

December 2023

# Newsletter

## Principal's Introduction

As we come to the end of another busy school term, I am excited to share with you our Christmas newsletter where we look back over the year to date and ahead to the year to come.

Christmas is both a magical and stressful time of year. It is a time of celebration, of joy and laughter, a time when friends and families put aside their differences and enjoy time together. However, it is also a time of shopping, cleaning, wrapping, family feuds and can for some be the loneliest time of year.

The beauty of the Christmas story is that it demonstrates the extent of God's love for our world, for everyone. The lovely and unlovely, the popular and the lonely, the poor and the rich, the lost and the found. It is the time when Christians celebrate the birth of a baby, Jesus, who came to show us God's love, and the way to a full and lasting life.

It is easy in the busyness of this season, in the presents, the shopping, the cooking and wrapping, to let the true meaning of Christmas pass you by. But I want to take just a moment to consider the magnitude of the Christmas story. It is a story that tells of a creator God, who came to where we are, to provide us a way back to him, a way to find true peace and everlasting life. My prayer for you all this Christmas is that during these holidays you know and experience the amazing love that God poured out on the world through this Christmas story.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to the Academy on **Monday 8th January from 8am**, where breakfast will be available in the Eatwell restaurant.

Thank you for your continued support of all that we do at Magnus. I pray peace, prosperity, joy and health for you this Christmas and into the new year.

Mrs A Martin



**"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

John 3:16 (KJV)

## Key Dates Spring Term 2024

- Monday 8th January** - all students return to school
- Monday 15th January** - Year 11 Parents Evening
- Monday 22nd January** - Sixth Form Parents Evening
- Monday 29th January** - Year 11, 12 and 13 mock exams begin
- Monday 12th-Friday 16th February** - Half Term
- Monday 4th March** - Year 9 Options and Parents Evening



Thank you to the **Bishop of Sherwood** Andy Emerton for coming in this term! He delivered an Act of Worship and visited our Worship Band rehearsals!

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to our various charity events this term. We have raised over £375 for both local and national charities. Keep an eye out for future charity events we hold!

## Sixth Form applications are NOW OPEN!

If you're in Year 11 and are looking to study at Magnus Sixth Form or in the You Can Do Sport Sports Academy in September 2024, applications can be found at [www.magnusacademy.co.uk/sixth-form](http://www.magnusacademy.co.uk/sixth-form). Once you apply, a member of the Sixth Form Team will be in touch to discuss your application further.

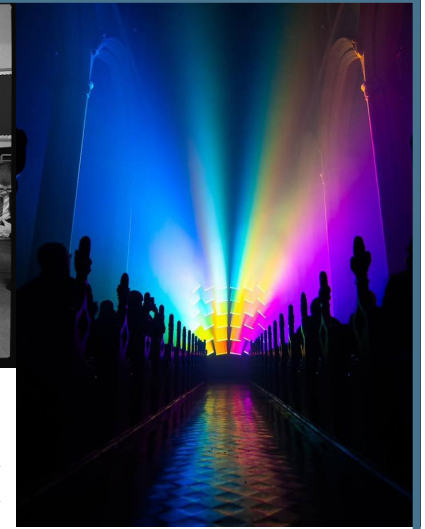


# Black History Month

Back in October, for part of our celebration of Black History Month, year 8 visited the Palace Theatre in Newark for a special talk. They had a great time attending a talk by Paul Crooks, a Black History expert, on significant black leaders in History before the era of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Students heard the untold stories of Black men who inspired generations, their enduring impact on society, and their courage and resilience. Thank you to Paul for sharing these important stories with our students.

Photos: Richard Gardener



## Sound and Light Installation

In October half term, some of our talented Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Newark Light & Sound Show. The Newark Sound & Light Installation was part of the Newark Creates programme for 2023.

A group of our students worked with Inspire Youth Arts and Urban Projections across several weeks to create 'Fallen From The Same Tree', a stunning light and sound installation themed around woodland and our relationship to the forest, drawing on feelings of community, family and connection to each other.

Mrs Thacker, who helped aide the project, said: "I am absolutely thrilled that the students of Magnus were given this opportunity to create an interactive exhibition that the people of Newark were able to enjoy. I'm also incredibly proud of how our talented creatives responded to the brief, whilst recognising how fortunate they were to have benefited from working alongside two inspirational artists – Rebecca Smith and John Sampson. We hope the town enjoyed the experience of 'Fallen from the Same Tree' – as much as we loved creating it."



## Construction Progress

This year, we introduced a new course for year 10 students called Construction and Built Environment. Students have been coming along well in their course and are even helping around the academy with projects such as cleaning and emptying the gulleys in the tech quad! They've also started to learn finer skills of using a trowel and spirit level to help build walls. Well done!

## Magnus Combined Cadet Force

As always, our CCF have been very busy this term! They've marched in Remembrance Day parades, competed in competitions and even found time to go flying!



Well done to our **Magnus Rowing Team** who began training this half term and will be out on the Trent in the new year!

This term, we relaunched our **Reading Mentoring** scheme. Once a week, sixth formers meet with Year 7 students to hear them read. We have already seen an improvement in confidence with reading aloud and can't wait to continue next term. Thank you to our brilliant mentors for their continued commitment to the Magnus family.



Students have participated in an array of **Personal Development** events this term including: Year 7 trip to see the Dick Whittington pantomime in Nottingham, Year 8 visiting the Civil War Centre, Year 9 attending an NHS careers workshop, Year 10 had a careers talk from a Bank of England employee and all years took part in our first Interhouse Takeover Day! Wow - and there's plenty more to come next term!



## Year 7 Author Visit

We were proud to be able to gift our Year 7 students a book again this Christmas and we hope it will encourage them to keep reading through their time here at Magnus.

Each year, we gift a book to every Year 7 because we feel reading is such a vital part of a student's progression during their time in school and this falls in line with our vision is to develop people of good character. This year's book, *When Things Went Wild* is written by Tom Mitchell and we were thrilled to have him join us for the event and to talk to Year 7 about his experiences as an author.

The impact reading can have on our students is invaluable and we feel it's important that they get the opportunity to hear from a published author, to understand what inspired them, see where that creativity stems from and where that creativity can lead.

We are proud of the attitudes and behaviour of Year 7 throughout the event and very impressed with the questions they had to ask Tom after his talk.

## Piano Masterclass & Concert

Students attended a musical performance at St Mary Magdalene Church, Newark, followed by a masterclass in composition given by local pianist and composer, Chris Miggells.

Following the church performance, Chris joined students at Magnus where young musicians were able to engage with him directly in an exploration of music and the music industry.

Known for his innovative approach, Chris guided students to construct melodies inspired by colours and scenic imagery. Chris said he was pleased to be able to share his expertise with students. "Performing in the historic venue of St. Mary Magdalene was truly special. Meeting the bright and positive students at Magnus C of E Academy was a pleasure, and I'm thrilled to have encouraged their musical journey."



## Crochet Club

Crochet club is going strong: we began just after half term, every Tuesday after school, and regularly have around 15-18 students attend every week. We have a range of abilities from absolute beginners to fast-becoming experts and projects have included worry worms, little bags, amigurumi, blankets and row-practice. We have a handful of staff who also join us, and we're looking forward to launching some surprise projects for the Academy in the new year.

## Remembrance Service

Every year during our Remembrance Day service we lay three wreaths on behalf of past, present and future members of our Magnus family to commemorate those who lost their lives during war and conflict. They lay beneath the Rolls of Honour which display the names of former Magnus students that fought, and lost their lives, in WWI and WWII.

This year, our focus was on service and remembering that 2023 marks 60 years since the end of National Service in our country. Our Head Students read passages and poems, representatives from HOPE read prayers and Mrs Ranger led us in a reflection of what it means to serve others.



## Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh award has relaunched for the 2023/24 school year at Magnus with the largest cohort of Bronze candidates so far.

31 Year 9 students have chosen to take part in the award, and have already been out on their first, rather wet and muddy, navigation training walk. Another training walk and two overnight expeditions are still to follow in half terms 4 and 6. Good luck to them!



# Christmas Carol Concert



Year 7 performed their Christmas Carol concert at St Mary Magdalene Church and welcomed around 200 visitors to the event. During the Carol service students read prayers and a poem and sang 'Silent Night', 'O Come all Ye Faithful' and 'Joy to the World', alongside a more contemporary piece, 'It's a Magical time'.

Mrs Martin said, "This year's carol service is particularly special as it revives a tradition of our event being held in St Mary Magdalene Church. Our year 7's performed with enthusiasm and confidence to a packed congregation. This was by no means an easy undertaking for the youngest children in school. Yet they took it completely in their stride, demonstrating all our Magnus values. We are incredibly proud of not only how they performed but of the wonderful young people they are. They have a bright and exciting future ahead of them in our wonderful school."

Thank you to all the families and friends who were able to join us for the evening, we hope it put all that attended in the festive spirit!

## Primary Events

We've had several visits from primary schools this term! Budding scientists from Sir Donald Bailey came to conduct some chemical reaction practicals, Year 5 pupils from across Newark took part in our Maths Challenge - well done to John Hunt for winning, and Barnby Road visited us for the annual Primary Panto!

## Winter Wishes Campaign

Our values ambassadors took part in the Newark and Sherwood District Council's Winter Wishes campaign! Students wrote well wishes to local residents who may be isolated over the Christmas period.

The initiative sends warm messages of well wishes anonymously to isolated members of our community. People across the district were encouraged to get crafty and write or draw something that could make someone's day and then post their card in dedicated post boxes across the district.

One of our core values is compassion and we felt it was important to extend our love and compassion to our local community with various messages of love, kindness and hope.



## Fundraising & Community



Our new Fundraising and Community Group have been very busy with events this half term! They have decorated a 'Magnus Family' tree for the Christmas Tree Festival, organised a community Clothing Drive and used proceeds from sales to purchase Christmas gifts for Bowbridge Court Care Home residents. They also made some lovely Christmas decorations for some staff!

## Harry Potter Book Night

In November, Mrs Jackson held a special event in the library to celebrate all things, Potter. The Harry Potter Book Day event involved, games, craft challenges and creative tasks. Students were also given the chance to put their Potter knowledge to the test to win a prize in the quiz. Congratulations to the winners!