

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 13th May 2022

### Macaroni Wood Residential Trip

As I write this Newsletter entry, I am sitting in the kitchen area of Macaroni Wood, surrounded by students eating their breakfast and making their packed lunches for our day trip.



It is a privilege to be able to accompany the students on our residential and witness their interactions with each other in more of a relaxed setting. They are demonstrating so much care for each other and the staff. I must have been offered at least five cups of tea already!



The students have also shown a great level of maturity and independence, hanging up their clothes from their bags, showering and brushing their teeth before bed and actually falling asleep before 11:30pm.



More photos will be shared next week, but here are a few to give you a taste of the fun we are having.

Deborah Shepherd  
Headteacher



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### SMMA: The Courtyard - Consulting on the proposal to increase published admission numbers

Yesterday you will have received an email informing you of the school's plan to increase the number of students that we will be educating.

As you may be aware, there has been an exponential increase in the number of diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition in young Islington residents. Mainstream schools are finding it increasingly difficult to support such a large number of SEN students. All of the Special Schools in Islington are full to capacity. For every single current place that the Courtyard has available for September 2022, we have received over 6 additional requests.

The vision of the Courtyard has always been to remain a small, close knit community where we interact with all students daily and recognise their individuality. This vision will not be lost with this increase.

It is important to note that we have thought very carefully about increasing our student numbers to ensure that the experience is positive for our current students. We will be increasing gradually, by an additional six students each year. We will be investing significantly in our staff body, increasing the number of adults on site, teaching, pastoral and administrative. The idea of growing to a maximum of 72 students will allow the school to strengthen and widen its curriculum offer whilst maintaining our small class sizes of no more than 8 students per class.

In order to accommodate an increase in student number, we will be acquiring the entire lower level of St David's church. I have been working with a team of talented architects to redesign the space, replicating the warm and nurturing feel of the main Courtyard site. Significant financial investment will be made to create a large communal area, a sensory room and an outside 'courtyard' garden. I am incredibly excited about these developments and look forward to sharing with you a set of drawings next week.

The thoughts and opinions of our community are incredibly important to the school and I ask that you all participate in the survey which can be found following this [link](#). We will also be hosting a face to face meeting on Tuesday 24th May, here at the Courtyard, where we will be able to answer any questions you may have about the student increase.

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## SIXTH FORM UPDATE

### TRANSITION SESSIONS FOR LEAVERS

Transition sessions for leavers will start after May half term, after the completion of exams.

Leavers will be having transition sessions at The Courtyard and will visit college again. Parents will be informed next week of how their child's transition plan is going to look like.



### MASTERCLASS

On Thursday 19th May, Naomi Chandler from Savills will be sharing her career journey with our Sixth formers.



**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.**

**WE HAVE AN AMAZING TEAM AT THE COURTYARD!**

**On Friday 20th the National Citizen Service will deliver an assembly about their summer programme.**

### **D&I WE Opportunity with WorkDay**

Angelina and Keira have completed their first WE task very successfully! The poster on the left was created by these two talented students about belonging and diversity.

The poster will be displayed at an event in a WorkDay event in London on the 9th June and also in the company's offices in London and Germany!!!!

### **Plumbing WE Opportunity with Islington Council**

Housing Property Services at Islington Council provided a fantastic day of work experience for Chloe, one of our Y11 students. The day will consist of two introductory Plumbing frames, after a short lesson in Measurement and Cutting of Copper Pipe. Chloe did a fantastic job! We all felt very proud of Chloe but most importantly, it was great to see how proud Chloe felt of herself





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## IDEAS FOR KEEPING BUSY

Hackney Shed Collective and Hackney Empire are teaming up this May half term to create a musical! This project will start with a trip to the theatre on **Wednesday**



**25<sup>th</sup> May** to see the award-winning musical Matilda! Young people will then meet up for 3 days over the May Half term to create their own musical which they will share with friends and family on the final day. You won't want to miss it!

**Dates:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Times:** 11am – 4pm

**Location:** Hackney Empire

**Ages:** 15-25years (this group focuses on young people with SEND and/or neuro-diversities, although all young people are welcome)

**Cost:** Free

If you would like to attend, please complete our online Application as soon as possible. Spaces are limited. You can complete the application by clicking on the link below:

[MATILDA THE MUSICAL APPLICATION FORM](#)

If you have any questions, please reply to this email or get in touch with Vicki at [vicki@hackneyshed.org.uk](mailto:vicki@hackneyshed.org.uk)



The Hayward is an adventure playground designed mainly for children and young people from 5 to 19 years old. It provides a secure and stimulating environment where young people have access to a

wide variety of structured and unstructured activities. It also provides a youth club for young people aged 15 to 19 years on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Young people are actively supported by qualified and experienced staff who support them in these play activities. There are a range of activities designed to engage interest and entertain young people age 15 upwards. The outside space is vast, offering a range of different areas for children and young people to explore. This includes grassed and wooded areas, a range of accessible interconnecting wooden structures, climbing walls, sports and games pitch as well as a water play area. The building includes a main hall as well as a sensory room, kitchen, office and toilets.

If you are interested in getting your child signed up for extracurricular activities or to the youth club you can contact The Hayward Adventure Playground directly on 02076070033.



### The British Transport Police Cadets

The BTP Volunteer Cadets are currently recruiting for young people from the local area to take part in a truly unique experience. A chance to work alongside Police Officers and Staff. Taking part in various schemes and projects all over London and Nationally.

- Based close to Highbury and Islington station
- Meetings are every Tuesday 6pm – 8pm
- With events during weekends, evening and throughout the holidays.
- Membership is FREE and uniform is supplied.

Activities include – Working with BTP officers, visiting specialist units within the BTP, Camping, Outdoor activities, DofE and Team building.

For More Details Please Contact:

[Cadets@btp.police.uk](mailto:Cadets@btp.police.uk)

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Or Visit our  
website



## SUMMER TERM FORTNIGHTLY SUBJECT FOCUS

Week Beginning	Mon 16th May	Mon 23rd May
<b>Maths Entry Level</b>	number, time and positional vocabulary revision	number, time and positional vocabulary revision
<b>Maths FSL1</b>	probability	probability
<b>Maths GCSE</b>	Tables and Charts - Pie Chart	Tables and Charts - Interpreting Charts
<b>English Entry</b>	Shakespeare	Film Review
<b>English FSL1</b>	Shakespeare	Film Analysis
<b>English GCSE Lang</b>	iGCSE revision	Film Study
<b>English GCSE Lit</b>	iGCSE revision	Film Study
<b>Literacy</b>	Revision: spelling and punctuation.	Grammar revision
<b>ICT Informatics</b>	x 2 coding tasks	x 2 coding tasks
<b>ICT FSL1</b>	Creating an information sheet/Form	Reply to teacher comments
<b>ICT FSL2</b>	Using VLookup formulas	Peer assessing in full sentences
<b>ICT ECDL L3 PPT</b>	Handling Graphical Objects 3.3.8 Save a graphical object as a file format like: bmp, gif, jpeg, png.	Handling Graphical Objects 3.3.9 Omit, display background graphics on a slide, slides.
<b>Science BTEC Principles</b>	Circuits	Finishing up Electricity
<b>Home Cooking</b>	Finishing write up of practical	Cooking practical: half-term treats
<b>Hospitality</b>	How to plan a nutritious meal continued	Cooking practical: half-term treats
<b>PSD</b>	Modern Medicine	First Aid
<b>WorkSkills BTEC</b>	Explain the importance of social skills in complex relationships	Understand how emotions affect social relationships
<b>P.E.</b>	Boccia - To be able to place a ball in order to block an opponent's path	Boccia - To Work as a team and create an attacking strategy within a competitive game.
<b>Creative Expression</b>	Lord of the Flies production preparation.	Lord of the Flies production preparation.
<b>World Studies</b>	Diversity - Multiculturalism (1) - London Case study	Diversity - Multiculturalism (2) London case study
<b>Art</b>	Landscapes	Landscapes
<b>RSE 6th Form</b>	Transition to College	Transition to College
<b>RSE 6th Form-Independence</b>	What to do about worry	What to do about worry
<b>Independence group 1</b>	How to use an ATM.	Personal safety whilst travelling.
<b>Independence group 2</b>	Working on personal space & road safety. To be able to make a snack independently. Using positive communication skills when engaging in conversation.	Working on personal space & road safety. To be able to make a snack independently. Using positive communication skills when engaging in conversation.

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## COURTYARD CELEBRATIONS



### KS4 Star of the week

Katie and Chloe for great focus and working independently on using the correct formulas in ICT.

Chloe for being a star and showing great excellence during her Work Experience.

Chloe for her fantastic work on special effects make up in Creative Expression.

Dillion, Ian, and Kodee for demonstrating exceptional kitchen skills by selecting and making their own dishes.

### KS4 Star of the week

Katie for engaging very well in PSD and answering lots of questions in front of the class

Dorian for showing excellent independence skills and making cupcakes at home alone.

James for excellent effort in independence this week.

Katie for great form in swimming lesson

Shane for excellent effort in revising for Maths

### KS4 SUPERSTARS of the week

John for being a superstars in English!

Chloe for being a star and showing great excellence during her Work Experience.

**Students with the most  
Dojos:**

**PROM, YIGIT & DANIEL**



**Keyworker with the  
most dojos:**

**MISS COBURN**

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## COURTYARD CELEBRATIONS



### KS5 Star of the week

Aaron for working hard to produce an amazing blossom painting

Jack B for his engagement and active participation in Sixth form master classes

El Sharief for much improved focus and effort in Maths this week

### KS5 Star of the week

Keira for great communication and sportsmanship in lesson

Azi for always trying his best in lessons and for working hard on his speaking and listening skills

Callum for excellent 'zooming in' visual analysis of street art relating to the themes of the class reader 'Illegal'.

### KS5 SCERI Stars of the week

Dev for realising that with self-confidence he can achieve a lot!

Students with the most  
Dojo points:  
**KEIRA, CALLUM,  
JACK B & AZARIAH**



### **KS5 SUPERSTARS**

Keira and Shane for being  
superstars in English!

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## SPORTS STARS



**Elsharief for great work in Boccia and performing one of the greatest shots that I have ever seen**

## SUPPORT THE COURTYARD SAILING - MR EARDLEY

Mr Eardley will be running in the Brighton Marathon to help raise money for The Courtyard.

Almost all schools in the UK have reported a lack of funding meaning there is an inability to invest in what matters for students.

Mr Eardley will donate all money raised towards a sailing trip for the students. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students and one that most of them just won't have again! Whilst on board they will participate in and learn about sailing and life on-board a boat. This will not only give them unforgettable memories, but will also provide them with a fantastic opportunity to develop their social and life skills.



We would all appreciate if you could dig as deep as you can (in these unprecedented times) and help make this dream opportunity a reality for our students, who will without a doubt be extremely grateful.

For more information on how to donate [click here!](#)



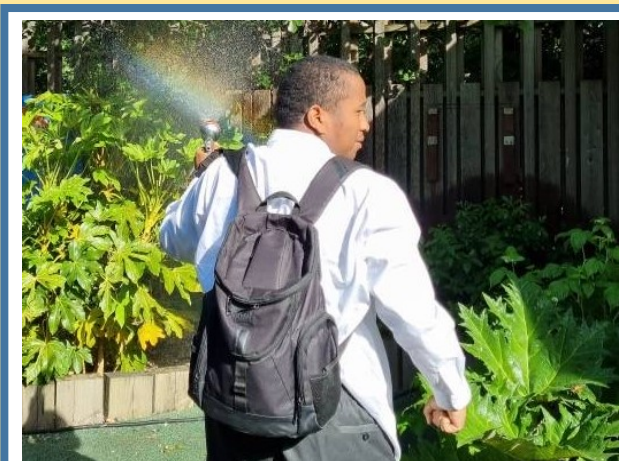
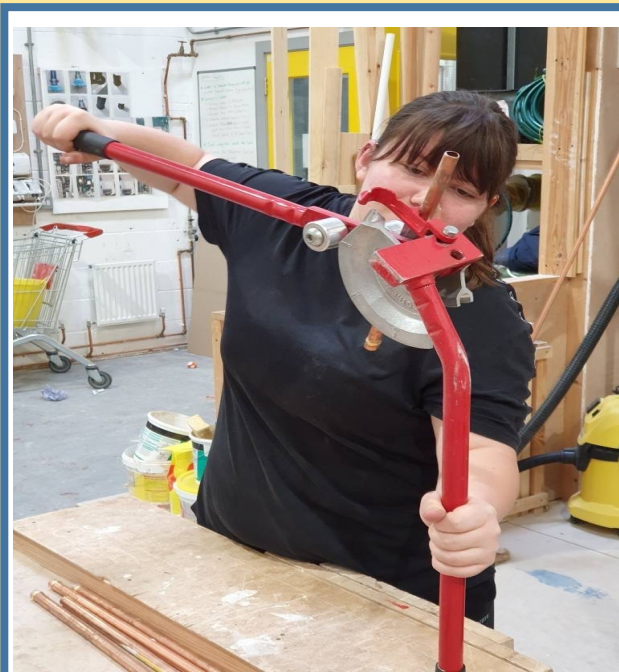
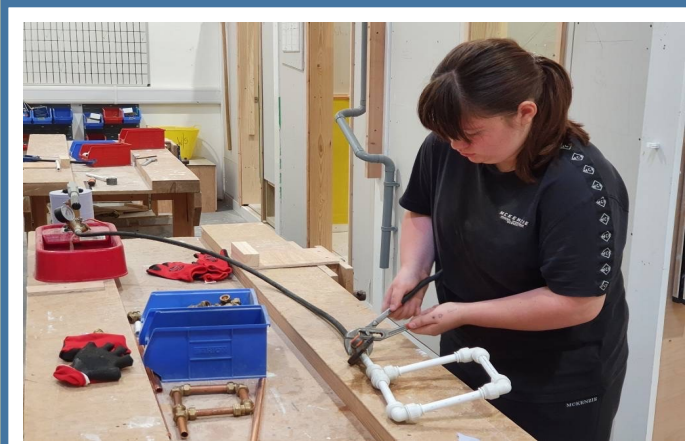


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**A SNAPSHOT OF THE LAST TWO WEEKS**





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