

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 6th January 2023

Welcome Back! And Happy New Year!



I am delighted to welcome students and families back to school for the Spring Term. The Spring Term in schools is always an exciting time. Secure friendships have established which allows students to develop their social communication skills in a safe and comfortable environment with people they trust. Students have settled into lessons and are engaging well in their learning, progressing forwards towards achieving qualifications.

This January, much like the last two previously, may pose us all with some issues regarding our health. Covid cases are on the rise again, as is the risk of contracting a cold or the flu. We are also closely watching the local situation with regards to Strep A infections.

The most effective line of defence in order to remain fit and healthy is personal hygiene and hand sanitation. We encourage all staff and students to continue to wash their hands regularly and use hand sanitiser if available. We also suggest that students bring in a pack of tissues in the event that they do need to sneeze or cough.

In previous newsletters I have written about the importance of attending school every day in order to make the maximum progress in learning. In order to do this, students need to be fit and well and able to engage. If your child is unwell with cold/flu-like symptoms or any of the symptoms associated with Strep A, please contact the school office by 8am to discuss as it may be that your child should remain at home that day to rest.

I'll sign off by wishing you all a healthy and happy weekend and I look forward to seeing all students in school on Monday morning.

Mrs Shepherd



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HOMEWORK



All parents/carers and students have been made aware that from next week, compulsory homework will recommence at the Courtyard.

The completion of homework is known to have an advantageous impact on the progress of learning for students. Homework is designed to cement the understanding of key skills and knowledge which will all the students to access high levels of learning when in school.

As a staff team, we are aware of some of the challenges that parents can experience when encouraging their children to complete homework at home. However, as we begin to prepare your children for lives as independent, successful adults, it is important for them to recognise and understand that independent learning and self-motivation to improve is a key skill that will benefit them in the workplace.

With this in mind, teachers will be setting three pieces of homework each week for English, Maths and Science. Homework will be set towards the end of each week and will be due in on the following Monday.

Completion of homework will be tracked and communication with parents will take place to help you support your children.

I thank you in advance for engaging further in your child's education.

See the next slide for some tips on how best to support.

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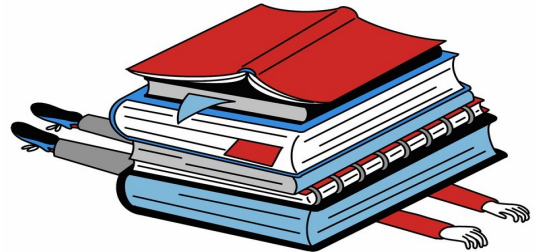
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Homework—Ten Top Tips

Here are some tips to guide the way:



1. **Know the teachers — and what they're looking for.** Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework policies and how you should be involved.
2. **Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
3. **Schedule a regular study time.** Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
4. **Help them make a plan.** On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary — and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
5. **Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)
6. **Make sure kids do their own work.** They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a kid's job to do the learning.
7. **Be a motivator and monitor.** Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
8. **Set a good example.** Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
9. **Praise their work and efforts.** Post an aced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.
10. **If there are continuing problems with homework, get help.** Talk about it with your child's teacher. Some kids have trouble seeing the board and may need glasses; others might need an evaluation for a learning problem or attention disorder.

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Parent/Carer workshops

Please note the dates and topics of the parent/carers workshops which are held virtually on Wednesday afternoons from 4pm-5pm.

Wednesdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm	Deliverer	Focus
11th January	Safeguarding - Louise Norman	Safeguarding at the Courtyard
25th January	Headteacher - Deborah Shepherd	Courtyard residential
8th February	Pastoral Team - Alison Rush/Eve Pennington	Behaviour and Safety at The Courtyard
13th - 17th February Half Term		
1st March	Independence Group Leaders - Eirinie Theodorou/Joe Lawn	The Courtyard's Independence Curriculum
15th March	Lead for Maths - Joseph Walters	Preparing for exams
29th March	Speech and Language Therapist - Claire Harvey	Speech and Language - Visual resources to support learning
3rd - 14th April Easter Holidays		
26th April	CAMHS Clinician - Will Roberts	Managing anxiety
10th May	Educational Psychologist - Laura Kelly	Emotional school based avoidance
24th May	Art Therapist - Simone Scott	Art Therapy to support emotional regulation
29th May-2nd June Half Term		
14th June	ICT Teacher - Annah Sigola	Digital footprint
28th June	Head of Careers - Elena Vidal	World of work for parents and carers: tools, advice and information

SPRING TERM FORTNIGHTLY SUBJECT FOCUS

Week Beginning	Monday 9th January 2023	Monday 16th January 2023
Maths Entry Level	Angles	2D Shape properties
Maths FSL1	Angles	Bearings
Maths GCSE	Angles	Angles
Maths Statistics	Representing and Interpreting Data	Representing Data graphically.
English and Literacy	You are a Bad Man Mr Gum	You are a Bad Man Mr Gum
English Entry Level 2	George's Marvellous Medicine	George's Marvellous Medicine
English Entry Level 3	Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes	Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
English FSL1	Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah	Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
English GCSE Lang Group 2	The message of the author	The message of the author
English GCSE Lang Group 1	Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman	Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
English GCSE Lit Group 2	Frankenstein by Mary Shelley	Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
ICT Informatics	2 x coding tasks	2 x coding tasks
ICT FSL1 & 2	Introduction to creating an online business selling a product or service	Introduction to creating an online business selling a product or service
ICT BCS/ICDL L3 PPT	7 Managing Presentations Apply timings to, remove timings from slide transitions.	Apply settings to a slide show so that it loops continuously when played, does not loop continuously when played.
ICT Entry 1-3	Introduction to Presentation Software	Presentation Software Ensuring consistency of presentation design Space 1
Science BTEC Principles	Renewable Energy	Sources of power
Science BTEC Applications	Renewable Energy	Sources of power
French	Completing 5 activities	Identifying and introducing family members
Home Cooking	Recognising salt consumption	Vitamins and Minerals
Hospitality	Introduction to Unit 3	Procedures to maintain food safety
PSD	To describe personal strengths	Be able to identify own personal development needs
P.E.	To understand ways to exercise safely	To understand and recognise exercising at different levels of intensity
Performing Arts BTEC	Technical Theatre 1	Street Car Named Desire introduction
Performing Arts	Physical Theatre	Steven Berkoff and mime
World Studies	Civil Rights Intro -Defining civilization	The patriarchy and women's rights. Suffragettes, Mary Wollenscraft - Sexism and misogyny
Art	BTEC unit 1: Lino Printing BTEC unit 3: T shirt printing BTEC unit 6: Contemporary collage practical AQA: Colours and textures in food	BTEC unit 1: Lino Printing BTEC unit 3: T shirt printing BTEC unit 6: Contemporary collage practical AQA: Primary and secondary colour chart
Independence group 1	Neurodiversity awareness: Introduction to what neurodiversity and how we are all different. Puberty: To identify the differences in physical changes between male and female puberty.	
Independence group 2	Safety in the community: To identify two safe places they could go to if they were anxious or needed help and to role play asking a safe stranger for help. Food: To create a meal plan with a varied diet. To cook a healthy dish with given ingredients and evaluate it.	