

December 2024

# Newsletter

## Principal's Introduction

It is my very great pleasure to write the introduction to our Academy Christmas newsletter, where we look back over the last term at Magnus. It has been a fun term, with lots of exciting opportunities enjoyed by our students, I hope you enjoy reading all about what we have been getting up to.

On Friday, I was honoured to accompany over 150 staff and students to the Royal Opera House in London to watch the Opera, La Bohème. This Opera, written by Puccini, tells the story of four struggling bohemians – a poet, a painter, a musician and a philosopher living together in Paris. One freezing Christmas Eve their lives are changed forever when a girl, named Mimi, knocks on their door looking for a candlelight, and she and Rodolfo fall in love.

However, the rush of love at first sight soon gives way to something much darker – it becomes clear that Mimi is desperately ill, and that Rodolfo, in his poverty, cannot provide for her. Our bohemians try to find their way but are soon sharply awoken to the harsh realities of life. But despite all the struggles and tragedies the characters face, friendship, hope and love shine through. The bonds they have and the experiences they share unite them and sustain them through it all. Despite their poverty and lack of worldly possessions, they are rich in what really matters, relationship. And as I watched this story unfold, and probably because of the time of year and snowy scenes, I couldn't help but think about Christmas and what really matters.

At Christmas, it is so easy to get caught up in the busyness and the pressure of the season to spend, spend, spend. The search for the perfect gift, the endless writing of cards and wrapping of presents can make it all seem like an endurance race rather than a celebration. Yet, the message of Christmas is really simple. It is not about the gifts, the food or the decorations, it is a message of family, of a God who loved us so much that he shared his son with us to restore us back into his family. It is simply a time to stop and be present with those we love. To put aside our differences and remember who and what really matter to us. A time to reconnect and strengthen those bonds of family, friendship and love. As the bible verse I have chosen for this year states, we should do this 'above all else', and if we get this bit right, none of the other stuff really matters.

So, as you get ready to celebrate together this Christmas season, whoever you are with and wherever you are, my prayer for you all is that you will know the joy, peace and love of family, friends and Christ this Christmas.

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

Mrs A Martin

Above all, love each other deeply,  
because love covers over a multitude of  
sins.  
1 Peter 4:8



## Key Dates Spring Term 2025

- Monday 6th January** - all students return to school
  - Monday 13th January** - Inset Day - school closed\*
  - Wednesday 15th January** - Year 8 Parents Evening
  - Wednesday 15th January** - Post 16 Parents Evening
  - Wednesday 8th - Friday 17th January** - External BTEC exams and Criminology controlled assessment
  - Monday 20th January** - Year 11-13 mock exams begin
  - Tuesday 4th February** - Year 8 Parents Evening
  - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February** - Half Term
  - Monday 3rd March** - Year 9 Options & Parents Evening
  - Friday 4th April** - End of Term
- \*School remains open for the BTEC Sport exam



Thank you to our wonderful catering team for making us our Christmas dinner this week. We celebrated with festive tunes, Christmas crackers and a very tasty two course meal!

## Y7 Author Visit and Christmas Gifts



We are 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.

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 to develop people of good character.

This year's book, *Steady for This*, is written by Nathanael Lessore and we were 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 value the impact reading can have on our students, it's so 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 attitude of Year 7 throughout the event and very impressed with the questions they had to ask Nathanael after his talk.

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



## Williams Racing - F1 Trips

We have taken another four trips this term to visit the Williams Racing headquarters in Grove, Oxfordshire for a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) enrichment day.

Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 were given a guided tour of the Williams museum to see over 50 heritage racing cars and learn about the innovations in car development over the past 50 years. They learned about STEM careers in motor racing and other industries, then took part in a team challenge to design, build and crash-test a crucial component of a Formula One car. Additionally - and for many, the highlight of the day - students were able to race against each other at grand prix circuits around the world using the Williams Esports simulators.

Mr Handley, who coordinated the trips, said: "The STEM enrichment day provided by Williams was an amazing opportunity for students to visit a real-life working environment, where they were shown the connection between studying STEM subjects at school, and a range of engineering careers. While students had great fun racing in the simulators, they also learned how innovative engineering over the years had created the cars they were able to see in the museum. The Williams staff made direct links between the school curriculum and design features on the cars."



Magnus musicians and year 7 students were treated to two special piano concerts from pianist and composer **Chris Miggells**. Students were also given the opportunity to ask him questions about music and his career, and meet him afterwards. Thank you to Chris for the wonderful opportunity and the beautiful music.

## Festive fun at the Carol Concert and Christmas Market!

We held performances of our Christmas Carol Concert, bringing some seasonal cheer to gathered families and friends of the academy. Performers included music by Magnus Musicians, the year 7 cohort choir and the 'Magnus Academy Voices' group, consisting of senior vocalists at the academy. Individual students gave readings, and the Magnus Swing Band performed pieces including a rendition of Beauty and The Beast which is our next school production.

Mrs Thacker said, "It was a wonderful event rich in music and worship, shared with our academy students and their families. I am so proud of all our talented students who took part, they are an absolute credit to Magnus."

Mrs Martin said, "This year's carol service headed up by our year 7's performance showed enthusiasm and confidence and certainly inspired the festive spirit in everyone gathered. We are incredibly proud of not only how everyone performed, but of the wonderful young people they are. They have a bright and exciting future ahead of them in our wonderful school.

"I would like to extend our thanks to families who supported the event, and to the students, fantastic musicians, and senior vocalists, who made this such a magical Carol Concert."

We also held a small Christmas market to run alongside the evening performance for families. We offered festive treats, traditional Christmas market stalls and even a karaoke sing-a-long! Thank you to the local small businesses who also attended and ran stalls of crochet and knitted goods, photographs and handmade jewellery.





## Fundraising at Magnus



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our various 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 began with a cake sale for World Mental Health Day in October where we raised over £136 for Young Minds UK.

We then once again supported Children in Need with lots of events over the day. Through a cake sale, tombola, leg waxing and games we raised £436.85 for children across the UK. A big shout out to Mr Freeman, Mr Handley, Mr Hyde, Mr Hall, Mr Mosley and Harry-James for volunteering to have their legs waxed for charity!

The Fundraising and Community Group also held a teddy tombola in order to raise funds to buy Christmas gifts for our friends at Bowbridge Court Care Home.

Thanks to your generosity, the grand total raised this year so far is a whopping £929.34!

## Futures First Trip



We attended the annual Future First Expo at Newark Showground in November. All students in year 11 and Sixth Form were given the opportunity to speak to local businesses, apprenticeship providers and post 16 and 18 sixth forms and colleges. The event offers students the chance to explore a wide range of career paths and educational opportunities open to them.

## 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 the service, our Chaplain Mrs Forsyth talked about what poppies represent, compassion and the story of the Christmas Truce of 1914. Our Head Students, Luke and Elita, read scripture from the Bible and the poem 'In Flanders Fields', and Luke and Beatrice from the Worship Band read prayers.

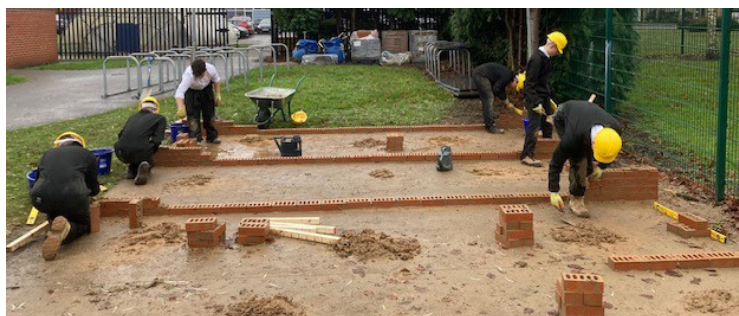
Thank you to Mr Yates, Mr Geldard and our cadets for their participation in the service, and for their involvement in the Newark Remembrance Parade in town alongside Squadron Leader G Wills. Thanks also goes to Spencer and Ash from Sir Donald Bailey Academy for joining us to lay a wreath, and Nick Carter and the members of our Worship Band - Luke, Beatrice, Alice and Precious.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."

## KS4 Construction Students

Our year 10 construction students have been making a gauge rod and our year 11s have been using their gauge rod to form a wall. The construction course is going from strength to strength. Students have used the gauge rods they made themselves whilst building walls.

Excellent effort from all and we look forward to seeing how much progress they make!





# The Cambridge Physics Experience



In November, 15 Year 9 students visited Cambridge University to take part in their Year 9 outreach activity: the Cambridge Physics Experience. The first part of the trip was a visit to a Cambridge College. In our case, the most modern and least traditional of Cambridge colleges, Robinson. Students were told about life at Cambridge, about the collegiate system, about applications, interviews, societies and studies by both recently graduated students and those still at the university. They were then given a tour of the college. We then moved to the Cavendish physics laboratory, home to almost 30 Nobel prize-winning discoveries and students were given a brief museum tour. They saw the kind of equipment used in the past by James Clerk Maxwell (electromagnetism) and JJ Thompson (the electron) and learned how Rosalind Franklin's work led to the discovery of the structure of DNA. After this, students went into an undergraduate lecture theatre and used "Isaac Physics" to solve physics problems (after having been taught about the construction of different bridge types). They worked in pairs on laptops answering questions that had been set by the Isaac Physics team. All the students managed to solve most of the problems and were given fabulous support by the Isaac Physics team. Then the students moved onto the practical side of the day - working in pairs on two engineering problems, using physics to help them create bridges and a paper crane. Prizes were awarded for the best solutions to the two problems - with Magnus students winning the paper crane prize! They managed to create a crane from paper which held a 100g mass above the ground the furthest distance from the desk. Congratulation to Demmy, Freddie and Ethan who won! Finally, students were given a brief lesson on how astronomers use light (of all different wavelengths) to create detailed images of stars, nebulae and galaxies, based on the work of Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright OBE, astrophysicist and co-founder of Isaac Physics. It was a long day, and everyone was tired by the end, but we hope that it will be remembered for a long time by the students who attended and will inspire some of them to consider a university education and a career in science as an opportunity that is open to them in the future. Thank you to Mr Handley for organising this opportunity for our students.

## 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 Fiskerton to Southwell and back, improving their navigation skills and enjoying some sunshine! Students have also begun completing their volunteering hours as part of the award, including helping staff with tasks during enrichment!



As part of our enrichment programme which provides experiences to students beyond the classroom, students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have been able to go on some fun trips this term. Students in Year 8 and 9 visited the Royal Opera House in London for a performance of La Bohème and Year 7 went to see the Peter Pan pantomime in Nottingham. We look forward to offering more opportunities in the new year.



In partnership with Newark and Sherwood District Council, we hosted a **Teen Health Event** open to all students and their families. It was the first event of its kind and was a fantastic opportunity to connect with a variety of local services that provide valuable support. There were representatives from organizations such as Newark & Sherwood CVS, Young Carers Association, Sexion, Kooth, Active Listening, Healthy Family Team, Active4Today, Citizens Advice, MOD Army Carers and many more. The resources were invaluable and we look forward to hosting similar events in the future.