



Newsletter

July 2026

Principal's Introduction

In schools, we are always busy, always looking ahead, to the next lesson, the next assessment, the next term, the next challenge. But as we come to the end of another incredible school year, it is important we take time to pause and reflect.

As I was thinking about this, I was reminded of these words from the book of Isaiah.

These words were originally spoken to a people who had faced challenge, uncertainty and disappointment. God reminded them, and us, not to become trapped by what has gone before, whether successes or failure, but instead to recognise that there is always hope, always growth and always a new opportunity ahead. A reminder that each day is a new day, full of new opportunities.

For us, regardless of our faith background or beliefs, there is a powerful message in these words.

At this time of year, it is natural to look back. We remember the successes, the highlights, the moments of pride and celebration. We also remember the challenges, the setbacks, the occasions when things did not go quite as we planned.

For some students, this has been a year of exceptional achievement. For others, the greatest achievement may have been finding the courage to keep going when things were difficult. Some have exceeded their targets. Others have overcome personal barriers that nobody else may have seen.

What I love about this passage is that it doesn't ignore the reality of the wilderness. It doesn't pretend that challenges don't exist. Instead, it reminds us that even in difficult places there can be progress, purpose and hope. That message connects closely to the values we seek to live out every day at Magnus.

The world needs young people like ours, who are knowledgeable, but also kind, ambitious, but also humble. Young people who are successful, but who understand the importance of lifting others up as they climb. So as we take time to celebrate success, we must not allow ourselves to become defined solely by the past, whether that be triumphs or disappointments. As Isaiah reminds us, there is always a new chapter waiting to be written and our greatest achievements may still lie ahead!

I also want to acknowledge the incredible commitment of our staff and to thank you, our parents, carer, families and wider community. Education is a partnership. The encouragement, patience, and support you provide plays an enormous role in the success of our school.

I pray you have a wonderful summer break, and I look forward to welcoming you all back to the Academy **from 8am on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 for free breakfast.**

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



Congratulations to all of this year's award winners! We had a wonderful afternoon celebrating not only those who received awards, but all that our students have achieved this year. We are incredibly proud of our school community and it was a real delight to celebrate with students, families and invited guests.

Key Dates Autumn Term 2026

Wednesday 2nd September - all students return to school

Thursday 3rd September - Barcelona trip meeting - 5pm

Thursday 10th - Friday 11th September - Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

Thursday 24th September - Y5/6 & Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 28th - Wednesday 30th September - Poland trip

Wednesday 7th October - Year 7 Settling In Evening

Friday 9th - Monday 12th October - Barcelona Trip

Monday 19th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Thursday 10th December - Year 11 Parents Evening

Tuesday 15th December - Year 7 Carol Concert

Friday 18th December - end of Term

Sixth Form Round Up

Year 12 have rounded off an exciting term with a full week of work experience, stepping into real workplaces and discovering what their future careers might look like.

Students spent time in a brilliant range of settings — from the creative buzz of Newark Art Gallery, to the fast-paced environment of Nottingham Children’s Hospital, where one student even shadowed a paediatric surgeon.

Others explored the world of accountancy, gaining hands-on insight into finance, clients, and the day-to-day rhythm of professional life.

The week gave them a powerful sense of independence, responsibility, and possibility. They returned with new skills, new confidence, and in many cases, a clearer idea of the paths they might pursue after Sixth Form.

Year 12 also enjoyed an inspiring visit to the University of Sheffield, getting a real taste of what life at university feels like.

From exploring the campus to hearing first-hand insights about student life, independence, and the opportunities that come with higher education, the day gave students a vivid glimpse into the world that awaits them after Sixth Form.

They returned buzzing with ideas, questions, and a renewed sense of excitement about their next steps — exactly what a great university trip should spark.

Year 7 Transition Week

Year 6 have just completed a fantastic transition week, giving them a real taste of what life at Magnus is all about — and they embraced every moment.

They kicked things off with a warm and welcoming family breakfast on one morning, a chance to settle in, chat with new friends, and start building the relationships that will carry them confidently into Year 7. Throughout the week, they explored the school, met staff, and thought about the parts of Magnus they’re most excited for as they begin their journey with us.

And of course, the huge inflatable assault course was a standout highlight — full of laughter, teamwork and plenty of friendly competition.

Year 6 were brilliant: enthusiastic, kind, and ready for the adventure ahead. We genuinely can’t wait to welcome them back in September.

In July, we hosted the Year 11 Prom at Kelham House!

We had almost 100 of our Year 11s attend and they all looked incredible. The entrances included bright light vans, classic cars, sports cars and a tractor! We sang, danced and celebrated five amazing years. Students and staff had a great time celebrating the end of this part of their educational journey. We wish them all well and are happy to be welcoming many back into the Sixth Form.

Congratulations to our Class of 2026 award winners:

Prom King - Chris P
Prom Queen - Megan F
Best entrance - Imogen D
Most entertaining Sam K
Knockout dress Shakiera-Jayne H
Stand out suit - Abdul A



And the winner is.. Bromhead! Again!

Sports Day was another fantastic success at Magnus this year with students and staff emersed in the traditions of the event. The setting for the morning was idyllic with a bit of cloud cover the perfect temperature for the athletes to show off their vast talent and potential. The PE team and selected staff helped ensure that students were able to compete in the morning track and field events in great spirits and there was a great deal of competitiveness mixed in with humility and support for each other along the way. With new events every 20 minutes the medals soon started to rack up and records started to tumble.

In the afternoon, house colours were worn with pride with face paint adorned by students and some staff. Mrs Martin was keen to get involved in this, as well as impromptu singing and dancing when the music blared out. Support and respect was shown to the athletes in the afternoon events as they competed in front of the whole school in the sprint events, tug of war and relays. Along with these events the staff managed to remain undefeated in tug of war and the Sixth Form kept up their winning streak in the relay!

Mr Rylott, in his swansong appearance, finally got his gold medal in the staff dash!

We had 11 school records broken and Bromhead became Sports Day champions for a third year in a row. Cartwright, Dean Hole and Warburton: the challenge is on to see who can take the crown from Bromhead next year!

Congratulations to the following students for breaking records:

Year 7
Tucker B - Javelin (NR 15.15m, old 13.35m)
Andre A - 400m (NR 1.14.66, old 1.15.70)
Lydia C - 300m (NR 58.13, old 1.00.65)
Lydia C - 800m (NR 3.54.15, old 4.01.00)
Kade S - 200m (NR 28.69, old 29.90)

Year 8
Dovydas N - 400m (NR 1.07.34, old 1.07.37)
Jan J - Hurdles (NR 9.61, old 10)
Catarina S - 800m (NR 3.28.55, old 3.29.57)

Year 10
Neveah K - High jump (new record 1.37m, old 1.30m)
Neveah K - 200m (NR 29.91, old 32.06)
Neveah K - 300m (NR 50.75, old 55.75)
Jae-Lee N - Discus (NR 19.88m, old 16.04m)
Demmy J - Triple jump (NR 11.24m, old 10.93m)



A group of Year 12 students recently attended the Moving On with Maths event at the University of Lincoln. The visit gave students a valuable insight into what studying mathematics at university could be like, including a taster degree-level lecture and the opportunity to tackle a range of mathematical challenge questions. Students travelled by train to experience what commuting to the university might involve and also had the chance to meet peers from sixth forms across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. The day concluded with a tour of the campus, including one of the university’s libraries, helping students gain a wider understanding of university life and future study opportunities.

Music at Magnus

This year seems to have been busier than most, with the delivery of three music qualifications: GCSE Music, the Performing Arts Technical Award (Music), and the Creative and Performing Arts Diploma. As a result, there has been an abundance of composition and performance coursework throughout the year, providing students with many opportunities to develop and showcase their musical talents. I have demonstrated by many of our talented students, whose hard work has resulted in some outstanding performances and compositions.

A couple of other notable performances also featured during our summer term, including a group from Magnus Academy Voices joining the mixed choir for the town’s Knife Angel Ceremony, a meaningful event that brought the community together through music.



We also held the Post-16 Solo Set Evening, which showcased We also held the Post-16 Solo Set Evening, which showcased four varied vocal set lists performed by our amazing students. The confidence, musicianship, and professionalism on display made it a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable evening for everyone who attended.



Christian Distinctiveness

Flourish

Our Flourish team had the privilege of attending the Flourish Leaders Conference, where we joined with schools from across the country to be inspired, equipped and encouraged in developing chaplaincy and Christian distinctiveness. It was a valuable opportunity to share ideas, reflect on our practice, and return with fresh vision for how we continue to help every young person flourish.

It has also been wonderful to see Journey continue to grow as a meaningful part of school life. Through our church services, times of worship, communion and regular gatherings, students have been engaging with faith, asking thoughtful questions, and discovering spaces to reflect and belong. Alongside this, Fuel has gone from strength to strength, with our end-of-term summer party and water fight providing a fantastic opportunity for fun, friendship and community as we celebrated another successful year together.



Thy Kingdom Come

During Thy Kingdom Come, students were invited to engage with numerous interactive prayer areas throughout the school. These imaginative reflections provided moments to pause, pray, show gratitude, and reflect on hope, forgiveness, and God’s presence in daily life. It was uplifting to witness so many students engaging thoughtfully with these spaces during the week.

Worship Workshop

We were delighted to welcome Tom and Nick, who led an inspiring worship workshop for students. They explored what worship is, why it matters, and encouraged students to use their musical gifts in serving others. The session has already sparked interest in developing our school worship band, and we look forward to seeing students grow in confidence as they explore this opportunity.

Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

One of the highlights of the term was our Fearfully and Wonderfully Made conference for Year 10 students. Throughout the day, students explored themes of identity, worth and purpose through a range of interactive workshops and keynote sessions. The conference encouraged students to recognise their value, reflect on who they are, and consider how they can positively influence the world around them.



Award-Winning Author Inspires Magnus Students to Find Their Voice

There was a real buzz around school recently as we welcomed **Dr Ashley Hickson-Lovence**, the award-winning author, poet and educator, for a day packed full of creativity, inspiration and powerful storytelling.

Students from across the academy had the opportunity to take part in a series of creative writing workshops led by Ashley, developing their confidence as writers and exploring how stories can be used to express ideas, experiences and emotions. The sessions encouraged students to take risks with their writing, experiment with language and, most importantly, trust in the value of their own voice.

A particular highlight was Ashley's work with our **Year 7 students**, who have spent this half-term studying his acclaimed novel ***Wild East***. Having the chance to meet the author behind a text they have been exploring in lessons brought the book to life in a completely new way. Students asked thoughtful questions, discussed the themes and characters in the novel, and gained a fascinating insight into Ashley's writing process and the inspiration behind the story.

Throughout the day, Ashley shared his journey from growing up in East London to becoming a successful published author, demonstrating the power of determination, resilience and self-belief. His message resonated strongly with our students, showing them that every story matters and that writing can be a powerful tool for understanding both ourselves and the world around us.

The visit culminated in a whole-school assembly where Ashley spoke passionately about the importance of reading, writing



and celebrating individual voices. Students were encouraged to embrace their creativity, share their experiences and recognise that their perspectives have value. It was an uplifting and inspiring end to a memorable day.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dr Ashley Hickson-Lovence for spending time with our students and for reminding us all of the transformative power of words. We hope the visit has inspired the next generation of writers at Magnus and that many of our students will continue to develop their own stories long into the future.

"Everybody has a story worth telling" was a message that echoed around the academy long after the final applause – and one that our students will undoubtedly carry with them into their own writing journeys.

Newark Book Festival - Simon James Green

Mrs Jackson, Mr Handley and a small group of Year 8 students headed off to The Palace Theatre in Newark to attend an author talk with Simon James Green.

The students loved hearing about Simon's journey to becoming an author and it was fun to hear hilarious stories from Simon's own teenage years.

We had opportunities to ask Simon questions after the talk and Mrs Jackson was so impressed with the questions the students asked. Well done Y8!

All the students got to meet Simon after the event to get a book signed. What a wonderful way to continue celebrating stories and authors in this National Year of Reading.

Many thanks to Newark Book Festival for providing such a an exciting opportunity for local schools!



Year 10 Work Experience - Mr Trevatt

One of the most rewarding parts of my role as Careers Leader is seeing our students experience the workplace for the first time and begin to imagine what their future could look like.

This year, 84 Year 10 students completed a work experience placement across a wide range of industries, from education and engineering to healthcare, retail and hospitality. For many, this was their first taste of working life, and it gave them the opportunity to develop confidence, communication skills and a greater understanding of the qualities employers value.

I have been especially proud of the feedback we received from employers. Time and again, they commented on our students' kindness, professionalism, willingness to learn and positive attitudes. Hearing employers describe our students as excellent role models and saying they would happily welcome them back is something we should all be incredibly proud of.

For those students who were unable to access a placement,

we ensured they still had a meaningful experience through a programme of high-quality virtual work experience with nationally recognised employers. This meant every student had the opportunity to develop their employability skills and explore future career pathways.

Work experience is so much more than spending a week in a workplace. It helps young people discover their strengths, build confidence, challenge themselves and make informed decisions about their next steps. Seeing our students return with greater ambition, new skills and a clearer sense of direction reminds us why these opportunities are so valuable.

Thank you to every employer who welcomed one of our students, to the families who supported them throughout the week, and to our staff who worked behind the scenes to make these experiences possible. Together, we are helping to prepare our young people for successful futures.

Year 7 Archbishop Young Leaders Award

Some of our Year 7 students have been involved in a brand-new project, the Archbishop Young Leaders Award.

During the last two terms, they have gained a wide range of valuable skills and experiences. The programme has helped them to develop confidence, resilience and leadership skills while encouraging them to make a positive difference in their school and local community. Through practical activities, teamwork and service projects, students have discovered the importance of

responsibility, empathy and collaboration.

The award has also supported their personal, spiritual and social development by encouraging them to reflect on their values, build strong relationships and become active role models for others. As a result, students have grown in confidence and learnt how they can use their talents and gifts to serve and inspire those around them.

Those involved have completed their own personal projects by volunteering to do jobs in and around the home. They have also

designed, organised and completed a school community project which included washing staff cars, cleaning the school minibuses and litter picking (to make the school look amazing for visiting primary schools). Their final project was a community project, where the students (and staff) made and bought items to sell on a stall at school. They volunteered to give up their break and lunch times to raise money for Women's Aid.

Well done to all involved!

ACE Week 2026

This year's ACE Week was a fantastic opportunity for our students in Years 7–10 to step away from their normal timetables and immerse themselves in a week of meaningful learning, personal development and enrichment.

Across the week, students experienced a varied programme of activities designed to educate, inspire and prepare them for life beyond the classroom. Educational visits provided valuable real-world learning experiences, allowing students to deepen their understanding of topics through first-hand experiences. Careers sessions encouraged students to explore future pathways, consider their aspirations and gain insight into the wide range of opportunities available to them.

A key focus of ACE Week was supporting students' personal development. Through lessons on equality, diversity and inclusion, students explored the importance of respect, empathy and celebrating the diverse communities in which we live. Relationships and sex education sessions also gave students the opportunity to develop their understanding of healthy relationships, personal wellbeing and making informed decisions in a safe and supportive environment.

Tuesday saw the Academy come together for our annual Sports Day, where students competed with enthusiasm, determination and excellent sportsmanship. Whether taking part in track and field events, cheering on their peers or contributing points for their



house, students embraced the day with energy and pride. The event was a wonderful celebration of teamwork, resilience and healthy competition, with every participant playing their part in making the day such a success.

Alongside these activities, students also enjoyed a range of interhouse events that encouraged collaboration, leadership and a strong sense of belonging. These experiences helped to strengthen relationships across year groups and provided opportunities for students to challenge themselves in new ways.

ACE Week continues to be a highlight of the Academy calendar, reflecting our commitment to developing well-rounded young people who are confident, respectful and ready for the future. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude, maturity and enthusiasm demonstrated by our students throughout the week and would like to thank our dedicated staff, trip leaders and external partners for making the week such a memorable success.

A message from our Head Students

As we come to the end of the school year, we'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who has made this year so memorable.

Firstly, congratulations to all of this year's award winners. Your hard work has been recognised, and you should all be incredibly proud of yourselves. This school year has been an eventful one for us all, but it is coming to an end and with that comes a reminder of how each and every student here has helped in making our school a welcoming and inspiring place to learn and grow.

A huge thank you goes to our incredible staff. Your dedication, encouragement and seemingly endless support never go unnoticed. Thank you for the countless opportunities you've given us both inside and outside the classroom, which have all helped us grow not only academically but also as individuals.

During Teacher Appreciation Week, students wrote heartfelt handwritten letters to thank staff for their hard work, support, and dedication throughout the year. It was a small gesture, but one that showed just how much they are valued by the students they inspire every day.

To our parents, carers and families, thank you for your continued encouragement and support. Your belief in us helps us to achieve our very best and strive to be the best versions of ourselves.

We would also like to give a special thank you to our student leaders this year. Your willingness and commitment to give back to the school community has been immeasurable. Throughout this year, our Sixth Form leadership team has proudly raised a whopping £2,087.40, supporting both local and national charities including but not limited to: Cancer Research,

Women's Aid and Children in Need. This achievement would have been impossible if it were not for the effort of the Sixth Form leadership team, constantly striving for more and wanting the best for our community.

We also cannot ignore all the staff who have gone out of their way to help us in our endeavours, resulting in one of the most beautiful show of Magnus' community spirit.

In addition, the school council have worked tirelessly to make the school a more inclusive and welcoming community.

Finally, we wish you all a happy and safe Summer holiday filled with lots of amazing memories!



The Galilee Centre - Mark Stevens, Provision Lead

The Galilee Centre is our enhanced provision for students who, for a whole range of reasons, have found getting into mainstream lessons difficult. The aim is simple to say and hard to do: help young people reset, rebuild trust in school and the adults in it, and find a way back to learning.

This year we have worked with 22 young people, from Year 7 through to Year 11. Many arrived having almost stopped attending school altogether. For some, the change has been remarkable. A number of students have more than doubled their attendance, a couple more than tripled it, and are now in for the large majority of their timetable. Those are not just figures on a spreadsheet. They are young people choosing to come in, day after day, after a long stretch when school felt impossible.

Some of what we are proudest of this year does not show up as a grade at all. For a number of our students, simply getting through the front door took real courage, and we do not underestimate what it costs them to keep doing it.

A good example came this term. Every one of our Year 10s completed their GCSE English Language spoken assessment. For some of them, speaking in front of other people is one of the hardest things school can ask, and to stand up and do it, in one case in front of the whole class, took a kind of bravery that no mark scheme captures. We could not have been prouder watching it.

Students have also taken on team-building and problem-solving challenges that pushed them well outside their comfort zone, working together, communicating and thinking on their feet in a way many of them would have found impossible not long ago.

Our Year 11 students sat their GCSE and Functional Skills exams this summer, alongside qualifications in Hospitality and

Catering and Child Development. Several have moved on to further education at Brackenhurst, Lincoln and Newark colleges, following routes that mean something to them, from animal care to an Army pathway.

Running through all of this is the quieter work: mentoring, Emotional Literacy, regulation support, a First Aid award, and the everyday business of helping young people get through a difficult day. We have watched a student pick up the keyboard in enrichment and go on to take piano lessons, and young people who arrived closed and guarded start to encourage each other into their own lessons.

The families we work with see it too. One parent wrote: "This school has been the making of her, and the support from the staff has been fantastic. The care the staff give makes a huge difference in the way kids approach their learning." Another, at the end of the year, told us: "This time last year I wouldn't have thought she would be where she is now, and it's all thanks to you all."

Progress here is rarely a straight line, and we try to be honest about that. Not every week is a good one. What stays constant is the belief underneath all of it: a young person is more than their behaviour, and it is never too late to find a way forward.

None of this happens without the people behind it. The Galilee team hold the day-to-day: the relationships, the routines and the steady presence that lets these young people feel safe enough to try. We are also lucky to have teachers from Magnus who come across to teach their specialist subjects and support our students, and who have properly bought into what we are trying to do here. Together with our partner schools, they are the reason any of this is possible. We could not do it without them.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

This term has provided students with a wealth of opportunities to enhance their learning through memorable educational visits and experiences.

During our annual ACE Week, Year 7 students explored the rich history of Warwick Castle, while Year 8 students demonstrated determination and teamwork as they completed a challenging six-mile walk around Sherwood Pines. Year 9 students visited the National Holocaust Centre and Museum, gaining powerful insights into the importance of remembrance, tolerance and respect for others. Meanwhile, Year 10 students enjoyed inspiring visits to both the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum, bringing their classroom learning to life through exploration and discovery.

Further enriching their studies, Year 10 History students visited the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, where they engaged with fascinating artefacts and historical collections that enhanced their understanding of Britain's past.

Preparing for Future Success

A key part of our vision is ensuring that every student is prepared for a successful future, and this term has seen a wealth of careers-related opportunities.

Year 10 students participated in a series of Mock Interviews with local employers, helping them to develop confidence, communication skills and professionalism. These experiences provided invaluable preparation for their future education and employment pathways.

Year 9 students also took part in the Nottingham Forest Ideagen Apprenticeship Workshops, gaining an insight into the world of work and the opportunities available through apprenticeships and industry partnerships.

In May, all Year 10 students completed a week of Work Experience with employers across the local area. Students received excellent feedback for their professionalism, enthusiasm and willingness to learn, demonstrating the positive values they bring to every setting.

Aspiring to Excellence

We are particularly proud that 14 Year 9 students graduated from The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme. Over the course of the programme, students undertook university-style study and developed advanced research and academic skills. Their successful graduation reflects both their hard work and commitment to academic excellence.

House Spirit at Its Best

The competitive spirit has been alive and well across the academy as students have taken part in the final House Events of the year. Excitement has been building through events such as Sports Day and the ever-popular Egg and Spoon Race, with every point contributing to the overall standings.

The determination, teamwork and enthusiasm shown by students have been outstanding, and anticipation is growing as we wait to discover which House will be crowned champions and lift the coveted Interhouse Shield during our End of Term Service.

Thank You and Congratulations

As we reflect on another successful term, we want to congratulate all of our students for their achievements, both inside and outside the classroom. Whether through academic success, personal development, leadership, community service, sporting accomplishment or participation in enrichment activities, our students continue to embody the values and aspirations of the Magnus Church of England Academy.

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and look