



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024



AUTUMN 2 –  
Theme: Kindness  
Federation Value –  
Responsibility  
SMSC: Lovina Service

*kindness*

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

### MEMORY VERSE

## UPCOMING DATES



Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Y10 & 11 Paris Trip

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Y11 Parents Evening

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Y7 Royal Opera House Trip,

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Candles by Candlelight (this will be an evening event)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Church Service

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, we look back on a term filled with growth, achievement, and community at St Mary Magdalene. Our school has been a hive of activity, reflecting our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, ambitious learners.

This term, our students across all year groups completed rigorous assessments, including mock exams for our GCSE and A-Level pupils. These assessments not only help prepare them for future success but also highlight their hard work and dedication to school. We are immensely proud of their resilience and determination they shown during this period of time.

A key focus this term has been on attendance and punctuality, as it's important to pupils being successful in school. Being in school on time every day is vital for ensuring our pupils are ready to focus and make the most of the learning opportunities available to them. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting this priority, which makes a significant difference to pupils' success. Please do have conversations with your children over the break about managing their time more effectively on their way to school.

Beyond academics, our co-curricular programs have continued to thrive, offering students a chance to explore their interests and talents. From sports competitions to music and arts showcases, our pupils have excelled in representing the school and embodying our Christian ethos.

As a Church of England school, we've also taken time this term to reflect on the themes of hope, gratitude, and community. Collective worship has been a cornerstone of our term, culminating in our Christmas by Candle Light showcase on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, which have brought us together in faith and fellowship.

Thank you to all parents, carers, and staff for your ongoing support. We wish you and your families a peaceful and joyous Christmas season. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term.

Mr Riley and Mr Benn  
Co-Heads of Secondary

# Areas of Focus for this Term

## New Routines

The students have also adapted well to some of the changes to our routines such as the new school day, Breakfast Club, Year 7 and 8 line-ups and whole school Collective Worship. These changes are vital to the safe, efficient and effective running of the school on a daily basis and we will continue to help and support the students with embedding these routines. Whole school Collective Worship has been significant as it enables staff and students to come together at the start of the week as a family which is one of our fundamental values. This provides us with a sense of community and fellowship and it reinforces the importance coming together and sharing a common responsibility.

## Attendance and Punctuality

There has been a strong emphasis on securing high levels of attendance and the school has been working with the Local Authority and our families to promote the importance of excellent attendance and the impact this will have on students' academic outcomes and personal develop. We encourage parents to continue to work with us to ensure your children are striving to attend school every day and to arrive to school on time.

## The Co-Curriculum

The co-curriculum and the wider life of the school has been extremely busy which has created a number of exciting opportunities for the students to participate in. We are extremely pleased and grateful to staff for organising and running co-curricular clubs. These clubs are central to students' personal development and they provide an opportunity for students to give back and contribute positively towards the school's culture.

## GCSE Results and A Levels

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our year 11 and year 13 students on their most recent a level results! We are so proud for their success and what they have achieved. For combined GCSE English and Maths we achieved 65% of grade 4's and 52% grade five, in line with the Royal Borough of Greenwich averages. Also, over 95% of our year 13's have been successful in securing university or apprenticeship places for this September.

We had some standout performances from pupils with Matilda Pham achieving 8 grade 9's, Maximilian achieving 8 grade 8's and attending Eton.

We continue to be proud of the daily successes of our pupils and our pupil's results are a testament to the hard work they have put in during their time with us.

## Punctuality and Attendance- Co-Headteachers of School

We would like to take this opportunity to strongly and respectfully encourage you to remind your child of the importance of maintaining high standards in terms of punctuality and attendance. Students are expected to be in school by **8:30am** each day so that they are ready for their first lesson to start promptly at **8:40am**. Arriving to school on time will enable your child to maximise their learning in lessons and take full advantage of what life has to offer at St Mary Magdalene C of E School. Similarly, it is crucial that students strive to get to every lesson on time throughout the school day. We ask for a commitment from you, as parents/carers, to support this priority and ensure that your child makes every effort to attend school, every day, and on time. We will continue to monitor students' attendance and punctuality in order to secure the highest possible standards.

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast club sill open from 8:15am to 8:30am. Pupils will not be allowed to enter the canteen after 8:30am. If your child wishes to have breakfast, please ensure they arrive during these

## 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 pride in 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 times**, including a blazer, tie and black shoes.
- 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, track suit 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 other facial piercings should be visible.
- No false eye lashes or acrylic nails to be worn.
- Kilts should be knee length.
- No lip-gloss or other form of makeup should be worn. These will be confiscated if seen.

Issue	Consequence 1	Consequence 2
No blazer and/or shoes or tie	Y9-11: Uniform letter sent home	C3 (with HoY following day)
Wearing banned clothing items in school	Y7-12: Given to HoY	Item will be confiscated and returned at the end of the week.

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

Over the Christmas break please take some time to go through and look at your child's school uniform and ensure it's in good condition. At this point of the academic year uniform can start to getting worn out or damaged. As mentioned above it's important to ensure your child has the correct uniform and it is fit for purpose.

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 a five-day week
- Enough black or dark grey socks for a five-day week



## Searching Students

We will be carrying out regular bag searches throughout the term for all year groups. Whilst we do not wish to carry out searches of students unless otherwise necessary, we acknowledge that sometimes it is in the best interest of the child, and other students and staff members to do so. As such, we follow the DfE guidance 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation (2022)' in this matter. Click here for [behaviour policy](#).

Finally, it is also important to restore daily routines to help your child to be organised and ready for the start of another important term. This will enable them to have full access to all the learning opportunities available to them and to work with their teachers to ensure that they make consistent progress as the year progresses.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or require any information. Schools are most effective when there is a strong professional relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation between parents, the student and the school. Thank you in advance for your support as we continue to work together in the best interest of your child.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr J Benn & Mr M Riley  
Co-Headteachers of School



# Careers Newsletter

## Year 12 Careers Fair Visit

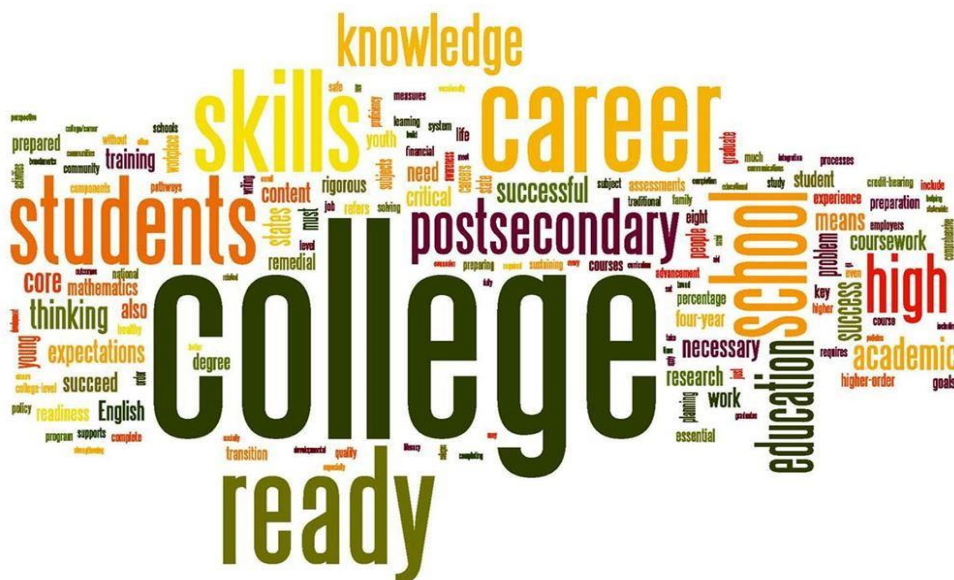


Year 12 students recently visited the Oval Cricket Ground to attend a careers fair. This event provided them with the opportunity to engage with apprenticeship providers, university representatives, and learn more about degree apprenticeships. Year 12 are starting to consider different options for after sixth form and this was a great opportunity to find out more about a range of options.



## Careers Talks for Years 12 and 13

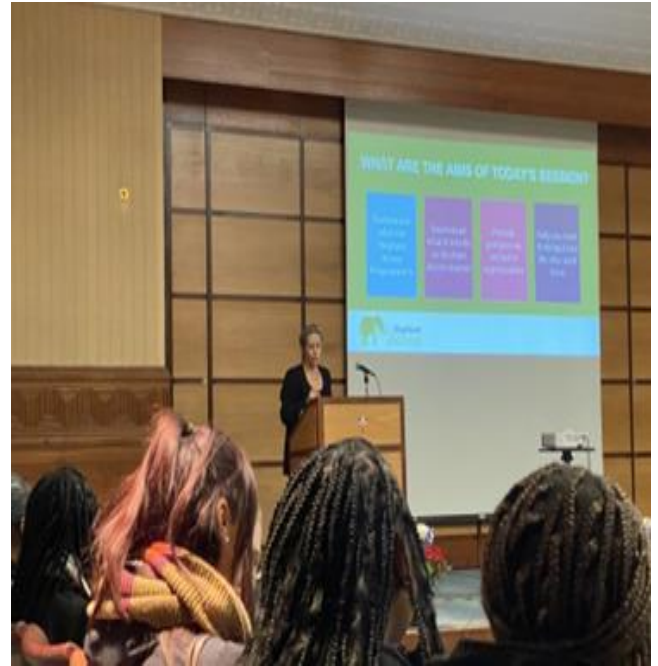
Students in Years 12 and 13 have been attending a series of careers talks, with one highlight being an inspiring presentation from Lotanna Ezeike. He shared his journey from studying at a school in Blackheath to working for a tech company in San Francisco. His story - transitioning from studying Economics at Leicester to designing and selling apps for millions of dollars- demonstrated the dedication and drive needed to succeed in the tech industry. Upcoming talks will feature insights from an Auditor at Bank of America and a Statistician working in the pharmaceutical sector, offering students further exposure to diverse career paths.





### Year 11 Assembly on Post-GCSE Options

Year 11 students participated in an extended assembly focused on exploring their options after GCSEs. This session is part of their preparation for one-to-one careers appointments, helping them plan their next steps. Students compared apprenticeship options alongside academic and vocational level 3 study.



### Year 12 High Achievers Programme

High-achieving Year 12 students attended the *Elephant Access* programme in Russell Square. This initiative supports students who achieved the top results at GCSE and are aiming for top universities. They explored different types of institutions and learned how to enhance their university applications. The program will continue to support them through sixth form with mentoring, lectures and specific events designed to boost their applications.

### Upcoming Opportunity – Year 10

Charlton Athletic Football Club is collaborating with St Mary Magdalene to create environmentally friendly football tops for their 'Greener Game' on February 8th. Thirty students will have the chance to design and create the tops that the team will wear during warm-ups for the match. Students interested in taking part in this exciting project should keep an eye out for the sign-up details.





## Y12 Trip to Poland

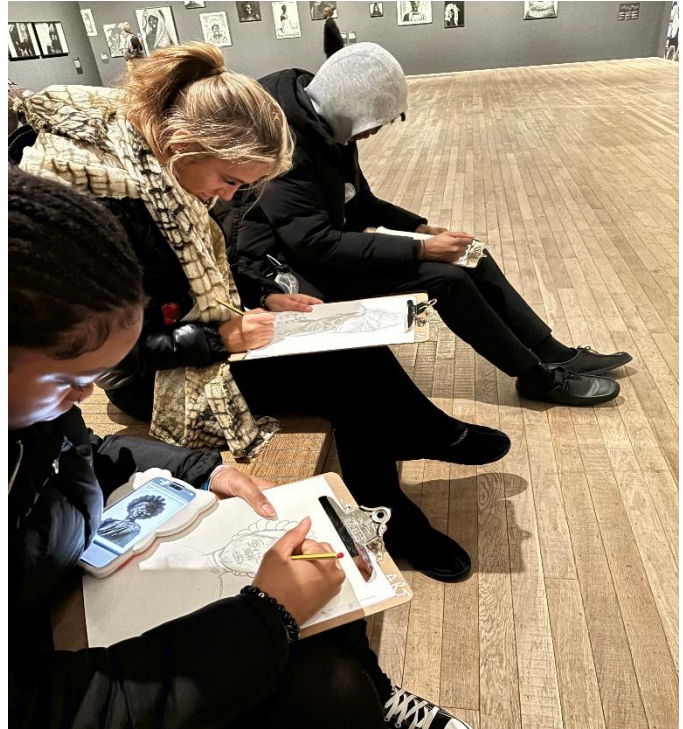


In November, three Year 12 students—Cheyenne, Michael, and Luke—had the remarkable opportunity to visit the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland on a trip organised by the History Department and facilitated by the Holocaust Education Trust. This deeply moving and life-changing experience offered them profound insights into the history and human impact of the Holocaust. The visit left a lasting impression on the students, who described it as an unforgettable journey. They look forward to sharing their reflections and the lessons they learned with the wider student body.

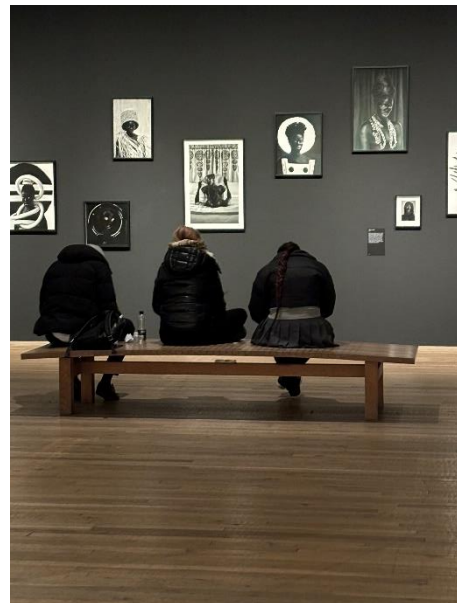




## Y12 & 13 Tate Modern Trip



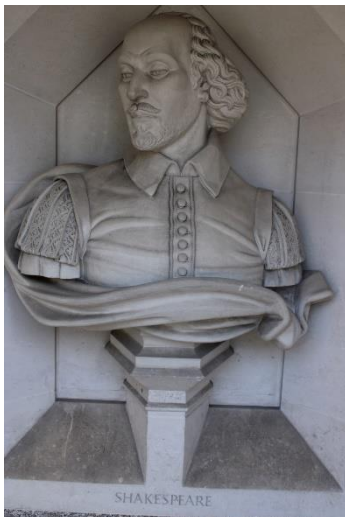
On Thursday, 21st November, our **Sixth Form Art students** visited the **Tate Modern** to explore the powerful and thought-provoking work of **Zanele Muholi**. Renowned for their striking black-and-white photography, Muholi's exhibition delves into themes of identity, LGBTQIA+ rights, and the celebration of Black queer and trans lives. Students were captivated by the raw emotion and storytelling in the portraits, sparking insightful discussions about the intersection of art, activism, and representation. The visit offered an inspiring opportunity to connect with contemporary art that challenges societal norms and celebrates individuality.





## Y10 Guildhall Art Gallery Trip

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> Nov, Year 10 Art students embarked on an exciting trip to the **Guildhall Art Gallery** for "**Maths Meet Art**"—an event designed to explore the fascinating connections between creativity and Mathematics. Students discovered how **geometry, symmetry, and patterns** underpin many artistic masterpieces; by analysing works in the gallery's collection through a mathematical lens. Hands-on activities and guided discussions brought the synergy between these disciplines to life, offering a fresh perspective on how art and maths influence and enhance one another. It was an inspiring day that showcased the beauty of interdisciplinary learning!







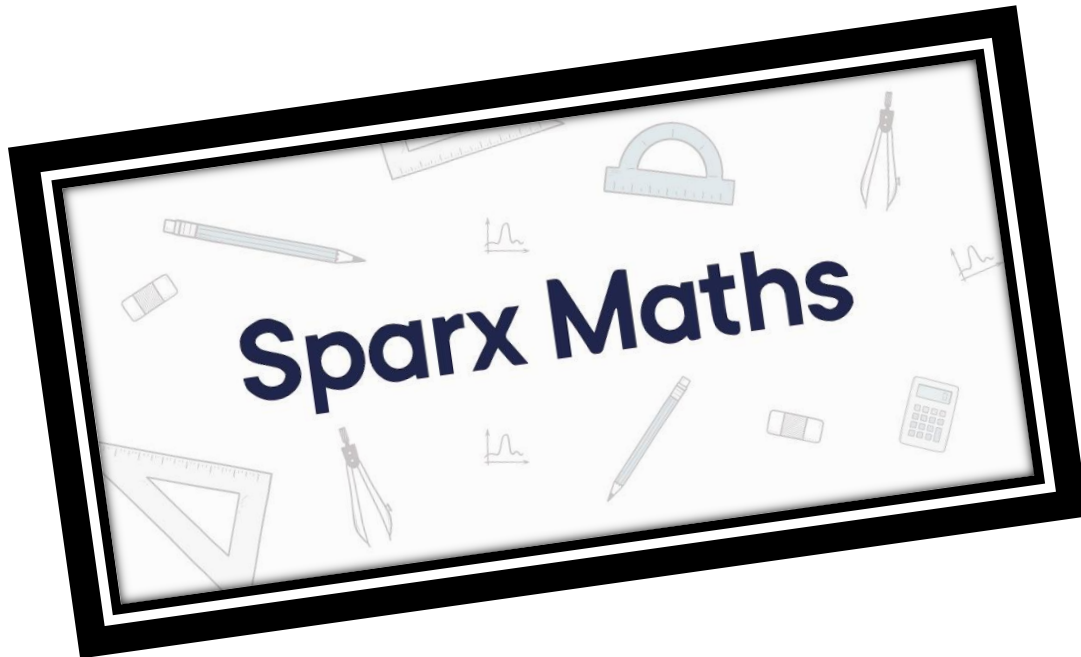
## Y7 British Museum Trip

Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to visit the British Museum for a special trip exploring the *Silk Roads* exhibition. This enriching experience brought their history curriculum to life, offering them a deeper understanding of the interconnected cultures, trade, and innovations that shaped the ancient world. The trip was both educational and inspiring, providing valuable insights into the topics they are studying in class.





# Sparkx Homework



In the maths department we are now well up and running with our Sparx Homework platform and it has been fantastic how positively the students have been engaging with their work each week. It has been especially pleasing to see how well our new year 7 students have taken to the platform. Over 95% of year 7 students have got 100% of their questions correct every week and 30% are going above and beyond to challenge themselves with extra work. An amazing achievement. would like to thank you for all your efforts in supporting our students with their maths homework so far this year. Thanks to the student's dedication and your support as parents and carers, they have already answered over 330,000 questions this academic year and I am proud to say that St Mary Magdalene is in the top 100 schools in the country for homework completion each week! Please encourage your child to keep completing their Sparx homework each week and write out all their working in the Sparx Maths book to be reviewed by their teacher. I hope together we can continue this impressive work in the coming months





# Physical Education

## PE/Sports Update

### Football

#### **Girls Football Results and upcoming fixtures:**

Y7 and Y8 Football - SMM 1-3 St Pauls Academy – PoM: Scarlett Moreira Rodriguez

Y8 and Y9 Football – Halley Academy 5-1 SMM – PoM: Scarlett Moreira Rodriguez

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Y7 and Y8 vs Trinity

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Y9 and Y10 vs Trinity

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Y9 vs John Roan



### **Y7 Boys Football Result:**

Deptford Green 3-5 SMM (Blackheath Cup) – PoM: Stephen Akinola

The Y7 Team will now face Stationers Leigh Academy in the ¼ Final.





# Physical Education

## Y8 Boys Football Results:

St Matthew Academy 2-5 SMM – PoM: [Thomas Giltinane](#)

## Y9 Football Result:

T. Tallis 5-1 SMM – PoM: Fola Ogunleye

## Y10 Boys Football Results:

John Roan v SMM (Blackheath Cup) – SMM awarded the victory.

Cleeve Park q-6 SMM (North Kent Cup) – PoM: Toks Olakazim

## Netball

The Y7 and Y8 Netball Teams competed in a friendly 'triangular' tournament with Royal Greenwich Trust and The John Roan. This tournament was hosted at SMM, well done to all girls who participated!

## Basketball

### Y10 Basketball Results:

St Pauls Academy 49-51 SMM – MVP: Josiah Skinner

Plumstead Manor 44-39 SMM – MVP: Joshua Ehis

UTC 22-23 SMM – MVP: Jayden Guduza

SMM 49-35 John Roan – MVP: Michael Samol



## Cricket

Our Y7 and Y8 Cricket Team competed in their first Indoor Cricket Tournament of the season, finishing second place!





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

Grant us ears to hear your voice of love in our schools and communities and recently, local churches hosted year 2 classes from local schools. They visited The Christmas Journey. An immersive storytelling of the Christmas story that includes everything from creation to the resurrection.

They were encouraged to not only see the reason for Christmas but also challenged to see two things in a new way:

God's gifts of the world - creation, our environment and our role in looking after it.

And why Jesus, the light of the world, was sent to show everyone how, with God, the world could be a place of light and hope and joy.

As you and your family celebrate - however you choose - maybe spend some time considering the things in your life that, feel like gifts and blessings. Spend a few moments giving thanks for the things that you value, and wonder for a while on how you might spread love, peace and joy in your own way.

In the sadnesses we see and feel, God sends his Spirit to strengthen us and hold us safe.

In the joys we celebrate, God encourages us to remember that they are gifts to be treasured.

And in our lives that we live, God hopes that we will be a blessing to others as Jesus was and is a blessing to the world.

Heavenly God, grant us sight to see you at work in our world.  
homes.

And grant us voices to sing your praise and speak words of kindness.

Amen.

