

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 October 2023

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of the first half term! Everyone is in a great routine for learning and the students at the Courtyard continue to show excellent behaviour and a great attitude to learning in all classes. Our students are a real pleasure to teach and are all very valuable members of our community!



Attendance Matters



Attendance Reminder!

Each week during Friday assembly we read out the names of the students with the highest attendance percentage. This year we want to really push students and parents to ensure that attendance is high for all pupils. Holidays in term time are discouraged. When students are absent from school, they develop gaps in their learning which can cause problems as they try to progress in their learning and development.

Pastoral Care

We want everyone involved with our school to feel supported. Our Pastoral Team have been focusing on nurturing the individual needs of each student. They have successfully built trusting and empathic relationships with all our pupils and families.

Pastoral care underpins personal development and we know from experience that with outstanding pastoral care, students feel they belong and their self-esteem is able to flourish because they feel valued and cared for. If you would like our Pastoral Team to further support your child, please call the main office. We hope that by working together with parent/carers our students can lead fulfilling and balanced lives at school and beyond.

PASTORAL CARE

Nurturing happy, healthy
and successful learners



Have a wonderful, restful half term break and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 30th October.

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Student WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience placements are a great way of introducing our students to the world of work and helping them explore different career options. We aim to equip our students with the life skills and tools needed to support them in making decisions for their future and where they aspire to be upon leaving The Courtyard.

After a successful first half of the Autumn Term here are a few snap shots of our students taking part in their allocated work experience:



JACK PETCHEY AWARD FOUNDATION

Students said: Angelina is always kind and friendly. She makes new students feel welcome.

Staff said: Angelina works hard in lessons and completes her homework. She is kind and considerate to others and is a role model for younger students.



WELL DONE ANGELINA!

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During this first half term the School Council for this academic year was elected. Students worked independently on speeches to put themselves forward for the council and to explain why they would be good members of the council. The whole school participated in the election and we have a fantastic group of students representing the student voice!

The school council meets every Thursday to discuss issues and upcoming events. This half term we have discussed how to adapt to the new premises at Saint Davids, brainstormed ideas for the Jack Petchey award and put forward ideas for new events that the students can take part in.

Next half term, we will focus on creating solutions for any issues that are discussed or brought forward by students. The council will be writing articles, editing features and collating students' writing across the whole school that will contribute to the School Magazine. The School Council will be instrumental in organising the Christmas party at the end of term to ensure their fellow students can celebrate in style and have lots of fun!

We are very impressed and proud of the effort and respect shown in School Council meetings this half term; the students are responsible, fair and articulate themselves brilliantly. The School Council has established a positive and effective communication between staff and students that benefits everyone. Well done to the following students for making it to our school council panel for this academic year:

Luke W

Emma

Queenie

Yasin

Bobby

Charlie

Daniel K

Destiny

Dorian

Elliot T

AUTUMN TERM FORTNIGHTLY SUBJECT FOCUS

Week Beginning	Monday 30th October 2023	Monday 6th November 2023
Maths Entry Level	Operations	Operations
Maths FSL1	Proportion	Ratio
Maths GCSE	Probability	Probability
Maths Statistics	Ways to Collect Data	Interpreting Data
English Entry Level SBL	Autobiographies	Autobiographies
English Entry Level EPA	Analyse characters from the story.	Expand vocabulary through the text.
English FSL1	Creative Writing Assessment Editing	Purpose, Form and Audience
English GCSE Lang Group 1	Genre and Narrative Writing: The Mystery Genre	Genre and Narrative Writing: The Mystery Genre
English GCSE Lit	Macbeth	Macbeth
ICT FSL1	Evaluating posters for various forms of media (games, movies, events) and	Evaluating posters for various forms of media (games, movies, events) and analysing
ICT FSL2	Evaluating posters for various forms of media (games, movies, events) and analysing their effectiveness.	Evaluating posters for various forms of media (games, movies, events) and analysing their effectiveness.
Science BTEC	Physical and Chemical Properties	Uses of Substances
Science GCSE	Biological Molecules	Enzymes
Science Entry Level 3	Reflex Arc	Evolution
French	Revision of all learnt	Assessment week
Home Cooking	Knife skills	Practical lesson. Making soup
Hospitality	Identifying working skills needed to work effectively	Practical lesson. Making soup
PSD	To understand the importance of money	To understand methods of payment that
Workskills BTEC	Planning and Learning from Work Experience - Continuing work experience placements and work experience journals: Journals will be discussing their reflections - including - daily activities, skills developed, co-workers and networking opportunities, highlights of the placement, lessons learned, challenges	Planning and Learning from Work Experience - Continuing work experience placements and work experience journals: Journals will be discussing their reflections - including - daily activities, skills developed, co-workers and networking opportunities, highlights of the placement, lessons learned, challenges and solutions, describ-
P.E.	Lead a healthy lifestyle.	Contribute to own healthy lifestyle
Music Tech	Time signature	Independent work on Soundtrap - creating a beat.
Drama	The voice - volume.	Demonstrating vocal technique with a script.
World Studies	Elizabethan Entertainment and Food	Elizabethan Crime - Murder Mystery
Art	Creating artwork in the style of an artist	Creating artwork based on artist style in theme of 'places'
Independence group 1	Food: Making a simple meal	
Independence group 2	PSHE – Self Care/ Personal Hygiene	
Independence group 3	Safety in the community – Travelling safely on the bus	
	Work experience - Work skills (dressing, time management, social communication)	

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Courtyard Celebrations



KS4 Star of the week

Josh for always being so polite and working hard designing a poster in Gardening Club.

Jaylen for his contributions and fantastic knowledge of literary techniques in English.

Sofia and Josh for their great work in Home Cooking

Elliot M for making a great start with his Gothic Story in English

Khaleel for his excellent work at halving quadruple digit numbers.

Dean for working incredibly hard in his math's lesson

Marcus for being able to regulate himself in lessons and following instructions accordingly during Math's and in PE.

Harry, Elliott T, and Emma for excellent work in French.

Jack N for his consistent effort in the independence cooking lessons.

Naomi - English Star of the Week - for always engaging in class discussion, applying feedback to her work and improving her analytical writing every lesson.

Luke W for taking his role as chairman of school council seriously. Keep up the good work, chairman.

Te'Asia for following instructions, great focus and positive attitude to work in ICT.

Joshua for his participation and fantastic questioning during work experience.

KS4 SCERI Star of the week

Fawaz for being able to apply strategies independently and appropriately to regulate himself when dysregulated.

Elliot M for asking to take a break to regulate

Hayden for communicating his targets in Keyworker

Josh for kindly supporting new pupils in PSD

Harry for responding maturely to yellow-zone situations.

Te'asia for engaging well with our art intervention lesson and helping out by writing on the board for other students to work from.

Asher for being able to regulate and work well independently.

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Courtyard Celebrations



KS5 Star of the week

Piper for her amazing work researching posters and for using the task board to complete work in ICT.

Prom getting an excellent start on his Soundtrap song

Katie for helping Daniel T with making his games on Roblox.

Eden and Ian for their amazing work in Hospitality

Sam for his brilliant work on prime numbers

Jack B for his brilliant work on fraction operations

Queenie for her excellent participation in Maths towards the end of term.

Prom for his evaluation of why older movie posters is better than modern ones

Luke JM for excellent work on direct proportion

Ian, Sam, Eden, Daniel K and Keira for excellent work in French.

Prom for creating a brilliant mood board in work experience and communicating his future goals to the class.

Queenie for thinking of emotional regulation strategies whilst in the yellow zone and then using them to calm herself back into the green.

KS5 SCERI Star of the week

Queenie for always offering to tidy up after the lesson

Destiny for her enthusiasm and impressive contributions to World Studies discussions on Monday

Eden for offering to tidy up in the kitchen

Keira for helping Dean to regulate back into his green zone

Queenie for encouraging Elshaday to regulate

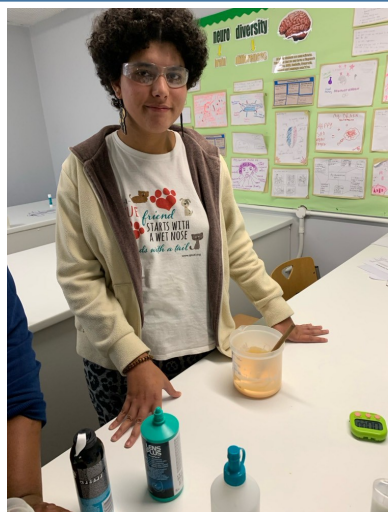
Yasin for eloquently communicating his feelings about PBS in School Council

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SNAPSHOTS FROM THE LAST TWO WEEKS



HOPE YOU ALL HAVE AN AMAZING HALF TERM BREAK!