



March 2025

# Newsletter

## Principal's Introduction

I'm delighted to write the introduction to this newsletter as we celebrate the end of another successful term at our school.

This term, we've had so many wonderful achievements to celebrate. Our students put on an incredible production of *Beauty and the Beast*, showcasing their immense talent and creativity. I was truly blown away by the dedication and hard work they put into bringing this classic story to life. I've also had the privilege of seeing our students present their science research in the Houses of Parliament as part of The Royal Society. This is a remarkable accomplishment that speaks to the high calibre of work our students are producing. I'm incredibly proud of their efforts and the way they represented our school on this national stage.

As we reflect on the past few months, I'm reminded of the importance of Easter and the sense of renewal and hope it brings. Easter is a time for us to come together as a community, to reflect on our shared values, and to look ahead to the future with optimism. This is something that is deeply woven into the fabric of our school.

Easter is a powerful reminder of renewal and hope, central to the Christian faith. It speaks to the triumph of life over death, light over darkness, and hope over despair. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given the promise of new life and a restored relationship with God.

As we reflect on the empty tomb, we are invited to lay down our burdens, doubts, and fears, and embrace the transformative power of grace. Easter encourages us to trust in God's faithfulness, even when the path seems uncertain. It assures us that no matter how broken or weary we may feel, renewal is always possible.

In the beauty of spring, as nature blossoms anew, we are reminded that God is continually at work, bringing life to what seemed lifeless. This season invites us to extend that hope to others, sharing kindness, love, and the message of Christ's resurrection.

May this Easter fill your heart with peace, joy, and the unshakable hope that comes from the risen Saviour.

As we close this chapter and look towards the next, I'm filled with a sense of pride and optimism. Our school community continues to thrive, and I'm grateful to you all for your support and dedication. Thank you, and I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break. I look forward to welcoming your children back to the academy at 8am on Tuesday 22nd April where they can take advantage of our free breakfast club.

Mrs A Martin



## Key Dates Summer Term 2025

**Monday 21st April** - Bank Holiday - school closed  
**Tuesday 22nd April** - school reopens to all students  
**Thursday 1st May** - BTEC, GCSE & A Level exams begin  
**Monday 5th May** - Bank Holiday - school closed  
**Monday 12th - Friday 16th May** - Y10 Work Experience  
**Wednesday 21st May** - Year 7 Parents Evening  
**Monday 26th - Friday 30th May** - Half Term  
**Monday 23rd - Friday 27th June** - Y10 & Y12 mock exams  
**Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July** - Y12 Work Experience  
**Tuesday 8th July** - Sports Day  
**Friday 25th July** - End of Term

## Talent show winner!

Congratulations to Year 9 student **Evie Reilly** who won Magnus Has Got Talent this year with her version of Pink Pony Club by Chappell Roan. Well done to all the acts who took part - it was a very tough choice!





# Glittering performance of Beauty and the Beast

Magnus Church of England Academy students have put on four glittering performances of Beauty and the Beast Jr, an adaptation for young audiences based on the original Disney story of transformation and tolerance.

Students from year 7 to year 12 joined the double-cast, sharing the performances given to year 5 children from The Kings C of E Primary Academy, and additional performances to fellow students, families and friends.

In all, the set design, props and planning spanned a 5-month period, during which time students used their enrichment lesson, of one hour each week, to smooth out the details before more frequent rehearsals began. The performances

were supported by a large crew of technicians, set, and props teams supporting the cast, including students who hand painted the set. Every member of the cast and crew were gifted a rose pin by Magnus C of E Academy to remember their experience and efforts.

Leanne Phillips is Primary and Community Liaison Officer at Magnus C of E Academy and she said, "Beauty and the Beast has been such a joy to put together with the cast this year. They really understood the roles and got straight into character from the first rehearsal which really helped bring to life the magic in the production.

"We have been rehearsing for 5 months and what a fun filled and action-packed time it has been preparing for the show. We had lots of support from our staff and students this year, we created our own production company helping create set, props, costume, hair and makeup and it was great to see the students' production work up on stage, it felt like a team effort. We are so proud of how hard the cast and crew worked.

"We had some lovely feedback from our audiences, and we are already planning our next production!"

Principal, Anna Martin said the performance was a source of pride for the whole academy. She said, "Our school vision is 'Developing people of good character, who achieve excellence and make a positive contribution to their communities'. This includes helping our young people discover their talents and work towards achieving excellence in these areas. Participating in a school production, whether on or off stage, is a great opportunity to explore talents and develop excellence. It also requires strength of character to persevere during the many months of rehearsals.

"As always, we are grateful to everyone who has helped to put on this year's show. A special mention must go to our talented staff team, for supporting our students to shine. But most of all, our thanks and congratulations go to the young people themselves from Magnus who have given so much of their time to entertain us with this magnificent performance."



## Magnus scientists present work in Houses of Parliament

To celebrate The Royal Society's Partnership Grant Scheme, Magnus Academy was one of just six schools invited to present their project to MPs and other invited guests in parliament.

The event was hosted at Portcullis House by the chair of the education select committee, Helen Hayes MP. The students presented their project about whether the school can use new technology and renewable energy resources to reduce both its energy bills and its carbon footprint.

We are incredibly proud of the students who are part of the project and presented: Isabella, Jacob, Toby, Khaleel, Tommy and McKenzie.





# World Book Day and International Women's Day

We had lots of fun celebrating World Book Day and International Women's Day!

Students received book tokens, completed quizzes and did lots of Do Now activities in lessons. The activities all focused on female authors to celebrate International Women's Day and included character conundrums, baffling book covers and a memoir match up.

There was also a virtual talk available for students in the library from Philippa Gregory who is the author of 'Normal Women: 900 Years of Making History' which was great for our theme this year!

Lots of staff wore t-shirts with quotes from female authors on them and students had to list as many as they could remember in period 6.

Mrs Thacker also spoke to her tutor group about her favourite author Beatrix Potter and gifted them illustrated postcards to mark the day.



## Eco Group installs Bat Box

The Eco Action group, along with Mrs Crouch and the site team, have successfully installed a new bat box at Magnus Academy! The bat box was very kindly gifted by Newark College. The group have also researched where bats like to be, how high up they like to be, and what paint they should use on the box so it won't harm the bats. With some help from Mr Grieve, the box has now been installed and is ready to house some bats. See if you can spot it, just don't disturb them!



## Chaplaincy at Magnus

We have had a busy term in the Chaplaincy Department!

### Sixth Form Faith and Leadership Day:

In February, Sixth Form spent a day off-timetable to fulfil their RE hours. We looked at leadership attributes, personality types, our stories and two sessions looking at life's big questions and unpacking the Holy Spirit. Some students chose to stay late, even though they had a leave school early privilege pass, as they said they gained so much from the day. We're already looking forward to the next one!

### Listen Up Conference:

The Listen Up conference is a Diocese conference completely led by young people from different schools around the diocese. Six of our students planned a whole act of worship on the theme of 'Removing the barriers to God's unconditional love'. They led us in sung worship, did the talk, reflection, wrote a spoken word and prayed for everyone. Some primary schools have already asked if they could come and lead at their school! They did us proud with their creativity and authenticity. One of our students then did the key note speech around the topic of making the most of the time we have. His object lessons really hit home and everyone was so complementary of his speaking skills.

### Flourish Project:

15 students are now a part of the Flourish Project which is a national scheme looking at what church could look like in school, led by both staff and students. These students meet every week and are working on an outdoor prayer space and worship event. They have already led a whole school act of worship and we can't wait to see this continue and grow.

**HOPE:** has relaunched! Every week students get a chance to eat, play games and worship together and this term the group have been looking at spiritual gifts and using them in the church. There are three tracks they can choose from: worship, prayer and preaching. The hope is that they'll be leading the whole thing once a term. All students are welcome!

**Peer Mentors:** Six students have been trained up as peer mentors and will be buddied up after the Easter holidays. Their picture will be around school and their focus is around bullying and settling into school well.

**Young Carers:** Young Carers have now all had their second annual check in. We'll be putting updates for events on the notice board outside the Chaplains' office if you are interested.

**Table Talks:** Every Monday, our Flourish Project Lead, Derek, is running Table Talks during the whole of lunch time. The hope is that it facilitates questions of what students believe and encouraging them to know their why to their beliefs.

**Enrichment:** We are coming to the end of the Games, Gaming and Faith enrichment where students have been exploring questions of faith through games like Minecraft. One student created a church in the shape of a cross with ladders up to the front door. To the right was a kitchen to feed people and offer drinks and to the left was a big sofa. We loved this image! We're finishing this enrichment and have just started the Youth Alpha course with students who have signed up.

## Brilliant Book Award Trip



The Brilliant Book Award enrichment group went on an exciting trip to hear six fantastic authors talk about their books which are all shortlisted for the award.

This was an amazing opportunity for the group to hear all about the inspiration for the books and to help them decide who they want to win the award this year.

Amongst the visiting authors was Helen Rutter, discussing her latest book, 'Reggie Houser has the Power'. Helen encouraged the audience to create their own characters' names and plot lines so they could go away and create their own stories.





## Prison Me! No Way!

Year 9 and 10 students got the chance to participate in a Crime Awareness Day with Prison Me! No Way! The day included talks on County Lines, Drug Awareness, Domestic Abuse and Knife Crime and the students got the chance to visit a prison cell.

Students were given the opportunity to have a Q and A with currently serving prisoners, asking a range of brilliant and thought-provoking questions.

The theme of the day was "Choices" to help young people understand the consequences of poor choices, stay safe and know where to turn for help.

## Lego with Lasers



On Friday 28th March, our A Level physics students visited the University of Nottingham to take part in a "Lego with Lasers" workshop at the Lakeside Arts centre and have a guided tour of the "Cosmic Titans" exhibition at the Djanogly Gallery.

During the workshop, students constructed a working laser interferometer, with nanometre precision, from Lego and laser pointers - building a small-scale equivalent of the LIGO gravitational waves detector. Assisted by PhD students from the UoN and visiting academics from universities in Brazil and Canada, our students excelled in constructing and testing their models.

Following the workshop, the students toured the Cosmic Titans exhibition, celebrating the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology.

## National Careers Week 2025



To celebrate National Careers Week, we held our annual Careers Fair and invited in some ex-Magnus students to talk about their career and apprenticeship journeys.

We kicked off with the Careers Fair and hosted around 20 exhibitors from post-16 and post-18 education and apprenticeship providers, universities and employers. Students were given time to speak to everyone and discuss their options for the future.

The event was a huge success and we are looking forward to holding it again next year to further help us guide our students make their future choices.

Our alumni assemblies started with Georgia who talked to students in year 7 about her time at Magnus and her career journey in Early Years Education and beyond.

Next, Kimberley (pictured right) joined us and told year 8 about her career as a solicitor specialising in family law. She discussed how she faced set backs along the way but she persevered and was able to go into the career she wanted. She walked students through a typical work day for her when she's both in court and in the office.

Finally, we were joined by Aaliyah and Sara-Lou who work together teaching young people dance and fitness. Aaliyah told students about her struggles with being dyslexic but how she worked hard to achieve her A Levels at Magnus. Through an exercise involving paper and following instructions, Sara-Lou taught students that communication is an important tool for them to use when trying to progress in your career.

Thank you to all our visitors - students were very grateful to hear from alumni about their experiences at Magnus and their success.



## Magnus Archives - R. Peacock

Throughout this term the Magnus Archives has continued to develop, owing largely to generous donations from many knowing associations with the School, as current or former students, or who just have an interest in Magnus' heritage. It would not be possible, of course, to reflect almost five centuries, since Thomas Magnus made his most generous bequest, in terms of heritage memorabilia, for much has been lost in the mists of time. In the Archives, the Magnus story, as it has survived the years, has been rekindled through available images, exhibits and information. Much is in the form of photographs; some documents have remained intact. We currently have a number of interesting exhibitions and displays. History, especially local history, provides an essential backdrop to present-day culture, and no evidence can be deemed irrelevant. Generations have given us the foundation on which to learn, improve and grow.

Donations of memorabilia, photographs or books, certificates, or other artefacts are always welcome here. Several contributions, large or small, have been gratefully received this year. It likely that much remains tucked away in lofts or cupboards, forgotten, or dismissed as lacking purpose. All such can be offered a useful home here in the Academy, sometimes within a display. Do you have items reflecting our heritage with which you are prepared to part?

Parents and students are also reminded that visits to view the collection need only be a phone call or email away. You do not have to be a former Magnusian to come along. History always has something new to teach or remind us all. Come and see; you may be surprised!

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated to one of our fundraising events this year so far. In total we have raised £747.53 for Children in Need, Comic Relief and Cancer Research UK through various games, bake sales and the 15 Mile Challenge. If your child raised money during the 15 Mile Challenge and you have not yet brought it in, please bring it to main reception after Easter and we will pass it on to Cancer Research UK.