

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 Weekly Newsletter—Friday 16 October 2020

Notice from Deborah Shepherd: Head Teacher

Education during a pandemic

This half term in schools has been like no other. Measures which we have never had to implement before are being actioned in schools to ensure the health and safety of pupils, parents and staff. On top of this, anxiety and worry due to the unknown and unpredictable is potentially impacting on our mental health.

YET, we have made it successfully through our first half term. We have successfully welcomed 16 new pupils/families and 8 new staff to our amazing school community. Our average, pupil attendance is 92% which is incredibly positive taking into consideration common colds, track and trace advice, etc. The school staff have delivered a high-quality curriculum to our pupils and the levels of engagement in learning is extremely high.

AND, we have been able to deliver our desired curriculum in school because we have not had a single reported positive case of Covid-19 in our community. For this I am hugely grateful to pupils, parents and staff. Your diligence to follow the guidance of Public Health England has been admirable.

LOOKING FORWARD, the school will continue to deliver a relevant and meaningful curriculum whilst also preparing for change. It is a possibility that we may need to revert to a period of remote learning if a positive case is reported amongst the pupils/staff. We recognise the challenges that sudden changes can pose for our pupils/families and we are committed to supporting/educating despite the adversity we may face.

THANK YOU all for your unfaltering support this term. I ask you all to rest and recharge during the two week half term. I ask you all to adhere to the advice of Public Health England in order to keep yourselves and others safe and to ensure that our school can do its job of educating as effectively as possible as we move towards Christmas break.



Deputy for Teaching and Learning Notice—Katherine Healy

Independent Learning Task

Congratulations to the first group of prize winners for completing every ILT since the beginning of term:

Nevan—Y9

Dorian—Y10

Xaundre—Y11

Nathan M—Y13

Katie—Y10

Jess—Y11

Keira—Y11



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Deputy for Behaviour and Safety Notice—Louise Norman

Celebrations this week

Star of the week - Acts of kindness in recognition of Mental Health Day on 10/10/20

Aymene for ensuring everyone safely sanitised their hands before the start of the lesson.

Keira for inviting Paris to sit with at lunchtime.

Enkel for kind conversations with other pupils around the ping pong table.

Shane for supporting a student next to him during the ICT lessons.

Chloe for an energetic and positive approach towards P.E activities

Prom for keeping a positive attitude and being kind to his peers

Dillon for speaking kindly to other students if they were being disruptive.

John for helping to give out the English books to the class.

Dennis for establishing a nice conversation with Shane during lunchtime.

Charlotte for welcoming a pupil back to school after a period of absence

Hamza for always being kind and welcoming to all the new students this term

Azariah for being kind to Henry when he was unwell.

Johno for looking out for Alfie and giving me kind advice on how to best care for him.

Azariah for listening intently while having conversations in Independence.

Nathan M for making positive comments to other pupils when playing football at lunch time

Aaron for being helpful to his friend and taking his bag to him.

Student/s with the most merits this week:

Well done to: **Nathan N, Dillon, Shane, Aymene, Azariah**

This week's Votes For Schools topic: This week, we are covering another ever-pressing issue: the environment. With news headlines understandably preoccupied with all things COVID-19 (as well as the occasional mention of Brexit), we are asking students: "**Have we forgotten about the environment this year?**" They will have the chance to explore some positive stories about our planet that may have slipped under the radar, as well as interrogate some of the decisions that have been made while the rest of the world is pre-occupied with Coronavirus. We hope it will prompt some healthy debate and get them thinking about where they get their news.

Radio Adverts in English

The following pupils received 50 merit points from Mrs Redman last week for their outstanding radio advert performances. All pupils overcame initial anxiety and a reluctance to perform to deliver some fantastic performances.

Norville—Y11, Jack—Y11, Jess—Y11, Tyrese—Y12, Liz—Y12, Fred—Y11 and Angelina—Y11



100% attendance this term

Norville	100
Aymen	100
Charlie	100
Tyrese	100
Enkel	100
Dillon	100
Jonathan	100
Gavril	100
El Sharief	100
Nathan	100
Tyrese QB	100
James	100

Maths: Paper Airplane Engineering Competiton:

The Maths Team held a competition to see who could create a plane that would fly the furthest this week. Here are the winners for each of the groups: Group 4 - **Tyrese Q-B with 17 meters**

Group 5 - **Sasharn and Katie tied with 9.5 meters**

Group 6 - **Max with 9 meters**

Group 7 - **Dillon with 7 meters**



Courtyard Parent Workshops: 2020-21

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

It will be held by the **Dami Onegbasen, our new CAMHS clinician** who will be sharing information about **supporting your child's mental health at home.**

As last week, the workshop will be conducted via Google Meet. Mrs Healy will be sharing the invitation to join on Monday 2nd November. 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.



This week's Votes For Schools Topic:



Vote Results:

This week's VoteTopic:

Last week, we asked you for your opinions on "cancel culture", looking at what being cancelled meant and how it could affect people's lives – and it sounds like many of you found deciding 'yes' or 'no' quite tricky! Here is what you had to say:

Is "cancel culture" unfair?

"Some people **deserve to be cancelled** because they **don't deserve a platform** if they have said something racist, homophobic, a slur (etc.)."

Yes
57.6%



No
42.4%

"I think cancel culture is a very strong topic, although the **criticism is fair**, the people who join in **go far too far**"



With the Coronavirus pandemic dominating most of our news headlines over the past year, it may have felt like other issues have fallen by the wayside or been forgotten about. For this reason, we're taking a look at a very important topic, asking:

Have we forgotten about the environment this year?



Discussion points:

- ✓ How Coronavirus has affected your local environment, such as increase in plastics/masks etc.
- ✓ What you know about the climate crisis, and how you feel about it.
- ✓ Steps that you think need to be taken to help the environment.

Student research points:

- ✓ Look up what The Earthshot Prize is for.
- ✓ Find out something new about David Attenborough and his work.
- ✓ Look up one positive and one negative way Coronavirus has affected the environment.

Note: next week will be our last VoteTopic before half-term.

Tweet us @votesforschools
Follow us @votesforschools

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ThinkUKnow: Online Home Activity packs

ICT teacher Ms Sigola is passing on 15 minute activities you can do with your family to support your daughter/son's online safety at home. Each activity includes a short conversation starter, practical tips and fun tasks to do together. Areas of focus include: viewing videos online, cyber security, social media, sharing images, live streaming, online gaming,

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=ac5e378742-TUK_GLOBAL_14_10_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-ac5e378742-64888013





An important message from Richard Watts, Leader of Islington Council and Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Lead Member for Children and Families

Dear Parents and Carers,

Islington Council's top priority is keeping people safe and supported throughout the pandemic.

The government has announced that London, including Islington, will move into the Covid-19 Alert Level High from midnight on Friday 16 October, as the level of infections in the capital has increased.

The new restrictions do not affect our schools, which will remain open to all children.

We want to reassure you that our schools remain well prepared to keep children and their families, and school staff safe. Our schools, together with the council and local public health officials will continue to keep their health and safety plans under close review and ensure appropriate action is taken wherever it's needed.

About the new Covid-19 Alert Level High restrictions

The new restrictions for London will be introduced to help stop the spread of coronavirus, on top of the measures already in place. The new measures mean:

- We **must not socialise with anybody outside of our household or support bubble in any indoor setting**, at home or in a public place, including pubs and restaurants.
- We can **no longer gather in a group larger than six in any outdoor setting**.
- While we can continue to travel to places that are open, for work or education, we all need to try and reduce the number of journeys we make, and walk or cycle where possible.

Further information about the new restrictions, including information about childcare is available at [gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-high](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-high).

To help protect yourselves, your families, your school and everyone in your community, it's essential that we all pull together and follow public health advice:

- **Wash your hands regularly** – for 20 seconds, with soap and running water, especially before and after school, before and after eating, and after using a tissue or the toilet.
- **Wear a face covering in public places**, including shops and on public transport
- **Create space** – stay 2 metres apart from people who are not from your household, particularly in public places. Please move away from the school as quickly as possible and do not stay and chat at the school gates at drop off and pick up times.

Please find more useful information over the page on Covid-19 symptoms, testing and how we're here to help with financial and practical support and help getting into jobs and training.

Thank you for playing your part in tackling this virus and keeping you, your friends and your family safe.

Yours,

Richard Watts, Leader Islington Council

Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Lead Member for
Children and Families

London to move to Tier-2

An important message from Richard Watts, Leader of Islington Council and Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Lead Member for Children and Families

Check your symptoms

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or someone in your household start to develop any these symptoms make sure you self-isolate straight away and book a Covid-19 test - either by calling 119 or booking online at www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

We know it can be hard to get a test - but please keep trying because new appointments and test kits should become available throughout the day. There is now a local test centre in Islington - but you must book before you visit.

Support if you're on a low income and need to self-isolate

People on a low income and who cannot work from home may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. Details of how to claim are available on our website: www.islington.gov.uk/coronavirus

Help getting into work or training

Anyone who is unemployed or facing unemployment who needs help getting back into work or retraining please contact our iWork team on 020 7527 2706 or email iWork@islington.gov.uk

Flu vaccination

Primary school and Year 7 pupils can get the free, annual flu vaccine at school – this is even more important this year. Flu vaccines will be administered through the school.

You can contact the **school nursing team** with any questions or concerns about Covid-19, for example if you are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic group or if there are grandparents or vulnerable family members at home.

Call 020 3316 8021 or email whhtr.IslingtonSchoolNursing@nhs.net

Islington Family Information Service

Islington Family Information Service (FIS), is a free and impartial telephone and web-based information and advice service for families with children and young people 0-25. Information provided includes: childcare, things to do, after-school clubs, services for disabled children, how to find jobs working with children and young people, health, family support services, tax credits and any other issues relating to family life.

Call 020 7527 5959, email fis@islington.gov.uk or visit www.islington.gov.uk/fis

We are here to help

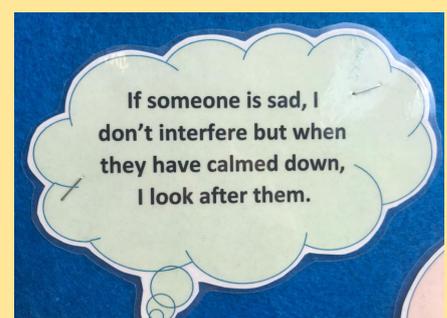
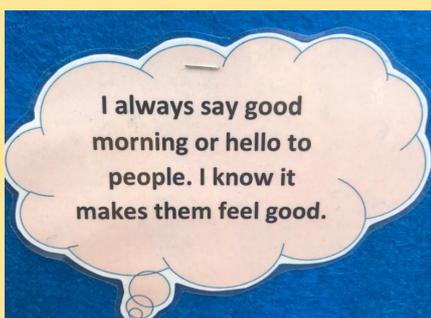
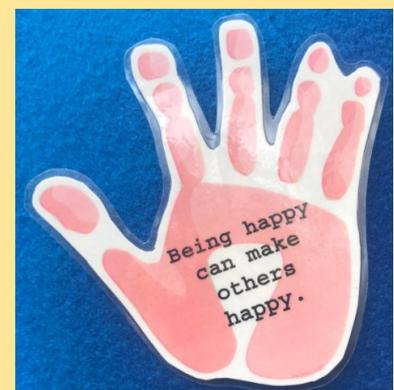
Please remember that the council continues to support people in the borough who are struggling due to coronavirus and need practical help or support and the **We are Islington** helpline is open 7 days a week.

Call 020 7527 8222 or email weareislington@islington.gov.uk

This week at The Courtyard

World Mental Health Day

On Friday the Courtyard marked World Mental Health Day with activities designed to encourage discussion around our mental health and ways in which we can improve our own mental health and that of others. The thoughts, comments and suggestions from the pupils were incredibly heart-warming and have been implemented by the pupils throughout this week through Acts of Kindness. On another note, the school raised a fantastic £154.65 for the Mental Health Foundation. A huge thank you to pupils, parents and staff who contributed to the cause.



This week at The Courtyard



Independence Group buffet: Azariah—Y13, Miss Lucas, Lula—Y11



Do the limbo! Impromptu use of the badminton line when the shuttlecock went missing... Left: Alfie—Y10 Right: Jonathan—Y13

This week at The Courtyard



BHM cooking—vegetable samosas with Ms Nahar:

Clockwise from left: Prom—Y9, Ms Nahar, Enkel—Y9, Nevan—Y9, Tyrese Q-B—Y12, Ms Nahar, Enkel—Y9, Xaundre—Y11, Nevan—Y9, Tyrese—Y12, Ms Nahar, Prom—Y9



BHM cooking with Mrs Rush—jerk chicken:

Left: Aymene—Y11

Above: Fred—Y11 and Alfie—Y10

This week at The Courtyard



Monday Enrichment—Games Club with Mr. Abdul

From left to right: ElSharief—Y13, Nathan M—Y14, Xaundre—Y11, Mr. Abdul, William—Y10

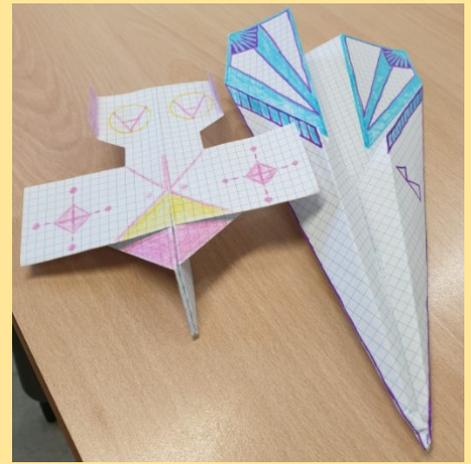


The Independence Group makes apple crumble with Miss Lucas:

Clockwise from above: Paris—Y10, ElSharief—Y13, Miss Lucas, Henry—Y13, ElSharief—Y13, Azariah—Y13, Paris—Y10



This week at The Courtyard



Maths paper airplane competition—The Making: Liz—Y12, Maddie—Y9, Keira—Y11

And The Testing: Bottom pictures: Nevan—Y9, Hamza—Y14, Liz—Y12, Maddie—Y9, Hamza—Y14, Nevan—Y9, Tyrese Q-B—Y12, Keira—Y11



This week at The Courtyard



Creative Expression—Singing with Miss Lucas



Azariah—Y13, Charlotte—Y13 and Jonathan—Y13



Basketball buddies: Mr. Lopez and Jonathan—Y13



Breaktime chat:

John—Y10, Dennis—Y13, Shane—Y10



Maths:
Prom—Y9



Badminton in the church gardens: Jonathan—Y13, Alfie—Y10, Miss Barton, Tyrese QB—