

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 Weekly Newsletter - Friday 17 December 2021**

### **COVID-19 Update**

These last few weeks, as the concern level has risen and the cases in our local community have increased, I have been so thankful to all of you for your diligence in meeting the safety guidelines, that we have largely come through unscathed. A few members of our extended community have contracted the virus and my very best wishes go out to them for a rapid recovery. Thankfully, we have been able to see out the end of the term and enjoy the Christmas festivities.

I wish you all a restful and healthy Christmas break. I ask you all to continue to follow the government's guidelines and remain safe during this time.

When we return on Tuesday 4th January, all staff and pupils will be asked to participate in an on-site Lateral Flow test.

Please follow the link [here](#) to complete the Consent Form. Note that those 16 or over must consent to the test themselves.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your commitment to your child's education and the Courtyard provision. The success that the pupils have achieved this year is testament to your efforts.

### **Christmas Festivities**

The pupils have participated in a range of Christmas related activities to engage and motivate them when all of our energy levels are depleting.

Activities have included an Ice-Skating reward trip, a tour of the Emirates Stadium, Animation Workshops, a Christmas Art competition, a Christmas dinner and our fabulous Carol sing-along. Please see the photos and images on the following pages for a small insight into the fun that we have had. Detailed write ups can be found on the school website.

### **Dates for the diary**

**Tuesday 4th January 2022—Return to school—8:55am—Lateral Flow Tests**

**Friday 11th February 2022—Additional Public Holiday to honour the Queen's Diamond Jubilee—NO SCHOOL ON THIS DAY**

**Monday 14th—Friday 18th February 2022—Half term**

**Monday 21st February—Back to school**

**Friday 1st April 2022—End of Spring Term—school finishes at 12:30pm**

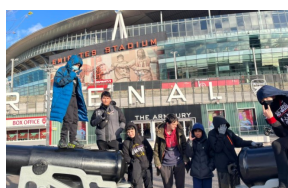
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## December Festivities

### Emirates Tour



### Animation Workshop



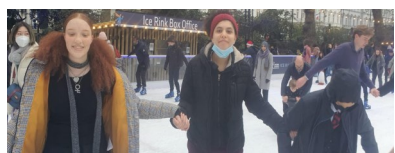
### Christmas Dinner



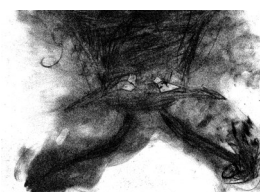
### Carol Sing-along



### Ice-Skating



### Christmas Art Competition



LIZ



JACK B



MAX



YIGIT

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## Teaching and Learning update



### Parent Survey Results

Thank you to all those who completed the parent survey. Your opinions, along with those of the pupils, are hugely important to us as teachers as we continue to develop and improve our curriculum offer.

The full survey can be found on the school website but here are some highlights:

94.1% agree or strongly agree that their child feels safe coming to school

88.2% agree or strongly agree that their child is making good progress in their studies

100% agree or strongly agree that the school expects their child to work hard and achieve their best.

94.1% agree or strongly agree that their child is making good progress because the teaching is good

100% agree or strongly agree that behaviour is managed appropriately at the Courtyard

100% agree or strongly agree that their child is happy and well looked after at the Courtyard

100% agree or strongly agree that the Courtyard is well led and managed

100% agree or strongly agree that they feel comfortable approaching the school with questions or concerns

94.1% agree or strongly agree that the school keeps parents well informed

## Parent Workshops

Thank you again to all who attended the workshop on Wednesday about the Maths Curriculum led by Fajri Aitken

The recordings for that workshop are now available.

**PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO ACCESS THE DOCUMENT WITH ALL THE RECORDINGS AVAILABLE SO FAR.**

A reminder that the next workshop on the 12th January will be led by Mrs Shepherd.

The topic will be the Courtyard Residential Trip to Macaroni Wood.

12th January	Deborah Shepherd	Courtyard residential
26th January	Pastoral Team—Alison Rush and Louise Norman	Behaviour and Safety at the Courtyard
9th February	ICT Teacher—Annah Sigola	Safer internet Day 2022

### 14th-18th February Half Term

2nd March	Head of 6th form—Elena Vidal	World of work for parents and carers: tools, advice and information
16th March	Nilesh Bhudia (CEO Temptations) & Elena Vidal	An employer's perspective: work experience / paid job
30th March	Centre 404	The Centre 404 service for young people with Autism

### 4-18th April Easter Holidays

27th April	Art Therapist—Simone Scott	Art Therapy at the Courtyard
11th May	CAMHS Clinician	CAMHS—Managing Anxiety

### 30th May—3rd June Half Term

15th June	Islington Progression to Adulthood	Progression to Adulthood service in Islington
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**Celebrations this week**

**Behaviour and Safety**



**KS4 Star of the Week**

**Yigit** for attempting to Cypher an encryption in Informatics Course

**Will** for working really hard in science this week.

**Yigit and Amy** for being spectacular helpers for the Christmas Party

Kodee for always using lovely manners and being polite.

**Dillon** for all his wonderful help with the Christmas party

**Naomi** for her brave and positive attitude to ice skating

**KS5 Star of the Week**

**Jack B** for passing his FSL2 in ICT

**Fred** for excellent analytical writing and knowledge of An Inspector Calls

**Amy** for all their wonderful help with the Christmas party

**Keira** for working on her artwork in her free time

**Amy** for helping Mrs Rush with PPT for assembly

**Charlie** for getting to know new students and being supportive

**Blaise** for completing all stages coding independently

**Keira** for being really focused with her work and completing her ILTs

Most Dojo points this week		Bronze – 250 points		Silver – 500 points	Gold – 750 points	Platinum – 1000 points
WILLIAM	33	ANGELINA	448			
KEIRA	30	DORIAN	442			
AYMENE	27	PROM	435			
AMY	26	AYMENE	432			
SHANE	26	XAUNDRE	423			
ELSHADAY	23	FRED	407			
		WILLIAM	405			
		JACK B	398			
		DILLON	365			
		CHARLIE	345			
		JOHN	329			
		IAN	323			
		KEIRA	319			
		TYRESE QB	316			
		KODEE	316			
		ELSHARIEF	313			
		AZARIAH	304			
		DEV	297			
		HENRY	295			
		CALLUM	285			
		BLAISE	283			
		RUBY	283			
		LULA	279			
		NAOMI	271			

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## 6th form update



This autumn term The Courtyard has offered 9 different work experience placements to some Y11 students and Sixth formers. It has been a success and this is due to the effort students have put into each task each week and how well students have been supported by our wonderful staff! It's important to say that all employers that we are working with are receiving our Autism Awareness training and becoming Autism Friendly Employers! Our employers are: Dorset County Hospital, Freightliners City Farm, SoapBox, Multiplex, Sir Robert McAlpine, Evoko-Formula 1, The Garden Classroom, WorkDay & The University of Oxford.

These meaningful WE projects are having a very positive impact on our students (i.e. self-esteem, confidence, attendance, motivation towards learning) and also on the employers, as they are realising that autism is really a competitive advantage. Having more Autism Friendly employers benefits both the employer and the young person.

Two examples of this, WorkDay invited two students to deliver a presentation to their entire marketing team based in EMEA on the 14th December. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students to develop confidence, public speaking and presentation skills, and it was also hugely inspirational for their wider marketing team. Another example, our student's contribution to the world of FAIRsharing with Oxford E-Research Centre, University of Oxford. Please see below some examples of the fantastic work that students produced.

### Christmas card by Jack and Liz.

WorkDay has sent it out to all employees and clients globally!!!



Jack's final thoughts on my work experience with WorkDay: JACK:  
My final thoughts were that workday are an amazing company, their employees are very friendly, kind, nice, understanding and calm. I enjoyed all the tasks they gave us and working with them was an absolute pleasure! From the Christmas card to the board game concept it was challenging but fun at the same time and I learnt quite a lot about managing your work and how to properly set goals for tasks as well as how important it is to communicate with your team, Thank you so much.

*On the holidays, noses shimmer from cold weather.  
Presents, offerings, hugs & makeshift dinners.  
On the holidays, eyes glimmer and shine with excitement.  
Anticipation, on the night before a Winter's morning, aligned  
with a familiar brew of chocolate warming. Enough to make  
anyone grin from ear to ear.  
Community, you can find. In a room full of people, reminded  
about how life once was.  
And can be again.  
On the holidays, there is only love, happiness, and embrace.  
Moments that you know can never be replaced. Every holiday is  
different, worth all the hassle & stress that can come whilst  
worrying about gifts & affection.  
On the holidays, there is only perfection.*

Liz's final thoughts. My overall experience with Workday felt adequate and triumphant because the tasks that we were assigned were accurate and fitting to both of our skills. Our strengths had time and preparation to improve and I enjoyed the art of writing in Task 1. I'm cheerful that I had a partner to prosper in Task 2 with. Regarding the second task, time to grow in planning and developments felt ample. It makes sense that it was a team and not a one man army. I'm eternally grateful for this Workday project and having an ally for both tasks! I'll never forget it.

Oxford e-Research Centre



**Virtual work placement gives a secondary school pupil the opportunity to contribute to the work of FAIRsharing**



Blaise was featured in an article by Oxford e-Research Centre, University of Oxford!!! Blaise has been providing his critical thinking skills and giving researchers opinions on a number of new microbiology-related resources he had discovered in his searches in the last weeks. As a result of his work they now have 10 candidates for adding to FAIRsharing, and 4 which he and I have discounted as being inappropriate for FAIRsharing! Brilliant work Blaise!

Click on the link below to read the article

<https://oerc.ox.ac.uk/news/virtual-work-placement-gives-a-secondary-school-pupil-the-opportunity-to-contribute-to-the-work-of-fairsharing/>

**MULTIPLEX**



During the last WE session, Max, Dev, Xaundre, Callum, Aymene and ElSharief worked really well with three members of Multiplex construction team. Multiplex explained to the students the fundamental aspects of construction and gave them an overview of how everything fits together. The practical activity was building a bridge from paper and sellotape to hold a number of books (to showcase engineering and how this is built into construction). It can definitely be done! Our students did it!!

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A snapshot of other brilliant work experience placements that have been taken place this Autumn term



**Sir Robert  
McALPINE**



## SPRING TERM: Subject Focus

Maths Entry Level	Metric measures of weight, length and capacity
Maths FSL1	Converting measurements of weight, length and capacity
Maths GCSE	Probability
English Entry Level	Analysing literature: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
English FSL1	Analysing literature: Stone Cold
English GCSE Lang	Analysing literature and exam technique: Boy's don't cry
English GCSE Lit	Analysing literature: A Christmas Carol
ICT Informatics	Coding
ICT FSL1	Features of a Spreadsheet
ICT FSL2	My Business Empire: Spreadsheets
ICT ECDL L3 PPT	Presentation planning and Design considerations
Science BTEC Principles	Bacterial and Viral Diseases
Science BTEC Applications	Antifungals, Antibacterials, Antibiotics and Analgesic Treatments
Home Cooking	Ways to economise
Hospitality	Food Safety Hygiene
PSD	Feeling frightened or worried
WorkSkills BTEC	Presenting a Professional Image at Work
P.E.	Fitness: Circuit training
Creative Expression	Drama: Script work
World Studies	Nationalism
Art	Introduction to Typography
RSE 6th Form	Healthy / Unhealthy relationships
Independence group 1	Healthy Eating / The nature of friendships
Independence group 2	Kitchen hygiene / Healthy Eating