

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 17 March 2023**

### **Headteacher Update**

**Ms Norman**

Thank you to all parents, carers and students who have shared their best wishes for Ms Norman whilst she recovers from an unexpected illness. I am delighted to say that she is responding very well to treatment however she will be resting and recuperating at home for a few more weeks.

As we all know, communication between home and school is crucial to ensuring that the students receive the best possible support in school. With this in mind, I can not stress enough the importance of letting us know if your child has had a bad night's sleep or is dysregulated/anxious about an issue PRIOR to them arriving at school. This will allow Mrs Rush to deploy her Pastoral Team in advance as opposed to reacting to a situation without all of the information needed.

Staff are onsite from 7:30am each morning. Please use this time to share information or your concerns.

### **Breakfast Club**

The school runs a breakfast club for ALL students, from 8am Monday to Thursday. Attendance at breakfast club is free. Students are supported to cook a range of breakfast meals, increasing their independence and kitchen safety skills. Students can also use this time to complete homework.

Please let the office know if you would like your child to attend.

### **INSET Day—CHANGE—Monday 17th April 2023**

Please note a change to our previously published term dates.

Friday 31st March at 12:30pm—End of Spring Term  
Monday 17th April—INSET Day—No students in school  
Tuesday 18th April—Start of Summer Term  
Monday 1st May—May Day Bank Holiday—School is closed  
Monday 8th May—King Charles coronation—School is closed  
Thursday 11th May—School Residential—Macaroni Wood  
Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June—Summer Half Term  
Friday 23rd June—INSET Day—No students in school  
Friday 14th July at 12:30pm—End of Summer Term

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### School Residential to Macaroni Wood from 11th April—14th April 2023

Student numbers for the residential are almost at the maximum but we do still have a few places available. Please discuss with your child if they would like to attend. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience time in the countryside with their friends.

#### Key information

- **Location:** Eastleach, Gloucestershire
  - **Transport:** Private hire coach
- **Accommodation:** Exclusive use of two fully functioning houses with single, double and multi-bed rooms
- **Activities:** Wood Walks, Forest School, Cotswold Wildlife Park or Cotswold Water Park— TBC
  - **Cost:** £220

Please contact the school office if you would like to discuss further.



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## 6th Form Update



### National Careers Week 6th-10th March

As part of the National Careers Week, the Sixth form team organised a keyworker session on Tuesday the 7th about Careers (learning about different jobs, industries, and choosing a careers) and on Thursday the 9th, two amazing autistic people came to The Courtyard last Thursday to inspire our young people by sharing their career journeys and views about life. Both were incredibly honest, self-reflective and encouraged our YP to be brave and pursue their dreams.



“Never give up!

Work hard and keep on fighting, striving and learning. Do your best. That is all anybody can do. It turns out that surprisingly often simply doing your best is enough to succeed” by Lars Backstrom

Thank you very much, Lars Backstrom from Auticon UK and Elijah from AFK Working with Disability for boosting our YP’s confidence and self-esteem.

In the afternoon, students went to the Emirates Stadium for a careers workshop with Arsenal. Students were introduced to careers in coaching with a colleague sharing their experiences as a coach and Q&A, they had a practical coach education session with Level 2 sports students and Q&A with Level 2 sports students.

This week we celebrated **Neurodiversity Celebration Week**, and even though we do an amazing job every day at The Courtyard at celebrating the strengths and talents of our young people, we wanted to run some special workshops in order to support our students understand their neurodiversity better and boost their self-esteem and confidence levels.

On Wednesday 15th March, Billy Chandler and Elena Vidal delivered a session about Neurodiversity awareness, an autistic Software engineer from Reach, who also has ADHD delivered an inspirational masterclass about journey, and staff members supported and delivered other sessions about neurodiversity strengths and neurodiversity work passports. Students did an amazing job!



If you would like to learn more about neurodiversity, please take a look at these [fantastic events](#) . All events are free of charge and open to all. Please sign up to as many events as you like, let's join together in celebrating different minds.



## SPRING TERM FORTNIGHTLY SUBJECT FOCUS

Week Beginning	Monday 20th March	Monday 27th March
<b>Maths Entry Level</b>	Time	Time
<b>Maths FSL1</b>	Introduction to algebra	Introduction to algebra
<b>Maths GCSE</b>	Transformations	Transformations
<b>Maths Statistics</b>	Correlation and line of best fit	Spearman's Rank Correlation
<b>English and Literacy</b>	You are a Bad Man Mr Gum	You are a Bad Man Mr Gum
<b>English Entry Level 2</b>	George's Marvelous Medicine- Speaking and Listening	Speaking and Listening Assessments
<b>English Entry Level 3</b>	Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes - Speaking and Listening	Speaking and Listening Assessments
<b>English FSL1</b>	Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah - Speaking and Listening	Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah - Speaking and Listening
<b>English GCSE Lang Group 2</b>	Mock Practice	Mock Practice
<b>English GCSE Lang-Group1</b>	Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman	Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
<b>English GCSE Lit Group 2</b>	Frankenstein	Frankenstein
<b>ICT Informatics</b>	2 x coding tasks	2 x coding tasks
<b>ICT FSL1 &amp; 2</b>	Some students to do FSL1/2 Exams	Teacher feedback & reply to teacher comments
<b>ICT Entry 1-3</b>	Some students to do Entry 3 Exams	Teacher feedback & reply to teacher comments
<b>Science BTEC Principles</b>	Genetics and the environment	Assignment
<b>Science BTEC Applications</b>	The History of the Periodic Table, Using the Periodic Table	Groups vs Periods, Metals vs Non-Metals, Locating Elements and Properties
<b>Science Entry Level</b>	The History of the Periodic Table, Using the Periodic Table	Groups vs Periods, Metals vs Non-Metals, Locating Elements and Properties
<b>French</b>	Revision	End of term assessment
<b>Home Cooking</b>	Food Choices; food from different cultures.	Practical lesson / End of term assessment
<b>Hospitality</b>	Safety signs information and documentation used in business.	Practical lesson / End of term assessment
<b>PSD</b>	review Community Project	review Community Project
<b>P.E.</b>	To increase the length of time punching and the consistency of the punching so that you all hit with the knuckles for a minute.	To be assessed on key skills for end of Non-Contact Boxing assessment.
<b>Performing Arts BTEC</b>	Brecht Alienation techniques and Epic Theatre	Brecht Alienation techniques and Epic Theatre
<b>Performing Arts</b>	Shakespeare Comedy: Love's Labor's Lost	Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream
<b>World Studies</b>	Civics Pt. 3: Capital and Labour - trade unions, strike, workers rights, exploitation, stockholders, public vs private, corporations	Civics Pt. 4: War and anti-war - Ideology, diplomacy, defense, isolationism, intervention
<b>Art</b>	BTEC Unit 1: Final piece evaluation BTEC Unit 6: Final piece evaluation BTEC Unit 3: Final piece evaluation AQA: Pointillism	BTEC Unit 1: Presenting unit work to class BTEC Unit 6: Presenting unit work to class BTEC Unit 3: Presenting unit work to class AQA: Final piece
<b>Independence group 1</b>	<b>Public Transport:</b> To be able to take the bus and go to the shop independently and safely. <b>PSHE:</b> To be able to identify, understand and conduct different types of relationships.	
<b>Independence group 2</b>	<b>Food:</b> To understand the diverse range of foods, trying new foods, planning and preparing meals safely and independently. <b>Social communication/ neurodiversity:</b> To understand how to go to the shop safely and independently .	

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## COURTYARD CELEBRATIONS



### KS4 Star of the week

Dillon for his great effort in Maths

Yigit and Luke J for their sheer determination & focus throughout work experience

Naomi for her focusing and engagement when creating the poster about neurodiversity strengths

James for creating an imaginative forest design in drama

### KS4 Star of the week

Destiny for working really hard and getting almost full marks on her maths assessment

Harry for confident and fluent reading in English

Kodee for sustained focus in literacy and asking great, insightful questions

Asher asking great questions at London Metropolitan Archives

### KS4 SCERI Stars of the week

Elliott for being able to communicate when he is dysregulated and applied strategies to regulate himself by drawing.

James for independently using an exercise book to draw and regulate with

Amira for being very kind with Naomi, telling her how beautiful she is.

**Students with the most  
dojo points:**

Yasin



### **SPORTS STARS:**

Ian, Elliott and Kodee for great effort and team working during boxing.

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## COURTYARD CELEBRATIONS



### KS5 Star of the week

John for working meticulously on his map in art

Asya for brilliant work in maths

Dorian for his excellent questions at the London Metropolitan Archives

### KS5 Star of the week

Katie for engaging in school and learning

Dorian for his excellent questions at the London Metropolitan Archives

Asya for brilliant work on creative day

Dorian for fantastic enthusiasm and singing in the singing session

### KS5 SCERI Stars of the week

Tyrese for their sheer determination and focus throughout their work experience

Elshaday for discovering that bubble writing helps him to self-regulate



### **Keyworker with the most dojos:**

Mr Zagozda

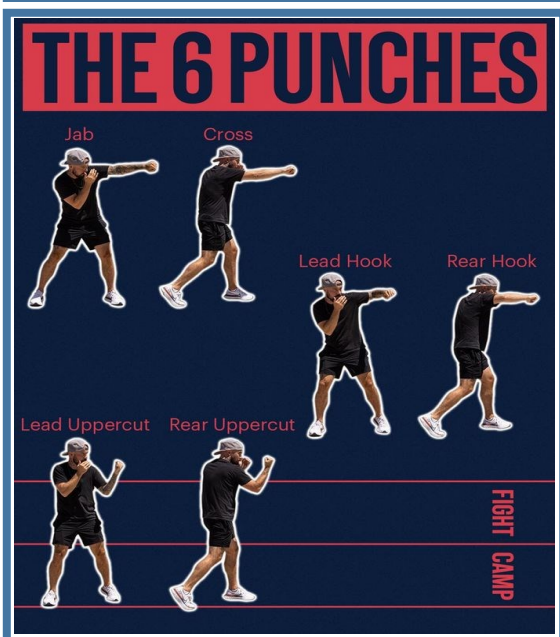
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## SPORTS NEWS

### BOXING THAT COULD BE DONE AT HOME



Here are the seven top punching combinations in boxing that help boxers gain an advantage and win their fights:

Jab-Cross (1-2)

Jab-Jab-Cross (1-1-2)

Jab-Cross-Hook Cross (1-2-3-2)

Cross-Left Hook-Cross (2-3-2)

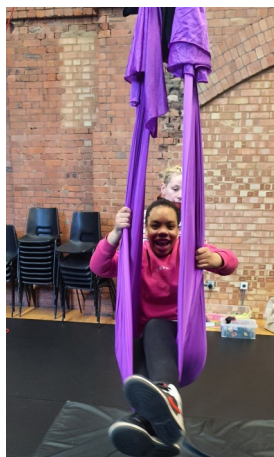
Jab-Cross-Left Uppercut-Cross (1-2-5-2)

Right Uppercut-Left Hook (6-3)

Jab-Cross-Hook (1-2-3)

### CIRCUIT SKILLS WORKSHOP

Students have taking part in a circus skills workshop which was held at the National Centre for Circus. Students did a great job getting involved and trying new experience from juggling hats, walking ball to acrobatics.



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## A SNAPSHOT OF THE LAST TWO WEEKS

