



December 2025

Newsletter

Principal's Introduction

A Christmas Reflection: The Power of Mary's Yes

As I reflect on the Christmas story this year, my heart is drawn to one simple but profound moment—the moment Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.” (Luke 1:38). This single “yes” changed the course of history. It was the beginning of a story that brought hope, love, and new life into the world.

For Mary, saying yes was not easy. It meant stepping into the unknown, embracing uncertainty, and trusting in God’s plan even when it was beyond her understanding. She showed incredible courage, humility, and faith. In that moment, Mary chose to be part of something greater than herself, to serve a purpose that would impact generations to come.

What does Mary’s yes mean for us today? It reminds us that sometimes the greatest things start with a simple decision to trust and to step forward. In our own lives—whether in school, at home, or in our community—we are often faced with choices that require courage and faith. Mary’s example encourages us to be open to opportunities to do good, to support others, and to make a positive difference, even when the path is unclear.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the joy and hope of the season, may we be inspired by Mary’s yes. Let it remind us that each of us has the power to say yes to kindness, to learning, to growth, and to making our world a better place. Just as Mary’s yes brought the light of Christ into the world, our own small yeses can bring light and hope to those around us.

May this Christmas be a time of reflection, courage, and joyful yeses that lead to new beginnings and abundant life.

Wishing you all a blessed and hopeful Christmas.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I look forward to welcoming your young people back to the academy on **Tuesday 6th January for breakfast from 8am.**

Mrs A Martin

**“I AM THE LORD’S SERVANT,” MARY
ANSWERED. “MAY IT HAPPEN TO ME
ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.”
THEN THE ANGEL LEFT HER.
- LUKE 1:38**

Inspectors issue a glowing SIAMS report for Magnus C of E Academy



We received a glowing report following our latest SIAMS inspection, with the outcome bringing extra cheer during our festivities.

The report states, “The motto of ‘Character, Excellence and Community’ is lived out through the school’s Christian teachings. This provides a clear purpose to the work of this church school. The highly inclusive culture within the school, which stems from the Christian vision, has changed lives. Consequently, students thrive as they discover their God-given uniqueness.”

Inspectors said, “The Magnus vision, deeply rooted in bible teachings, drives the school’s unwavering commitment to transformational acts that shape lives and inspire purpose for the school community. For example, through the

school’s firm belief in everyone’s ability to have a fresh start and flourish through perseverance. Even in times of challenge, leaders are guided by their shared purpose to be a community rooted in love. Barriers such as disadvantage are carefully considered and addressed, ensuring that students can flourish.”

Mrs Martin said receiving the news during the Christmas period felt like an extra special gift. “I am delighted to share our outstanding SIAMS report with the Magnus community. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, governors, and the wider school community, -thank you for your continued support and partnership on this journey.

“We are so proud that our incredible school has received the recognition it rightly deserves. Together, we are building a school where every student is valued, challenged, and empowered to live life to the full.”

The report said, “Daily inclusive and inspirational opportunities for worship both within and beyond the school day enables students to think deeply and find space. **The school is a beacon radiating hope within the wider community. This unique relationship between the school and wider community is transformational.** The quality of the religious

education (RE) curriculum is exceptional. As a result, the well-embedded religious and worldviews approach ensures that students take an informed approach to issues of faith and morality.”

Commenting on the academy’s approach to its vision, justice and responsibility, inspectors said, “The school fosters a culture of care, where supporting and standing up for others is central. Through the Eco-Club, students drive meaningful environmental change. The cadet service empowers them to lead and serve their community. Leaders at Magnus are deeply committed to supporting students within the school while continually looking outward.”

Finally, inspectors said that the academy’s unwavering commitment to its vision, enables members of the school community to live life to the full, and guides the school’s purpose, stating, “Students and staff recognise the difference Magnus has made to their lives. This is evident through returning students who are keen to support current students in their service to others. Students and staff feel genuinely valued through the vision instilling an ethos of making a difference to others. They share how, during deeply challenging personal times, they found comfort and strength in the unwavering support of their team.”

Y7 Author Visit and Christmas Gifts



We are delighted to once again present our Year 7 students with a book this Christmas, with the hope that it inspires them to continue reading throughout their journey at Magnus.

This year's book, *The Wrong Shoes* is written by Tom Percival and we are honoured to have him join us for the event and to talk to Year 7 about his experiences as a published author and his inspiration for the book.

At Magnus, we truly value the powerful influence reading can have on our students. That's why we believe it's so important for them to experience hearing directly from a published author — to discover what sparked their inspiration, explore the roots of their creativity, and see the exciting places that creativity can take them.

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

Well done Year 7 and we hope they enjoy reading this Christmas break!

Christian Distinctiveness

We have been busy this half term with SIAMS, all of the different groups we run to support students and help them grow in their faith. The SIAMS report was so encouraging to us to see the impact of the work we are doing.

We've started our **Act of Worship Leaders** group who meet Monday mornings to help plan our whole school act of worships and they are already going to be helping to lead the Christmas Act of Worship.

Every month as part of the **Flourish Project**, we have been teaming up with St Mary Magdalene's Church to run a monthly youth worship night, **FUEL**. It's been beautiful to watch people encounter God's presence and grow in confidence in their faith. There were an amazing 28 students both from Magnus and beyond who came.

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Self-Esteem Group:

One of our Chaplaincy team is currently doing a degree in youth ministry and theology and has started a self-esteem group as part of her research. Students are learning all about thought-life, the power of thoughts, what God says about them and how this can impact them. Both 1-2-1 mentoring and group work has taken place and has already shown positive outcomes.

Courageous Advocacy:

Our courageous advocacy facilitator has been busy running many different initiatives from our Eco-group to the diversity and equality group to looking after our young carers. This half term we have already achieved our Eco-goals set by the LetsGoZero charity that work with schools to help them be more eco-friendly. We also now have a uniform box to donate old uniform and give it to those who need it and are collecting presents to give to the Salvation Army for their toy giveaway.

There's been a lot of **sporting success** this term with many fixtures taking place! **Year 11 boys rugby team** played in a tournament that took place at Newark Rugby Club, beating local rivals Newark Academy and Sir William Robertson Academy to come in second place overall. The **Year 11 and Year 7 netball teams** both played matches against The Suthers School - Year 11 beat them 16-7 and the Year 7 girls, who played their first ever match against them, unfortunately lost but showed incredible determination throughout. A special mention goes to Abbie R for her brilliant defending! **Year 8 and 9 netball team** played in a tournament, beating The Suthers School 7-2, and narrowly losing 4-3 against Newark Academy. They also had another match against Suthers and there was so much talent we were able to take two teams! They were a credit to the school and played with incredible determination. The **U13 girls football team** played in a tournament hosted by Mansfield Town Academy. They had fantastic togetherness and worked hard throughout the tournament, finishing in 4th place. Finally, the **Year 10 boys rugby team** beat Newark Academy 20-10 - well done boys!



Festive fun at the Carol Concert and Christmas Market!



We held two performances of our annual Year 7 Carol Concert on the theme of Love, featuring seasonal music and readings by students who performed to gathered families and friends of the academy.

A Christmas market was also held following the evening Carol service, and special guests, the Newark and Sherwood Concert Band and Development Band, entertained the crowds with seasonal favourites whilst academy visitors enjoyed the stalls.

Mrs Thacker said, "Our Christmas bonanza, featuring a joyful Carol Concert and bustling Christmas Market was the perfect catalyst for bringing our school community together in festive celebration. As tradition, our talented Year 7 students took centre stage across two concerts, joined by inspiring performances from the Magnus Swing Band, Magnus Academy Voices, and the Musical Theatre Group. These concerts stood as a true testament to the dedication and artistry of our students, beautifully united under the theme of Love. For me, the event was a triumph of music, faith, and community, -but above all, of Love, at what is truly a magical time of year."

Mrs Martin said, "This year's carol service, featuring amongst others, our year 7's performance, was a joyful celebration and inspired the festive spirit in everyone gathered. We are incredibly proud of our young people, and their wonderful performances truly demonstrated their talents and enthusiasm. I would like to extend our grateful thanks to our friends and families who supported the event. A huge thanks is due to our performing students, -to our own fantastic musicians, alongside those of the Newark and Sherwood Concert Band and Development Band, who made this such a magical Carol Concert."



Fundraising



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our charity events this term. Our Sixth Form Leadership Team have worked hard to organise events in order to raise money to help change lives across the country.

We supported Children in Need through a cake sale and we raised £273.31 for children across the UK. We also donated toys to The Salvation Army for their 2025 Toy Appeal.

Money was also raised during our Christmas Market by Miss Butterfield in order to raise funds to buy Christmas gifts for our friends at Bowbridge Court Care Home. Mrs Thacker handed them over this week for residents to enjoy when she visited with the Magnus Academy Voices choir to sing for them.

Sixth Form Leadership Team organised a week of fundraising at the end of term for various mental health charities: Young Minds, Paul's Pit Stop, Student Minds, Second Step and Mind. They raised an incredible £362.66 Finally, students were able to pay £1 to vote for a member of SLT to look after the baby simulators on the penultimate day of term. The unlucky staff were Mr MacGregor, who took to parenthood very well, and Mr Freeman, who immediately abandoned the doll with other people! Thank you to everyone who contributed to any of the fundraisers this term, your generosity means a lot.

The **Magnus Archives** has continued to build up during the past term. Several old photographs, or copies have been added to the collection, but there is room for more should anybody have memorabilia that he or she would like to donate. Simultaneously, records of present Magnus events in the form of programmes, brochures, images, news cuttings, etc. . . deserve to be retained for future posterity and comparison. Magnus strategies, facilities and appearances have changed greatly over the years and continue to change with the march of educational outlook and curriculum. This is right and proper, but there is much to be learned from the past. Life becomes increasingly complex and there is more to be catered for than used to be the case. Here, on the Earp Avenue site, the physical buildings alone bear witness to seven generations of development since opening in 1910. Yet all twentieth-century Magnusians will recognise the fundamental unchangeability of the foundation that launched them into the start of adult life. Others, who do not have roots in Newark, find it fascinating to make comparisons on a 'then' and 'now' basis. Remember that Magnus was a 'boys only' Grammar School until 1976, and that a far smaller precursor existed in Appleton Gate from 1529 until 1910.

All, past and present students, parents and grandparents of former students, or non-students are welcome to come and see what the Archives holds and, where possible, to help build up the collection.

Remembrance Service



We held our annual Remembrance Service to remember all those who lost their lives in war and conflict. Each year we lay wreaths on behalf of past, present and future members of the Magnus community in front of our Rolls of Honour which display the names of Magnus students who fought and died in WWI and WWII.

In this year's service, our Chaplain Mrs Ranger reflected on this year's Remembrance theme, 'Remember Yesterday, Act Today' and how we should honour this, and those who fought to keep us safe. Our Head Students and Act of Worship Leaders read scripture from the Bible, prayers and a poem called 'We Shall Keep the Faith' by Moina Michael.

Remembrance is an important event and we're proud to have had our Magnus CCF march into our service. Thank you to our wonderful cadets, Mr Yates and Mr Day for their participation, to Madalina for laying a wreath on behalf of future Magnus generations, and to Luke Wilkinson for playing The Last Post on the Reveille so beautifully.

Thank you also to the students who coloured in poppies for us to create wreaths of remembrance to display in our main hall and reception. We will remember them.



Music Celebration in Southwell

The SNMAT Music Celebration took place at Southwell Minster in October and involved schools across the trust. Students from Magnus took part in the event along with Mrs Thacker.

She said: "It was a real privilege to be a part of the first Trust Music performance uniting pupils from various primary and secondary schools in song. The band that supported the young voices comprised secondary pupils from Magnus, Samworth and West Grantham and they all responded with professionalism and enthusiasm. It really was such a joy to behold. I was particularly impressed by how the students of Magnus presented themselves throughout the day and within the rehearsals leading up to the concert. They did the school proud."

Sam Kirtley, who plays the double bass, said: "It was an enriching experience that gave me a valuable insight into working alongside more musicians and the wider world of music."

Students shine at 'Together at Christmas' Carol Service

Mrs Martin, our Principal, along with five of our outstanding students, recently had the honour of representing Magnus Church of England Academy at the Nottinghamshire Lieutenancy's "Together at Christmas" Community Carol Service.

Hosted by the county's Lord-Lieutenant, Professor Veronica Pickering, and supported by **The Royal Foundation**, the event formed part of the nationwide initiative inspired by **The Princess of Wales** to recognise the countless acts of love, kindness and quiet dedication that strengthen communities across the UK each and every day.

Guests represented the extraordinary breadth of Nottinghamshire's community spirit from charities and volunteers to youth organisations, uniformed groups and public service teams. Together, they celebrated the individuals and organisations who continually foster compassion, connection and a sense of belonging across the county.

This magical event brought together communities from across Nottinghamshire to celebrate the spirit of Christmas through music, reflection, and shared joy. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school to connect with the wider community and showcase the values that define us.

Our students were exemplary ambassadors of Magnus, embodying our core values throughout the event. Their respectful and positive presence highlighted the character we strive to develop in every student.

We extend our gratitude to the Nottinghamshire Lieutenancy for hosting this inspiring event and look forward to continuing to build strong community connections that support our mission of developing people of good character who achieve excellence and make a positive contribution to their communities.



Year 7 have been part of the Magnus Spelling Challenge 2025-2026. Some of these words are from the most commonly misspelled words in the UK. The results are in!

Category 1: Most significant progress made in spellings from HT1 to 2: Golden Ticket and giant highlighter awarded as prizes - Izzie-Mai M, Athena C, Lilly P

Category 2: Progress since HT1 to 2: iChoose cards and giant highlighters awarded as prizes - Ruby S, Noah H, Thomas P

Category 3: Most correct spellings in HT1 and 2 combined: £5 book gift voucher, iChoose points and bookmarks awarded as prizes -

1st place: Kedric R from Miss Fisher's English Class (110 correct spellings)

2nd place: Connor H from Mrs Farmer's English Class (99 correct spellings)

3rd place: Kamila C from Mr Atkin and Mrs Twomey's English class (98 correct spellings)

4th Place: Fatima H from Mr Atkin's English class (96 correct spellings)

The Spelling Trophy for the most correct spellings at a massive 1,696 correct spellings is... Mrs Farmer's English class.

Well done everyone for your hard work; keep it up in the New Year!



In October, a group of students went on an overnight visit to London on the very popular Theatre Trip! It was a jam-packed trip where they saw two West End performances; Starlight Express and The Play That Goes Wrong, and visited 'The Making of Harry Potter' Studio Tour.

Students also took part in a 'Careers in the Creative Industries' workshop where they looked at different careers including set designer, costume designers, prop making, foley artists, set builders, directors and producers. All students had a fantastic time and were brilliant role models for the academy. We can't wait for the next one!

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Mr Fryer led the Bronze and Silver D of E groups in some training this term. Two groups of Bronze award students took on a three hour training walk around the Fiskerton area, learning navigation skills. The students completing the Silver award took a longer training walk from Lambley to the edge of Nottingham and back, improving their navigation skills. Special mention goes to Freya and her Crocs - she brought two left boots so completed a 15km walk through mud in Crocs!



Key Dates Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January - Inset Day - school closed

Tuesday 6th January - all students return to school

Tuesday 13th January - Year 8 Parents Evening

Tuesday 13th January - Post 16 Parents Evening

Wednesday 7th - Friday 16th January - External BTEC exams and Year 12 Criminology controlled assessment

Monday 2nd February - Year 10 Parents Evening

Thursday 12th February - Faith & Leadership Day - Post 16

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half Term

Monday 23rd February - Year 11-13 mock exams begin

Monday 2nd March - Year 9 Options & Parents Evening

Tuesday 17th - Thursday 19th March - Frozen Jr Performances

Friday 27th March - End of Term

Monday 13th April - all students return to school