

The Courtyard aims to offer an outstanding educational and social provision that will equip our students with the skills and experiences needed to discover and live out their potential



St Mary Magdalene Academy  
**The Courtyard**

## **The Courtyard Fortnightly Newsletter—Wednesday 16 December 2020**

### **End of Term Notice from Head Teacher—Deborah Shepherd**

#### **First notice:**

Not the end of term any of us wanted but here we are, all at home self-isolating in order to protect ourselves and others. What a term it has been. The feeling of anxiety that we have all lived with during these last 4 months has, at times, felt overwhelming BUT I have continued to be amazed and incredibly impressed at the level of resilience and courtesy towards others that pupils, families and staff have shown in the face of uncertainty. Attendance has been high, pupil engagement in lessons has been strong, the quality of teaching has been outstanding and subsequently, pupil progress has been impressive. I say to anyone who will listen, how incredibly proud I am to lead the Courtyard school. I thank you all for your adaptability, support and resilience during these times of uncertainty. The good news is that our self-isolation period will finish on Monday 21 December, in time for us to enjoy the Christmas festivities with a few additional guests. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

#### **Second notice: school closures**

As you will have no doubt seen in the news, there is much speculation about when schools will reopen in January. Currently our expected date of return to school in the new year is Monday 4th January. I will keep in regular contact with you all throughout the Christmas Break, providing updates on the Courtyard's position on this date of return as guidance is provided by Public Health England and the Department of Education.

#### **Third notice: Change of timings of the school day**

From Monday 4th January our school day will start at **8:55am**. It is important that your child arrives on time for their first lesson. The day will end at **3:15pm** allowing pupils to travel home before the majority of other school pupils.

The Courtyard aims to offer an outstanding educational and social provision that will equip our students with the skills and experiences needed to discover and live out their potential

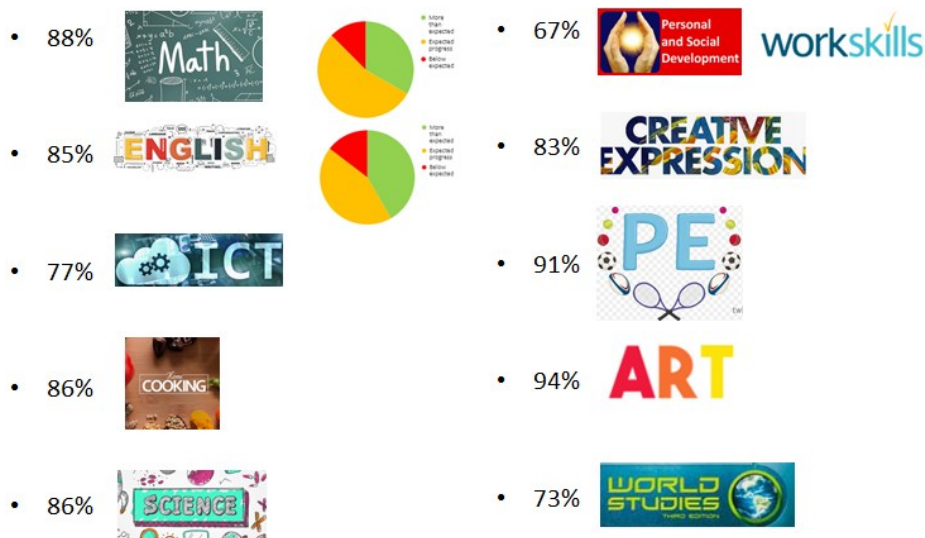


St Mary Magdalene Academy  
**The Courtyard**

## The Courtyard Fortnightly Newsletter—Wednesday 16 December 2020

### End of Term Notice from Deputy for Teaching and Learning—Katherine Healy

In our assembly today, I spoke to our pupils about the fact that Covid-19 has been in our lives for 9 months now. There are copious studies to show the negative impact it has had on the students' of the world's education and the possible effects of the loss of learning. However, The Courtyard staff and pupils have pulled together in the way they ALWAYS do, and it was a cause for celebration to share with them the brilliant progress they have made across the curriculum this term. I showed the figures below which indicate the percentage of pupils who have made progress in each subject since the beginning of term. I hope you will agree that they are impressive figures indeed!



The last few days of Remote Learning have ALSO highlighted the incredible adaptability of our staff and pupils to switch to remote learning with such short notice. The fact that 89% of pupils have engaged with their Google Classroom lessons or paper versions is truly impressive! A big thank you to parents and carers for all your support and a HUGE well done to the staff and pupils of The Courtyard!

*Please find below suggested activities and links from Islington to help keep busy over the Christmas holidays.*

Islington Council's Enrichment Programmes 11 by 11, World of Work and Music Education Islington are supporting Islington's families with plenty of creative, music and career home schooling ideas over the winter period.

Home Learning Creative Activities - [www.islingtoncs.org/home-learning/creative](http://www.islingtoncs.org/home-learning/creative)

Home Learning Music Activities - [www.islingtoncs.org/home-learning/music](http://www.islingtoncs.org/home-learning/music)

Home Learning World of Work Activities [www.islingtoncs.org/home-learning/wow](http://www.islingtoncs.org/home-learning/wow)

The Courtyard aims to offer an outstanding educational and social provision that will equip our students with the skills and experiences needed to discover and live out their potential



St Mary Magdalene Academy  
**The Courtyard**

## **The Courtyard Fortnightly Newsletter—Wednesday 16 December 2020**

### **End of Term Notice from Deputy for Behaviour and Safety —Louise Norman**

As we come to the end of our first term, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support to ensure your child has attended school.

Students have learnt to adapt to new ways of living and their compliance has kept us all safe.

I have been extremely proud of all our new students who have settled in very well to The Courtyard way of life and would like to praise all our current students for making them feel extremely welcome.

I would like to wish everyone a very restful Christmas, I hope everyone is able to enjoy the festive season and most importantly, for everyone to keep and stay safe.

*Please find all the celebrations, achievements and attendance figures below and on the next page.*

#### **Merit Achievements**

##### **Bronze**

Jack	Blaise	Alexia
Angelina	Dennis	Callum
Keira	Constantine	William
Jace	Jonathan	Alfie
Fred	Paris	Lula

##### **Silver**

Kion	Xaundre	Charlie
Azariah	Tyrese Q	Dillon
ElSharief	Veronica	Max
Henry	Nathan M	Norville
Nathan N	Hamza	Enkel
Nevan	Tyrese E	James
Katie	Liz	Shane
Dorian	Charlotte	Aymene
John	Gavril	Prom

The Courtyard aims to offer an outstanding educational and social provision that will equip our students with the skills and experiences needed to discover and live out their potential



St Mary Magdalene Academy  
**The Courtyard**

## The Courtyard Fortnightly Newsletter—Wednesday 16 December 2020

### Deputy for Behaviour and Safety Notice—Louise Norman

#### Celebrations for the past 2 weeks

##### Star of the Week - Acts of kindness

###### w/b 30<sup>th</sup> November

- Kion for taking his initiative in finding out how CodeBug works and sharing with the ICT teacher
- Keira for offering delicious homemade cupcakes to everyone
- Xaundre for always setting up the games during Monday Enrichment
- Charlotte for helping another pupil with their work experience
- Katie for always using kind language when speaking with her peers.
- Angelina for thoughtful and caring contributions in girls club
- Nathan M for looking out for other students
- Tyrese E for helping Prom with his school work
- Dillon for showing James how to navigate Kahoots

##### Star of the week

###### w/b 30<sup>th</sup> November

- Charlie for his understanding of what makes a good flyer
- Liz for excellent contribution during World Studies
- Hamza for his great understanding of Index Numbers
- Tyrese E for consistently having a good attitude and creating great pieces of art
- Jack for excellent work during Maths this week.
- Blaise for attending PE and running in the relay race
- Dennis for taking the initiative to ensure his assignment was completed.
- Fred for his excellent work on 'good' and 'evil' characters in stories for Creative Expression.
- Jono for great effort in the Christmas quiz during independence.

##### 100% Attendance

###### w/b 30<sup>th</sup> November

Kion	Paris	Liz
Prom	Dorian	El Sharief
Sasharn	Aaron	Nathan
Angelina	Jessica	Hamza
Norville	Dennis	Nathan
Katie	Enkel	Fred
Aymen	Dillon	Tyrese
Max	Nevan	Xaundre
Keira	Jonathan	James
Charlie	Charlotte	William
Tyrese	Gavrill	Blaise
Callum	Veronica	Henry



###### w/b 7th December

- Kion for taking his initiative in finding out how CodeBug works and sharing with the ICT teacher
- Keira for offering delicious homemade cupcakes to everyone
- Xaundre for always setting up the games during Monday Enrichment
- Charlotte for helping another pupil with their work experience
- Katie for always using kind language when speaking with her peers.
- Angelina for thoughtful and caring contributions in girls club
- Nathan M for looking out for other students
- Tyrese E for helping Prom with his school

###### w/b 7th December

- Fred, for completing a well-written persuasive letter to Mrs Shepherd
- Dillon for completing his Entry assessment on time
- Jack for working hard on his art theory task
- James for hard work in ICT
- Hamza for excellent focus and attitude in maths class this week.
- Kion for programming Merry Christmas using codebug
- Prom for excellent speaking and listening in PSD
- Ruby for showing a keen interest and showing initiative in her learning.

##### 100% Attendance

###### w/b 7th December

Kion	Nevan
Prom	Jonathan
Angelina	Veronica
Norville	El Sharief
Keira	Hamza
Dorian	Fred
Jessica	Xaundre
Enkel	James
Dillon	William

Deputy for Teaching and Learning Notice—Katherine Healy

## Independent Learning Task

Spring Term first week's ILT will be WORLD STUDIES



Spring Term 2nd weeks' ILT will be PSD/WorkSkills



workskills

The winners of this half term's ILT prizes are:

Angelina—Y11

Keira—Y11

Dorian—Y10

Nathan M—Y14

Xaundre—Y11

A big congratulations to all of these pupils who completed every ILT set for them since Half Term! They will be able to collect their prizes on our return to school in January.



### Courtyard Parent Workshops: 2020-21

The next Parent Workshop will be on **Wednesday 13th January from 4-5pm.**

It will be held by the **Simone Scott; The Courtyard's resident Art Therapist.** The focus of the workshop will be 'Using Art as a Language'. As you may be aware, many of our pupils find art, or any creative means, a channel through which to communicate. I do hope as many of you can join us as possible.

As usual, the workshop will be conducted via Google Meet. Mrs Healy will be sharing the invitation to join on Monday before the workshop. The session will also be recorded and emailed to parents who are unable to attend. **I would encourage you to attend if you can so that you can ask questions to our host and get immediate responses to any specific inquiries.**



**\*\*\*Reminder—newsletters will now be sent out fortnightly rather than weekly\*\*\***



## Last week's Votes For Schools Topic:

### Votesforschools topic

Last week, students were covering:

Student safety outside of school. With the days getting shorter and safeguarding concerns on the rise due to the pandemic, we thought now was a good time to get young people talking about their own personal safety and to consider what they can do to self-safeguard should they find themselves in a difficult situation. For this reason, they will be deciding: **"Do you feel safe outside school?"**

Students will have the chance to put themselves in several young people's shoes by identifying the warning signs, coming up with advice and thinking about what they would do if they were in the same position. The lessons give students a broader, more in-depth scope on different situations they may find themselves in and what they can do to keep themselves safe.



### Vote Results:

Two weeks ago, we looked at our friends from across the pond to consider whether the world is a bit too preoccupied with what happens in the US. Most of you felt that their influence was a positive thing. Here's what you said:

#### Are we too influenced by the US?



"Some issues in the US are important and **apply to the whole world** e.g. racism, poverty etc."



"This is the **age of influence**; it's up to us if we **stand up** for our own uniqueness."



### This week's VoteTopic:

As the days are starting to get shorter and concerns over young people's safety are growing, this week we're thinking about how to keep ourselves safe while we're outside of school. You will be discussing:

#### Do you feel safe outside school?



##### Discuss at home:

- ☒ Do you feel safe when you're travelling to and from school? What are your biggest concerns?
- ☒ What sort of things could you do to help you feel safer?
- ☒ Is there anything else that you think the police, schools, adults etc could do to make you feel safer?

##### Student research points:

- ☒ Look up the Children's Commissioner's "Mean Streets" campaign. What is the aim of this project?
- ☒ What is our "fight-or-flight" response and how does it help us?
- ☒ What do we mean by "county lines" and how does it affect young people?
- ☒ What advice is being offered to young people to help them feel safer?

For advice on where to go if you or someone you know needs support, please **see the next slide**.



Tweet us @votesforschools

Follow us @votesforschools

@VotesforSchools2020

## This week's Votes For Schools Topic:

This week, we would have embraced the seasonal spirit with a topic on the most wonderful time of the year. Students would have been discussing: **"Has the Christmas message changed this year?"** The lessons would have given them the opportunity to consider how Christmas is going to be different this time around and explore some of the most talked-about adverts from our favourite retailers.

Attached is the 'Home information' sheet to help and support your child.



### Vote Results:

Two weeks ago, we celebrated International Day of Visibility for People with Disabilities by discussing the impact social media has on making disabilities more visible. Here's what you said:

#### Does social media make disabilities more visible?



"With social media, you can only see what others want you to see ... Any mental illness or disability may not even be visible in person, never mind on social media."



"I see lots of people [online] showing their disabilities ... This has opened my eyes and shown me how they managed through difficult times."



### This week's VoteTopic:

This week, we're looking at how Christmas might look a bit different this year, but does that mean the core Christmas message has changed? That's what you'll decide!

#### Has the Christmas message changed this year?



##### Discuss at home:

- ☒ How your Christmas break will be different to previous years.
- ☒ What Christmas adverts you've noticed and if the message is different this year.
- ☒ How you will keep yourself and your loved ones safe over the holidays.
- ☒ What you think the message/meaning of Christmas is.

##### Student research points:

- ☒ How did Christmas change during the Victorian times?
- ☒ How have shops and restaurants been impacted by the Coronavirus restrictions this year?
- ☒ Find another Christmas 2020 advert and decide what you think their message is. How does it compare to last year?

We hope you have a **wonderful Christmas break** and a **Happy New Year**.



Tweet us @votesforschools

Follow us @votesforschools

@VotesforSchools2020

## Further support:



### Need more information on this topic?

#### Remember:

If you are dealing with an emergency, call the police on 999.

If you are concerned about any of the issues raised today – either for yourself or on behalf of someone else – check out some of the organisations below. You can either click the logos to go straight to their site, or use the search terms to find them online.



Search:  
fearless.org

**Fearless** allows you to pass on information about crime **100% anonymously**, as well as having lots of **helpful information** on what to do in various situations.



Search:  
Met Police Report

The **Metropolitan Police** have a page where you can **report a crime** or find out more about **how to tell them** (or your local police) about a **crime**.



**Childline** have a dedicated helpline where you can speak to someone: **call 0808 1111** or visit their website.

Search: Contact Childline



The **NSPCC** has a range of pages on **different types of crime**, **what they look like**, and **who to talk to**.

Search: NSPCC Crime



The **Children's Society** have lots of information on their site, so **no matter your worry**, you can **find someone to help** you.

Search: The Children's Society

©VotesforSchools2020

## ThinkUKnow: Online protection

There is always support with online safety during the school breaks. ThinkUKnow is a well-known organisation that offers support to both pupils and parents during this time. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



## Welcome to Thinkuknow

Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

Explore one of the six Thinkuknow websites for advice about staying safe when you're on a phone, tablet or computer.

Are you...

4-7?

8-10?

Parent/  
Carer?

11-13?

14+?

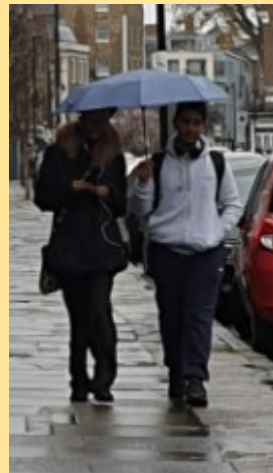
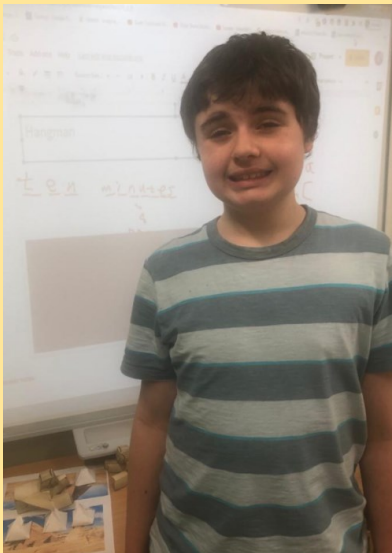
Children's  
workforce?



## The last 2 weeks at The Courtyard



**It's starting to look a lot like Christmas...** Sam starts decorating and Azi —Y13 is feeling festive



**Hangman champion:** James—Y9

**We're walking in the rain:** Liz—Y12 and Nevan—Y9

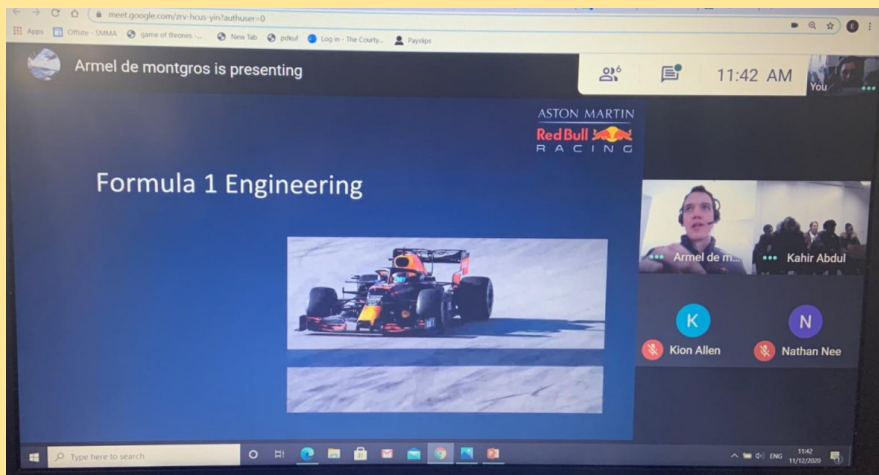
**Highbury Fields re-opens!** Fred—Y11



**The Independence Group go shopping:** Henry—Y13, Paris—Y10, Azi and ElSharief—Y13



## The last 2 weeks at The Courtyard



**Miss Vidal arranges a 6th Form masterclass assembly by F1 engineers at Aston Martin**



**Christmas crackers:** Alfie—Y10 and Sam



**Miles of smiles:** Nathan N—Y13 and Miss Lucas



**Mr Saunders and Paris take a breather from P.E.** Dylan—Y9 helps them relax

## The last 2 weeks at The Courtyard



**Breakfast Club:** Dylan—Y9 and Mr Kelly consider their futures in engineering by building with Meccano.

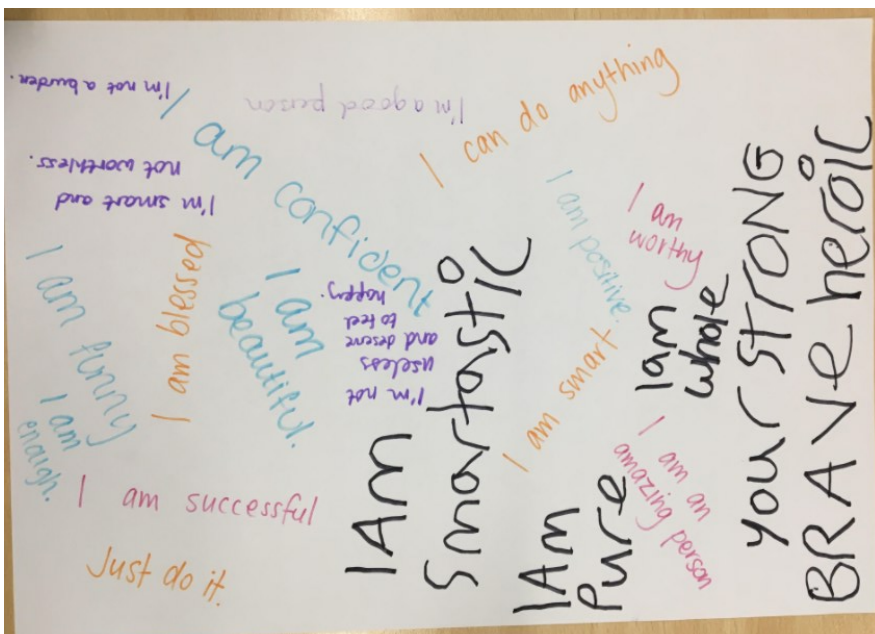
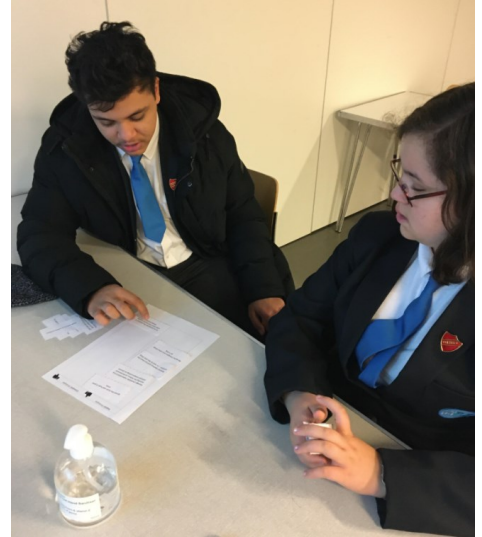
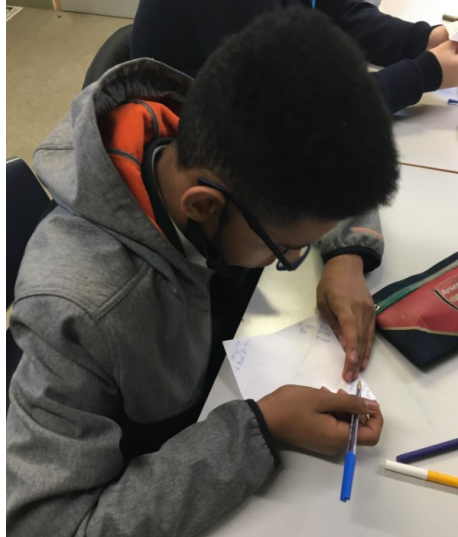
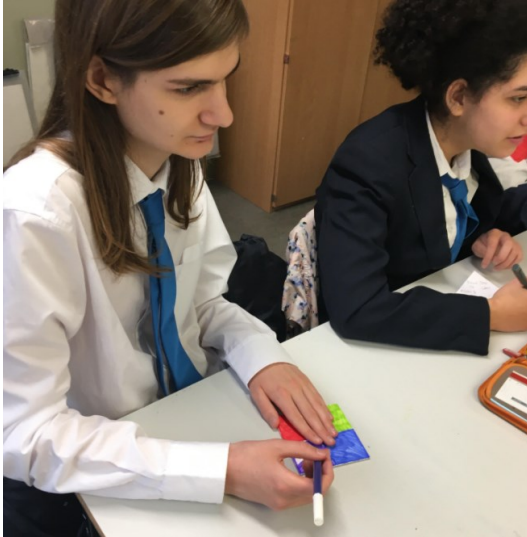
**Breakfast Club Finale:** The Breakfast Club participants cook a banquet for the end of term finale: Keira—Y11 chose to make pancakes with maple syrup; Dylan—Y9 chose to cook a full English breakfast; Nathan M—Y14 chose to make eggy bread





## Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in PSD

Students have been learning about strategies that can help if they are struggling with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. We made chatterboxes to practice positive self-talk as one strategy.



**All you need is love:** From top left clockwise—Fred and Angelina—Y11, Dorian—Y10, Aymene and Keira—Y11, Lula’s drawing of a hedgehog using positive self-talk phrases in the situation of being bullied by a fox, Chloe—Y10.

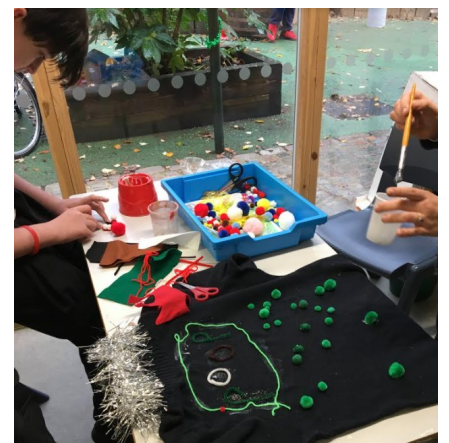
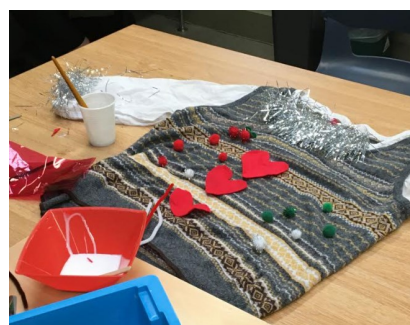
Left: A collection of the positive self-talk phrases produced by Courtyard pupils.



## Preparing for Christmas Jumper Day with the winning entry being worn by Mrs Shepherd



**Clockwise from top left:** Azi—Y13, Veronica—Y14, Prom—Y9, El-Sharief—Y13, Nathan—Y13, Independence Group, Miss Barton and Keira—Y11





## Christmas Jumper Day

### Christmas Jumper Decorating Competition



Well done to ALL students who participated in the Christmas Jumper Decorating Competition. Your teachers were so impressed with everyone's creative efforts and Christmas spirit!



The winning key worker group for most creative jumper is...



## KW Rush



### Christmas Jumper Decorating Competition



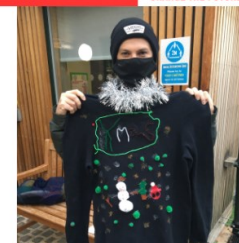
Congratulations and well done to Azariah, Jonathan, ElSharief, Henry, Paris, Kit and Mrs Rush!



### Christmas Jumper Decorating Competition



Well done everyone!



## The last 2 weeks at The Courtyard—Christmas Jumper Day!



**Rockin' around the Christmas tree:**  
Paris—Y10 and Miss Norman



**Making Christmas cookies:** Charlie—Y9  
helps out Miss Tripp



Azi—Y13, Chloe—Y10 brings in some retro sweets for the office, Miss Lucas and Henry —Y13



## Christmas Jumper Day ends in a smashing fashion!

Nathan N from the Student Council had suggested 'Pie the Teacher' to bring the Christmas Jumper Day and party to a close. There were many willing participants!





## Christmas Jumper Day ends in a smashing fashion!

Even Mrs Shepherd got involved! Miss Norman was lucky to escape as there were many willing to pay.....





## Christmas Jumper Day ends in a smashing fashion!

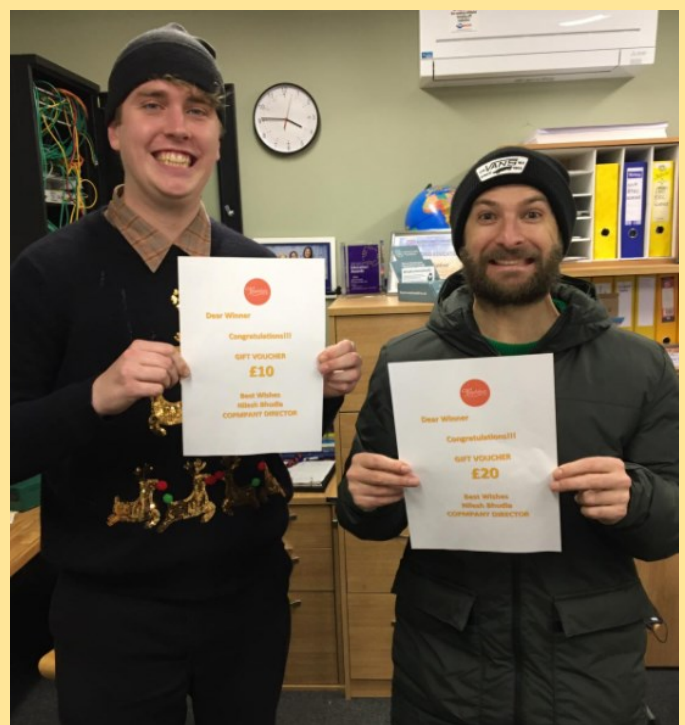
Once pupils had had their fun, it was time for teachers to get their revenge!



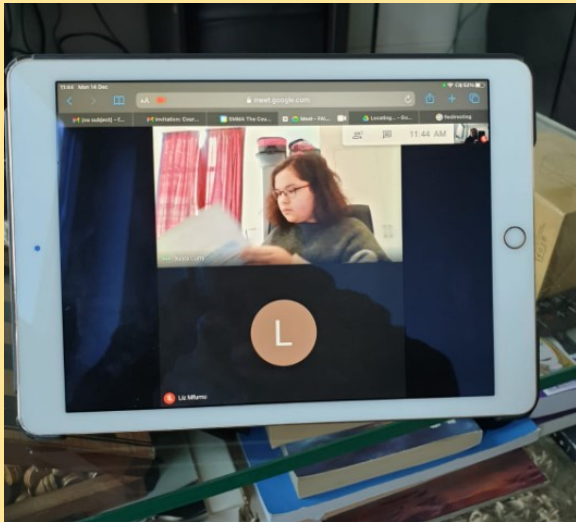


## Christmas Jumper Day Fundraising

Miss Tripp's Christmas Victory Song sweepstake gained some excellent prizes for staff, kindly donated by Temptations by Highbury and Islington Tube.



## Remote Learning in Action



Keira—Y11 and Liz—Y12 join Mr Aitken's maths lesson...



William—Y10 and Nathan M—Y14 join Miss Barton's maths lesson with Ella



Henry, Jono, ElSharief—Y13, Paris—Y10 and Lula—Y11 join Miss Lucas' Independence lesson with Gregg, Claire and Kit



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us all at The Courtyard!**

