and key information for the weeks ahead.

This term has offered our students rich educational experiences both in and beyond the classroom. From our vibrant World Book Day celebrations and the cultural immersion of the Year 10 Seville trip, to specialized workshops and career-focused activities, students have benefited from opportunities that enhance their academic learning and personal development. Our sports teams continue to excel, with several reaching finals and quarter-finals in various competitions.

These experiences enrich our curriculum, helping students develop cultural awareness, language skills, and confidence while providing practical contexts for their learning.

Mock Examinations

Year 11 and Year 13 students completed their final mock examinations from 25th February to 7th March. Results will be available from 24th March onwards, giving students valuable feedback before their summer examinations begin in May.

We will be sending information this week about revision sessions for Year 11 and Year 13 students. Please encourage your child to take advantage of these additional support opportunities.

Important Dates

- Wednesday 26th March: Sixth Form Interview Evening (attendance with parents encouraged for invited students)
- Monday 7th April to Friday 19th April: Easter Holidays
- Tuesday 22nd April: School reopens after Bank Holiday
- Week of 7th-11th July: Work experience for Year 10 and Year 12 students

As we continue with our theme of Love and value of Respect this term, we thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Benn & Mr. Riley Co-Headteachers



Upcoming Diary Dates

Thursday 18th March 2025 - Year 10 and Year 12 Hunterian Museum Trip

Tuesday 25th March 2025 - Y12 UCAS Excel Trip

Wednesday 26th March 2025 - Y11 Macbeth Lyric Hammersmith Trip
Hunterian Museum Trip (A level students)

Friday 28th March 2025 - Economics Trip/Stratford Westfield (A Level students)

Monday 31st March 2025 - Art Easter Egg Competition - open to all ages 3:15pm-
4:15pm

Tuesday 1st April 2025 - Year 8 Head of Year Rewards Trip to O2 Hollywood Bowling

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 - Year 9 Head of Year Rewards Trip to O2 Hollywood
Bowling

Thursday 3rd April 2025 - Year 12 Parents' Evening
7AJN & 7ARG St Alfege Church Greenwich Trip,
(Attending a concert by Trinity Laban)

Monday 7th April 2025 - Friday 19th April 2025 - Easter Holidays

Monday 21st April 2025 - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 - School re-opens



Uniform

Uniform plays a crucial role in providing the students with a strong sense of identity, belonging and respect for our school community. It reinforces who we are as a community and allows students to feel proud of their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for the workplace. We expect all students to be in full and correct school uniform in line with our policy.

- Full school uniform must be worn at all time, including a blazer, tie, black/gray socks, black shoes and lanyards.
- Students without the correct uniform including; black shoes or blazers, will be required to borrow school uniform from student welfare or will be sent home to collect the correct uniform.
- No hoodies tracksuit tops, trainers, or footwear such as; Uggs or Crocs are allowed to be worn in the building.
- One pair of stud earrings may be worn, no more than one per ear.
- No false eye lashes or acrylic nails to be worn
- Kits should be knee length
- No lip-gloss or other form of makeup should be worn. These will be confiscated if seen.

Issues Consequence 1 and then Consequence 2

No blazer and/ or shoes or tie Y9-11: Uniform letter sent home C3 (with HoY following day)

Wearing banned clothing items Y17-12: Given HoY Item will be confiscated and returned in school at the end of the week

The uniform policy is on the school's website for further reference.

Please check the following on your child's uniform and replace what's needed:

- Broken or misplaced shoes
- Damaged or too small shirts and trousers
- Damaged or broken trousers
- Enough trousers and shirts for five-day week
- Enough black or dark grey socks for five-day week

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION NOTICE

In line with the school's child protection policy and procedures, should you have any concerns about a child's safety and protection, please immediately refer these worries to one of the following members of staff.

Safeguarding concerns should be raised by anyone who comes into contact with a child either outside or inside school.

Please note: the Safeguarding policy is available on our school website, or for a printed copy please ask at the school office.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



ST. MARY MAGDALENE
C OF E SCHOOL
SECONDARY PHASE
*Excellence through innovation,
founded in faith since 1840.*



Mr Benson
Designated Safeguarding
Lead
Director- Inclusion



Mrs Wainwright
Executive Co-Headteacher
Federation Safeguarding lead



Mr Benn
Co-Headteacher of School



Mr Riley
Co-Headteacher of School



Mrs Van Der Maas
Home School Link Worker
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Golding
Assistant Principal
(Behaviour)



Ms Brady
Vice principal
(Teaching & Learning)



Mr Marshall
Director of Sixth Form



Mr A Hussain
Director of KS3
Behaviour & Culture



Mr Lawrence
Director of KS4
Behaviour & Culture



2024/2025 Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

INSET DAY	Monday 2nd September 2024
INSET DAY	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
School re-opens	Wednesday 4th September 2024
School finishes	Thursday 24th October 2024
INSET DAY	Friday 25th October 2024
Half term	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024
School re-opens	Monday 4th November 2024
School finishes	Friday 20th December 2024
Christmas Holidays	Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January

Spring Term 2025

2025

School re-opens	Monday 6th January 2025
School finishes	Friday 14th February 2025
Half term	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
School re-opens	Monday 24th February 2025
School finishes	Friday 4th April 2025
Easter Holidays	Monday 7th April to Friday 19th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Easter Monday Bank Holiday	Monday 21st April 2025 (school closed)
School re-opens	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025 (school closed)
School finishes	Friday 23rd May 2025
Half term	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025
School re-opens	Monday 2nd June 2025
School finishes	Friday 18th July 2025
INSET DAY	Monday 21st July 2025
INSET DAY	Tuesday 22nd July 2025
Summer Holidays	Wednesday 23rd July 2025 – Friday 29th August 2025

World Book Day

Celebrating with

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

This year, our school marked World Book Day with a fantastic series of events throughout the week. In the lead-up to the big day, students took part in a range of exciting activities, including a story-writing competition and assemblies led by Miss Asuquo who shared her journey as an author and encouraged students to 'be the authors of their own stories', reminding them that they have the power to shape their own futures.

On Thursday, the celebrations reached their peak! Teachers arrived dressed as popular book characters, filling the school with literary magic. Alongside their costumes, staff members displayed book recommendations on their doors, creating a beautiful sea of posters across the school to inspire students to read. The day was packed with exciting activities, including a book hunt and riddles quiz in the library, as well as a scavenger book hunt across the school. In addition, Key Stage 3 students had a special English lesson where they developed their own dystopian story ideas and designed book covers for them.

An inspiring display by Ms Edwards, featuring a special artistic contribution from Charlotte De Jesus in Year 10, captured the essence of the week's celebrations and was displayed in the foyer for students to enjoy. During Family Group time, students enjoyed a special video, edited by Mr Tarjot, of teachers reading extracts from their favourite books, sharing their passion for storytelling.

To round off the celebrations, all students received a £1 book token, which can be redeemed at major supermarkets including Asda, Tesco, and Sainsbury's, as well as leading bookshops. We encourage all students to use their token to claim a free book from the selected list or towards the cost of a book of their choice.

The week was a great success, reinforcing the importance of reading for pleasure and how it can improve students' futures. We look forward to further building on this enthusiasm and making next year's World Book Day an even greater celebration of literature!



World Book Day



Year 10 Seville Trip 2025: A Journey to Remember (March 5th-8th)

Earlier this month, a group of our Y10 students embarked on an unforgettable journey to Seville, Spain, for a cultural and linguistic immersion experience. From the moment we arrived, we knew we were in for an adventure.

Our itinerary was packed with incredible experiences. We explored the breathtaking Plaza de España, where students marvelled at the intricate tilework and even reenacted scenes from famous films shot there. The Alcázar was another highlight, transporting us back in time with its stunning Moorish architecture and lush gardens. We also had the chance to visit the iconic bullring, La Maestranza, where we learned about Spain's deep-rooted bullfighting traditions.

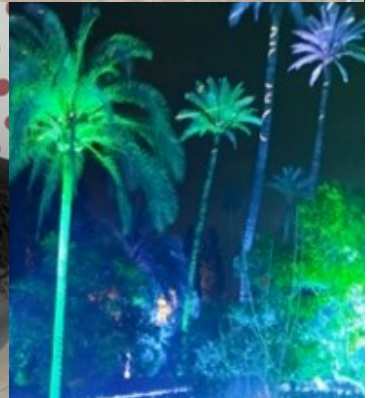
One of the most exciting parts of the trip was experiencing an authentic flamenco dance performance. The passion and energy of the dancers left us in awe, and some of our students even tried a few moves themselves! Another unforgettable day was our visit to Córdoba, where we explored the breathtaking Mezquita-Catedral and strolled through the charming Jewish Quarter, soaking in the city's rich history and culture.

Beyond the sightseeing, students had the chance to practice their Spanish in real-life situations, ordering tapas, navigating the city, and engaging with locals. Some even discovered a new love for churros con chocolate! A particularly memorable moment was when a few brave students joined a spontaneous flamenco performance, impressing even the locals with their enthusiasm.

This trip was more than just an educational experience—it was a chance to bond, step out of our comfort zones, and embrace the beauty of Spanish culture. Many students returned with a newfound confidence in their language skills and unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime.

A huge thanks to everyone who helped making this trip possible. We can't wait for the next adventure!

Mrs P Tormo



Year 12 & 13 Workshop to Keats House

Year 12 and 13 English Literature A level students attended a workshop at Keats House on the 27th February. The students were in absolute awe of the house and the information they gained from the workshop. As always, the students were an absolute credit to the school and were so engaged throughout.

It was a great day enjoyed by all!



Careers

Careers Week Highlights (10th-14th February)

Careers Week was packed with exciting activities. Year 10 kicked off the week by presenting sustainable business ideas at Charlton Football Club, filmed by Sky Sports. Year 10 students also participated in a sustainability competition at Knight Dragon, with the winning team, "ThriftCycle," securing a £200 prize and work experience placements.



We were thrilled to welcome guest speakers, including a Director/Producer who spoke to Key Stage 3 students about careers in television. Year 10 also attended a STEM event at the Cutty Sark, while Year 12 and 13 explored apprenticeship opportunities at the Woolwich Works Apprenticeship Summit.

In PSHE, students explored diverse career themes, from AI's impact on jobs in Year 11 to careers in sustainability for Year 8. It was an inspiring week, helping students think about their future career paths.

Upcoming Events

Year 9 Careers Meetings: Year 9 students have been meeting with school leaders to receive valuable guidance on choosing the best subject options for their upcoming GCSEs. These meetings are crucial in helping students make informed decisions about their future academic pathways.

Work Experience for Year 10 and Year 12: Both Year 10 and Year 12 students are now tasked with securing work experience placements for the week of 7th-11th July. This is an amazing opportunity for students to gain insight into the world of work, and we encourage parents to support their children by helping them connect with potential employers through friends, family, or other networks.

Year 13 UCAS and Student Finance: Year 13 students are eagerly awaiting responses from universities regarding their UCAS applications. A gentle reminder to all Year 13 students to apply for student finance before the Easter holiday to ensure they receive their first loan payment on time.

PE/Sports Clubs: Spring Term

Monday

Volleyball with Miss Liagki
Y7 Basketball with Mr Walsh
Netball with Miss Woolsey



Tuesday

Gymnastics with Miss Hinds
Y10/11 Basketball with Mr Lawrence
Y11 BTEC Sport Intervention with Mr Mudge
6th Form Basketball



Wednesday

Flag Football with BIGKID
Foundation

Thursday

Y10 BTEC Sport Intervention with
Miss Hinds and Miss Woolsey
Table Tennis with Mr Walsh
Cricket with Mr Mudge



Friday

Y8 and Y9 Basketball with Mr Ashong
6th Form Football

Coming Soon

Padel Club
Girls only Flag Football
Table Tennis



Physical Education

Girls Football

Our Y9/10 Girls Football Team competed in the CAFC Tournament this month. Well done to all the girls who participated!



Girls Flag Football

Girls Flag Football season is beginning, our girls attended the New York Jets Launch Day this month in preparation for the league that begins on 21st March



Gymnastics Lessons

Here are some photos of the work the Y10 Girls have been completing in their Gymnastics lessons this term, well done girls!



Y10 Boys Football

The Y10 Boys Football Team narrowly lost to Welling School in the ¼ Final of the North Kent Cup. Well done to the team on getting through the group stages, a great achievement!

Y11 Boys Football

The Y11 Football Team have made it to the FINAL of the Blackheath Cup and will play against St Thomas More in April. The final date is yet to be confirmed.

Y7 Boys Football

Our Y7 Boys Football Team will face Haberdashers in the semi-final of the Blackheath Cup this month... good luck boys!!



Y7 Rugby

Well done to our Y7 Rugby Team who competed in the Spring South East London Tournament. The team won the RESPECT Trophy!



Padel Social Club - The O2, London

A group of Y10 PE students have begun their weekly lessons at the newly opened Padel Social Club in the O2. Pupils will be taught here for five weeks. Padel is the fastest growing racket sport in the world and will be a great addition to the curriculum for these pupils.



Reminder: No Chewing Gum or Sweets at School

Dear Parents,

We would like to kindly remind all families that chewing gum and sweets are not permitted in school. While we understand that these items may be a treat for students, they can lead to distractions, littering, and issues with students' health and well-being.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a focused and clean learning environment for all students. Please ensure that your child comes to school without gum or sweets, and help us encourage healthy habits throughout the school day.

Thank you for your support!



**Message from the Chaplain
Re: Dominic Hubbuck**

Love is patient and Kind. Love is a many splendid thing. Can't buy me love. Love is all around us.

Films, songs, books, paintings, photographs, and scripture are filled with stories and words of love.

This last week we have been thinking about REAL LOVE and what it would mean to show love for one another as Jesus commanded us to.

The story of St Valentine is one of courage and bravery – standing up for his faith and his devotion to the people he cared for in the 3rd century when he lived. He wrote letters of encouragement and signed them 'From your Valentine'. My question though is do we really know what real love is like and how can we show it in our thoughts, words and actions.

Paul says that Love is patient and kind, it is not rude, it isn't jealous and rejoices in the truth. Love goes on. There is faith and hope and love, and the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13)

What would our schools and homes and cities be like if everyone showed these things in the life? There would be more peace, and everyone would be more at peace too.

Lord God, you gave your only son to show your love for the world.

Help us to be courageous in showing love for each other.

Help us to be more patient and kind and to think of others as people loved by God.

Help us to make a fresh start everyday so that we might make the world a better place.

Amen

Rev. Dominic Hubbuck

School Chaplain

Assistant Priest with East Greenwich Team Ministry

