



Newsletter

March 2026

Principal's Introduction

As we approach Easter, we pause to reflect on one of the most powerful promises at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus says, "I have come that you may have life, and life in all its fullness." These words remind us that Easter is not only about what happened long ago, but about what is possible for us today.

In a world that can often feel demanding, uncertain, or overwhelming—especially for young people—Easter speaks a message of hope, purpose and renewal. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, Christians believe that new life is offered: a life shaped by love, forgiveness, courage and hope. Life in all its fullness is not about perfection or having everything go our way, but about knowing we are valued, known and never alone.

At Magnus Church of England Academy, this promise resonates deeply with our vision of developing people of good character who achieve excellence and contribute positively to their communities. Easter invites us to reflect on the fullness of life that comes through faith, determination, integrity, and compassion — values that guide us daily in our learning, growth, and relationships.

As a Christian school community, Easter invites us to think about how we live each day: how we treat one another, how we face challenges, and how we grow into the people God calls us to be. It encourages us to choose hope over despair, kindness over indifference, and light over darkness.

As spring brings signs of new life all around us, may this Easter be a time of reflection and renewal for our whole community, reminding us that fullness of life is found not in what we achieve, but in who we are becoming.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I look forward to welcoming your young people back to the academy on **Monday 13th April for breakfast from 8am.**

Mrs A Martin

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

JOHN 10:10



Magnus Students put on sparkling performance of Frozen Jr!

Magnus Church of England Academy students have put on a sparkling performance of Frozen Jr to audiences of primary schools and friends and families.

The professional standard show ran for six performances, and to ensure as many students as possible had their moment in the limelight, roles were shared with a partner, each performing at three shows each.

Miss Phillips said, "Frozen Jr has been an absolute joy to create with our cast this year. From the very first rehearsal, the students stepped into the world of Arendelle with such confidence, -whether they were bringing out their inner Elsa, channelling Anna's unstoppable optimism, or embracing the charm of Olaf and Sven. Their commitment helped the magic of the story come to life right from day one."

Amber Drury (year 13) and

Mia Golebiowska (year 11) each played the role of Elsa requiring singing, acting and dancing skills.

Amber said, "I am not feeling nervous about the performances, we started rehearsing in October. Our first performance is to local primary schools and in a way, this helps to prepare us for the evening performances."

Fellow student Mia, agreed saying, "I am fairly confident too as the rehearsals have been going well. The majority of our costumes, which I think we are lucky to be using, have been provided for us to wear in the show." Mia and Amber's performances would feature a solo rendition of the now iconic song, 'Let It Go', and each said they would be happy if their audiences knew the words and joined in with the song!

Mrs Milan, Head of Performing Arts said the shows were a



great success. "We have been rehearsing for five months, and what a wonderfully whirlwind journey it has been, -almost as exciting as an unexpected trip into the North Mountain!

"Our staff and students worked together like our very own Arendelle production team, crafting sets, props, costumes, hair and makeup that transported us straight into a land of ice, snow, and sisterhood. Seeing their creativity sparkle

on stage felt like true teamwork, and we are incredibly proud of how much heart and hard work everyone put into this show.

"We also received some truly warm and heartfelt feedback from our audience, -proof that even in a Frozen world, love and joy can melt anything. And just like Anna and Elsa, we're already looking ahead with excitement... planning our next adventure together!"

Outdoor Education for Year 7 & 8



Over a period of three weeks, some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students have been engaging in Outdoor Activities facilitated by the YMCA Outdoor Education Team.

Our students have experienced various activities including orienteering, mountain biking, pond dipping, and even weaselling!

We were so proud of how they got stuck in with each activity, faced their fears, and became more connected with the outdoors.

A huge well done to all students involved - they represented the school brilliantly with their enthusiasm, teamwork, and positive attitudes.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to the YMCA Outdoor Education Team for providing such enriching, confidence-building experiences.

We look forward to offering more outdoor learning opportunities in the future!

New Darts Enrichment

Our brand new Darts enrichment is up and running! Thank you to Darts Corner for donating six dartboards, sets of darts and personalised flights to Magnus to enable us to run this enrichment.

Darts has become increasingly popular amongst students over the last few years and we're excited that we are now able to offer it here. It's a great opportunity to try a new sport while also improving numeracy, accuracy and focusing skills. The first group are already getting better!

This enrichment will run in small groups with Mr Bilbie and will be rotated every half term so as many students as possible can join in.



15 Mile Challenge is now complete and there have been more elite runners than in any previous years! Well done to everyone for taking part, but a massive well done to those who showed ambition and determination to complete the bronze, silver, gold and elite awards. Medals and results will be given out later on in the year.

World Book Day Celebrations

We celebrated World Book Day with lots of activities including staff dressing up as a famous book character, the Great Big Footy & Booky quiz and the always popular, tutor time book quiz. Tutor groups raced to be the first group to complete this quiz and the winning tutor groups for each year group were: 7W1, 8W1, 9C1, 10C1, 11B2 and 12B!

This year is the National Year of Reading so as part of the 'Go All In' initiative, we're aiming to get as many people talking about reading as possible! Whether it's books, comics, audiobooks or even song lyrics, we all consume stories in different ways and World Book Day was a great way to talk about them.

Students completed tasks throughout the day to complete their staff reading profiles. They had to find out about their teacher's reading habits and complete a sheet to enter the competition. Congratulations to Irina in Year 10 for winning!

Our celebration of World Book Day continued the following week with the Book Door Challenge which involved tutor groups picking a book and decorating their tutor room door based on the themes of their chosen story. There were many brilliant entries but we narrowed it down to four! Congratulations to: 7D1, 8W2, 9W1, 10C2 and 11D2!





Lots going on in Room 96 this term including watching onions grow in life skills lessons and chess making a comeback!



We were visited by our local MP, Robert Jenrick in February. He was given a tour of the school by our Deputy Head Boy and Girl and spoke with students about careers in politics. He spoke with them about his career and answered the questions they had about how to get into careers in politics. We hope to follow this visit up with opportunities for work experience for our students who are interested in a career in politics.



Brilliant Book Award Trip

The Brilliant Book Award enrichment group went on an exciting trip to hear six fantastic authors talk. All the authors have books shortlisted for the award.

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

Amongst the visiting authors was Mark Illis, discussing his book, *Running Away for Beginners*. Mark encouraged the students to write down sentence starters about themselves, so they could go away inspired to create stories based on real life events.

Thank you to Nottingham Girls High School and Inspire Education Library Service for hosting this wonderful event.

Christian Distinctiveness

Faith and Leadership Day

In February, ran our annual Faith and Leadership Day for our 6th Form. It's a day full of character development, leadership training and RE content done in an engaging way. Students left encouraged, knowing more of what makes them them and the why behind their beliefs. It's always one of our favourites! We had providers from Southwell and Nottingham Diocese leading sessions and people from the local church as well facilitating conversations.

Listen Up Conference

In March, our Flourish Student Leaders attended the Listen Up Conference ran by young people for the Diocese. It was inspiring to hear what different students are leading in their schools and definitely gave our students ideas of what we could do next.

Journey

We have just launched our after school church service! As part of the Flourish National Project, we are working to make church more accessible and engaging. We've already had students and staff attend who have never been a part of faith events before.

A community of faith, purpose, and connection

Journey

Wednesdays, 4-5pm, Library

Journey is built on the belief that life is not meant to be travelled alone. Whether you're exploring faith for the first time or looking for a place to grow deeper, you belong here.

[Come join us!](#)

Magnus Archives Updates

Quite a lot has been happening in the Archives this term. There has been interest shown, both internally by groups of students but also by outside groups. Visitors have included Newark Town Mayor, Councillor Barbara Corrigan, Newark M.P. Robert Jenrick, and eight representatives from the Newark Civic Trust. Meanwhile donations of photos and occasional other memorabilia have continued to be received, some of them found in surprising places! Any items that may be found, perhaps at the back of cupboards or drawers, would be most welcome. Magnus has a long history.

The Archives continues to be open to interested persons, by arrangement, during school time. This includes students, past students, or potential students, parents of students or anybody. Come and see for yourself memories of a rapidly changing and growing Magnus. Many have found it nostalgic!

Students talk mental health and wellbeing with Tom Talks

We welcomed Tom Dickinson from Tom Talks into the academy for sessions focused on practical strategies for improving mental health and wellbeing, as well as the importance of making positive life choices.

Tom spoke openly about his own struggles after losing his 22-year-old brother to suicide in 2015. He explained that living through that grief ultimately pushed him to support others with their mental health, sharing the insights he's gained along the way.

Tom said, "My aim is to raise awareness around mental health, and to encourage young people to talk to and support each other. Most of all, to understand that it is okay not to be okay. I want young people to have the necessary tools, habits and systems, -and the mindset they need to enable them to do whatever it is they want to achieve with their life."

Tom said he hoped that his experiences would be relatable, "It is important to me because I lost my brother to suicide in 2015, and I quickly found myself in a very dark place. But I am lucky, I managed to get through to the other side. Following this struggle, a school in Sheffield asked me to speak to their students, which I eventually did in 2019, and that was the beginning of Tom Talks. When I did that, I felt like it was what I had been put here to do."

Tom said that by sharing the strategies he has developed, he hopes to help others who are struggling to navigate mental health issues. "I really want to build resilience in young people, and to use my story to show that I have pulled myself back from the depths of despair, and that if I can do it, then others can too."

"I am just a normal lad from Barnsley, and I think my message reaches students because of that. I hope it makes it easy for them to relate to me and to gain something from my experience."

Miss Andrews said Tom's visit was arranged after a local couple, moved by the tragic loss of their own son to suicide, generously



offered to fund wellbeing sessions for students at Magnus. She said, "I am deeply grateful to Jane Beardsley and Mark Gamble for their powerful initiative to make conversations about mental health more accessible for all. When they approached me and shared their story of tragically losing their son to suicide, I was profoundly moved by their courage and their commitment to creating positive change. Through their charity, Paul's Pit Stop, they have offered secondary schools the opportunity to host fully funded assemblies and workshops delivered by Tom Talks, a passionate mental health advocate who speaks openly about his own journey and the loss of his brother to suicide."

"It is vital that our students hear the message that it is perfectly okay not to be okay. Tom's session has opened the door to more honest, compassionate conversations about mental health within our school community, and we are incredibly thankful for the impact it has already made."

Reading Champions National Quiz

This term, ten Magnus students took part in the national Reading Champions quiz 2026.

The students formed two teams, who battled it out against schools across the county in the East Midlands heat on all things books and reading.

Although we were not successful in making it to the final this year, the teams showed real resilience and determination throughout eight tricky rounds of questions.

Well done to all the students involved - we're incredibly proud of this achievement. Roll on next year's quiz!



Child of Courage Award

A huge congratulations to Year 13 student **Johnthomas Adams** for being one of the recipients of this year's Rotary Club Child of Courage Award. Johnthomas was nominated by Miss Thompson and received the award at the ceremony at Newark Showground in March.

He is a valued member of the Magnus family and has never let any challenge get in the way of him achieving his goals. Johnthomas has remained dedicated to his education and has many admirers among staff and students who have seen his resilience and determination over the years. We are so proud of the student and young person that he is.



Key Dates Summer Term 2026

- Monday 13th April** - all students return to school
- Thursday 23rd April** - Year 10 Royal Armouries Museum trip
- Tuesday 28th April** - Year 8 HPV vaccinations
- Monday 4th May** - Bank Holiday - school closed
- Tuesday 5th May** - GCSE & A Level exams begin
- Monday 11th - Friday 15th May** - Year 10 work experience
- Thursday 14th May** - Year 7 Parents Evening
- Monday 25th - Friday 24th May** - Half Term
- Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July** - Year 12 work experience
- Tuesday 7th July** - Sports Day
- Thursday 16th July** - Year 11 Prom
- Wednesday 22nd July** - Academy Awards
- Thursday 23rd July** - End of Term
- Monday 13th April** - all students return to school