

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—Friday 11th February 2022

A Very Important Guest...

Yesterday we were delighted to welcome Jeremy Corbyn MP to the Courtyard. In October 2021, a pupil, William, (pictured) wrote to Mr Corbyn, informing him of our school and inviting him in to see for himself.

Mr Corbyn spent time touring the school, sitting in lessons and talking to our pupils and staff. He even had time for a game of table tennis before he left!

As part of his visit, Mr Corbyn took part in a Q&A session with a selection of Courtyard pupils. He was submitted to some hard hitting questions on a range of topics including the unsavoury behaviour in the House of Commons, his work to end the apartheid in South Africa, the impact of education in his life, his most preferred leader of the Labour party, his opinions on the handling of the Covid pandemic AND his understanding of Autism.

It was a pleasure to have Mr Corbyn visit and we hope he returns soon. Thank you William for the time you spent writing your letter and for speaking so highly of the Courtyard whilst leading Mr Corbyn on his tour.

Courtyard Question Time



Dennis questioned Mr Corbyn about his socialist views and whether change had happened because of his political actions.

Mr Corbyn describes himself as a glass half full character. Positive things can always happen if we believe in them.



A good sport!

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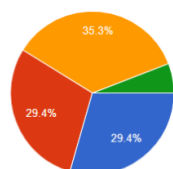
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You spoke, we listened...

In December, parents were invited to complete the school's parent survey, sharing with us your views on your child's education and ways that our provision could improve. We have listened.

My child receives the right amount of homework



● Strongly Agree
● Agree
● Neutral
● Disagree
● Strongly Disagree

We recognise that different pupils respond differently to homework. We aim to cover all necessary learning within the school hours.

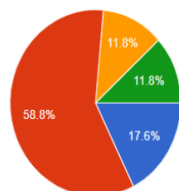
All pupils receive termly homework project packs, containing subject specific tasks to complete at their leisure. Completed tasks are marked, feedback is given and completion is rewarded. For those parents who would like more homework, we actively encourage you to contact the school by emailing Mrs Rush to request.

We recognize that the next phase of learning can be a daunting prospect for pupils and parents. We want to do everything that we can to best prepare our pupils to be successful when they leave the Courtyard.

This academic year, we have added additional Careers Events to our school calendar. Ms Vidal will be leading a parent workshop on 2 March—The World of Work. We will also be participating in National Careers Week (7th March to 11th March) and hosting an additional Careers Event on 22nd March—Apprenticeships, Supported Internships and Traineeships.

If you think yourself and your child require further support/information, please email Ms Vidal.

My child and I are knowledgeable and prepared for the next phase of their learning (personal and social development, social communication, careers preparation, work experience, knowledge of colleges and



● Strongly Agree
● Agree
● Neutral
● Disagree
● Strongly Disagree

We have struggled to place our pupils in practical face to face work experience opportunities since the start of the pandemic. We have worked around these restrictions and set up countless number of virtual placements, but we agree, it isn't the same. As society returns to some form of normality, so will our work experience opportunities.

Bring your child to work day—We love this idea! We will survey parents in the Summer Term to see how many of you can offer this opportunity to your child. I'm sure they will thoroughly enjoy finding out what you get up to whilst they are at school! - Watch this space!

Parent Comment:

I think all are doing a wonderful job supporting children. Really feels like a family. Only thing I would suggest really is to have more opportunities for work, practical, not online, i.e. working in a shop/farm/business. I know it is difficult because of Covid. Maybe parents have an opportunity to invite pupils into their workplace (Covid allowing).

Parent Comment:

Ensure that all pupils do not fall under the radar and miss out on vital learning because they are quiet.

We recognise this concern for parents. We as a school are mindful of it as well.

In all subjects, pupil progress is tracked rigorously and teaching staff are challenged to ensure that all pupils are making the maximum amount of progress that they can make.

We look carefully at pupils who are making less progress than expected. We look closely at pupils who are making more progress than expected. We look closely at pupils who have diagnoses of two conditions which could impact on their ability to access their learning.

After half term we will have an additional focus group—the reluctant communicators. We will be considering what additional provisions we can put in place to give them the maximum opportunities to learn and develop. Further information to follow.

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6th form update



SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASS WITH STEVE TANTON Visit to Capel Manor 1st February



"Aspire". How do the skills and subjects you are studying link to your future career aspirations?

Steve talked to students about his career journey, qualifications he studied and how those qualifications and work experience propelled him into his present career (sector and job role).

Year 13 Mock Interviews



Interviews are going really well!!! The legal firm Clifford Chance is very impressed with our students who are behaving in a very mature and confident way!

We are very proud of our students as they making the most of this opportunity.

One of our students has been giving the opportunity of shadowing a sound engineer at Factory Studios, thanks to the brilliant job that he did.



Students had a very enriching day at Capel Manor. They enjoyed visiting the college and the zoo and asked lots of questions!



Visit to BSIX 8th February

Students had the opportunity to take part in a photography workshop and hear from college students what they like about college. It was a very enriching day!



Social evening for the Sixth formers on Thursday 10th February

@ Passyunk Avenue (Baseball & American Food)



Visits to colleges

The Sixth form team is organizing visits to colleges. These visits will be very enjoyable and enriching for them as students will have the opportunity to ask questions and take pictures. We encourage all Sixth formers to attend unless your child is leaving and has only one preferred choice/ has a secured place already. These visits will help leavers to decide which college will be the right fit for them. We also encourage parents to come along, especially if your child is a leaver. Your child will bring a letter home with the third visit to college next Tuesday, CAPEL MANOR.

Confirmed visits:
WKC Tues 22nd Feb



SPRING TERM FORTNIGHTLY SUBJECT FOCUS

Week Beginning	Mon 21st Feb	Mon 28th Feb
Maths Entry Level	fractions of an amount	Decimals and 4 operations recap
Maths FSL1	Fraction, decimal and percentage conversion and fractions/percentages of amounts	3D shape properties and volume
Maths GCSE	Quadratic Equations	Quadratic Equations
English Entry	Understanding Writing Tasks	Comprehension and sentence structure
English FSL1	Stone Cold Analysis & PEA writing tasks	Revision for Writing Paper
English GCSE	Boy's Don't Cry and Exam Style Questions: Section A & B	Non-Fiction Texts around the themes of Boys Don't Cry
English GCSE	The Staves: A Christmas Carol	A Journey Through the Year - English Literature GCSE
ICT Informatics	x 2 coding tasks	x 2 coding tasks
ICT FSL1	Using Average formulas in a Spreadsheet	FSL1 Creating recipe cards
ICT FSL2	FSL2 Excel Spreadsheet using IF Then Statements	FSL2 past paper revision
ICT ECDL L3 PPT	Managing Presentations Add, erase pen annotations during a slide show.	Managing Presentations Slide Show Delivery Add, erase pen annotations during a slide show.
Science BTEC Principles	Researching and drawing atoms	Learning about radiation
Science BTEC	Movement - Running and velocity	Velocity and kinetic energy
Home Cooking	Practical assessments and write up	Learning to bake chocolate chip cookies and evaluating
Hospitality	Unit 3 Continued: Kitchen Safety Legislations & KS5 Baseline Assessment	Cooking Practical
PSD	Understanding the difference between private and public.	Understand the risks of sharing personal information online.
WorkSkills BTEC	Presenation on attire which is appropriate for the workplace and job role and demonstrate attitudes and behaviours at work in line with organisational procedures	Assess own personal presentation skills for work and describe areas for improvement to personal presentation skills
P.E.	Football - developing dribbling skills	developing dribbling skills
Creative Expression	Lord of the Flies script read and improvisation.	Mask work - characterisation.
World Studies	(1) Just War - Looking at moral reasons and principles of wars	(2) Just War - Looking at moral reasons and principles of wars
Art	The influence that surrealism has had on contemporary art	The influence that surrealism has had on contemporary art
RSE 6th Form	LGBTQ+ Focus	LGBTQ+ building relationships
RSE 6th Form-Independence	LGBTQ+ Focus	LGBTQ+ focus
Independence group 1	Using a bank card and budgeting with an online bank account.	Understanding friendships.
Independence group 2	Working on personal space making healthy snacks	Working on personal space making healthy snacks

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Courtyard Celebrations



11.02.22 KS4 Star of the week

Asya for listening and independently following instructions in ICT lesson.

Charlie for constantly putting in the effort and setting an example for his peers in HC.

Daniel for applying his learning to a test in English this week and scoring high on a higher level paper.

Luke for offering to help pack the costumes and chairs away after a Creative Expression lesson and always approaching these classes with optimism and a sense of exploration.

Yigit for his focus and in improving his writing skills.

11.02.22 KS4 Star of the week

Katie for her willingness to participate in hospitality and for engaging with the cooking lesson too

Luke for producing excellent work in various subjects and for his excellent effort learning about fractions in maths

Naomi for her attitude and hard work in Science

William, Prom, Shane, Martin and **Dillon** for joining the World Studies Legends Club

Prom for his focus and in improving his writing skills.

Elshaday for being calm during ICT lessons.

Dorian for his focus and commitment to science.

11.02.22 KS5 Star of the week

Azi for meeting his SCERI targets and asking for help during tasks in English this week.

Dennis for asking a thought provoking question to Jeremy Corbyn.

Dev for their excellent effort learning about fractions in maths.

Angelina for her RSE contributions.

11.02.22 KS5 Star of the week

Keira for her excellent effort with her work experience final presentation.

Lula for excellent banana pancake making in independence.

Tyrese QB for his focus and commitment to science.

Blaise for his focus and commitment to science.

Students with the most Dojos:

James, Luke, Naomi, Dillon, Jonathan, Ian, Jack B

Keyworker with the most Dojos: Miss Nahar

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A snapshot of the last two weeks



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