

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 September 2021

### Headteachers Notice

#### Welcome Back

It is absolutely fantastic to be back together again in school. Established pupils have returned motivated to engage in their learning and make friends. New pupils have arrived and immersed themselves in Courtyard life. Staff have returned rested and excited about their teaching. There is an incredibly positive vibe in the school at the moment. Long may it continue!

A huge thank you to all parents/carers who have supported their children to adjust to the early mornings. The pupil's punctuality and attendance is generally very good although there's still a few sleepy late arrivals. Please can I ask that you continue to support your child with a positive bedtime routine.

#### Covid Update

As mentioned in previous correspondence, the Courtyard will be continuing with it's Covid Lateral Flow Response Testing in school each week. Pupils will be asked to test once a week, Staff will test twice a week. This allows us to monitor any asymptomatic cases that could arise. I am pleased to inform you that we have had no positive cases since returning this term. Thank you to all for playing your part in keeping our wider school community safe and well.

#### Covid Vaccinations

I'm sure you have seen in the local and national press that the government is inviting all over 16's for their first Covid vaccination.

If your child/young person has not yet had their first jab and would like to, you can access a number of walk-in centres across Islington. Please see the poster for more information.

**Get the Covid-19 vaccination near you**

WE ARE ISLINGTON

Walk-in appointments for first or second jabs on offer at sites across Islington.

To see where you can get the jab without an appointment, scan the QR code.

For more info, go to [islington.gov.uk/covid-vaccinations](https://islington.gov.uk/covid-vaccinations) or call We are Islington on 020 7527 8222. Minicom 020 7527 1900.

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**

### Developing friendships outside of school

Many parents have reached out to us recently with their concerns regarding positive and safe friendships outside of school.

Please see below two posters detailing information of group sessions run by Family Action and Islington SENDIAS. If you would like further information, please email Sasha Mattock—[sasha.mattock@family-action.org.uk](mailto:sasha.mattock@family-action.org.uk)



Building stronger families  
150 years



Islington SENDIAS  
Important Information, Advice and Support in IS10

### Young Adults Group age 16-25

*When?* Tuesdays @ 4.30pm-5.30pm  
*Where?* On zoom  
*What?* Games, making friends, wellbeing, sign language, listen to others and share experiences and thoughts, non-judgemental space.  
*Who?* Up to eight people aged 16-25 who need our help (mental health, learning need)

Get in contact with Sasha Mattock to book a place or ask for more information

 [Sasha.mattock@family-action.org.uk](mailto:Sasha.mattock@family-action.org.uk)  
 07976 199 916



Building stronger families  
150 years



Islington SENDIAS  
Important Information, Advice and Support in IS10

### Young Persons group age 7-15

*When?* Wednesdays @4.30pm-5.30pm  
*Where?* On zoom  
*What?* Games, critical thinking, puzzles, making friends, wellbeing  
*Who?* 7-15 year olds with a special educational need

Get in contact with Sasha Mattock to book a place

 [Sasha.mattock@family-action.org.uk](mailto:Sasha.mattock@family-action.org.uk)  
 07976 199 916

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**

Celebrations this week

**Behaviour and Safety** 06/09/21



**KS4 Star of the Week**

**Cory H** for trying hard in his first ICT assessment  
**Ian** for brilliant coaching and support of another pupil playing table tennis  
**Naomi** for concentrating really well in art lessons  
**Maddy** for making kind conversation with other students  
**Kodee** for his mature approach in lesson and being a good role model to his peers  
**Nevan** - for showing excellent improvisation skills in selling a pen

**KS5 Star of the Week**

**Jack B** for his positive attitude to a new academic year and being a good role model to others  
**Max** for his mature questions about the careers programme and for showing a real interest in doing work experience  
**Amy S** for independently getting on with her ICT assessment  
**Lula** for working hard on her Maths test  
**Dev** for great work in English

Most Dojo points this week		Bronze – 500 points		Silver – 100 points		Gold – 1500 points		Platinum – 2000 points	
DILLION	49								
PROM	44								
YIGIT	43								
KODEE	37								
DANIEL	34								
WILLIAM	30								
AYMENE	30								



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**

## Teaching and Learning update



A warm welcome back to Teaching and Learning at The Courtyard!

All pupils have settled back into the routine of school and their learning quickly. Well done all!

Teachers have been conducting baseline assessments over the last 2 weeks to ascertain levels of learning and identifying areas to focus on to ensure maximum learning and progression. These levels will form the benchmark against which progress will be measuring over the coming terms in each end of term assessment.

I am in the process of creating individual pupil qualification records which indicate any qualifications already passed at The Courtyard and what qualifications pupils are working towards. These will be shared with you and your child in the coming days. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

We had great success in pupils passing qualifications last year, despite the disruption caused by the pandemic. This is testament to the dedication of our teachers and the support of parents and carers to your children.

Our Maths and Statistics GCSE pass rate was 100%

Our English GCSE pass rate was 78%

Our whole school Maths pass rate, including Functional Skills was 75%

Our whole school English pass rate, including Functional Skills was 80%

Our whole school ICT pass rate, including Functional Skills and the ICDL L3 was 88%

Our overall BTEC pass rate of Art, Home Cooking, Hospitality, Science and WorkSkills was 96%

We feel confident that this coming year will be another filled with success!

## Parent Workshops

Parent Workshops will continue this year. A new programme for the year has been put together. They will be held on Wednesdays at 4pm on Zoom with the recording of the session shared in these newsletters.



Wednesdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm	Deliverer	Focus
29th September	Deputy for Teaching and Learning - Katherine Healy	Teaching and Learning at The Courtyard
13th October	Deputy for Pastoral - Louise Norman	New Pupils Settling In Review
<b>20-29th October Half Term</b>		
10th November	Speech and Language Therapist - Claire Harvey	Speech and Language - Comic strip conversations
24th November	Lead for Maths - Fajri Aitken	Maths at The Courtyard
8th December	Independence Group Lead - Hannah Lucas	The Courtyard's Independence Curriculum
<b>20th December-3rd January Christmas Holidays</b>		
12th January	Headteacher - Deborah Shepherd	Courtyard residential
26th January	Pastoral Team - Louise Norman and Alison Rush	Behaviour and Safety at The Courtyard
9th February	ICT Teacher - Annah Sigola	Safer Internet Day 2022
<b>14-18th February Half Term</b>		
2nd March	Head of Sixth Form - Elena Vidal	World of work for parents and carers: tools, advice and information
16th March	Nilesh Bhudia (CEO Temptations) & Elena Vidal (Head of Sixth Form)	An employer's perspective: work experience/ paid job
30th March	Centre 404	The Centre 404 service for young people with Autism
<b>4-18th April Easter Holidays</b>		
27th April	Art Therapist - Simone Scott	Art Therapy at The Courtyard
11th May	CAMHS Clinician	CAMHS - Managing Anxiety
<b>30th May-3rd June Half Term</b>		
15h June	Islington Progression to Adulthood – Stephen Caulfield	Progression to Adulthood service in Islington

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**

6th Form



**The Careers Programme at The Courtyard**



**What are the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks of good careers guidance?**

The Gatsby Benchmarks support schools and colleges by providing a framework around which they can develop their careers programme in line with their legal requirements to provide independent careers guidance to all 12- to- 19- year olds and students aged up to 25 with an education, health and care plan.



The Courtyard's careers activity was evaluated against the eight benchmarks of best practice and we are pleased to announce that we are performing at the top of the list in comparison to other schools!!

Click [here](#) to see our results



The Courtyard has teamed up with four career development companies this academic year (My AFK, Career Ready, Talentino, The Careers & Enterprise Company), along with other organizations, in order to meet the 8 benchmarks of good careers guidance and offer our students personalised employability skills activities for them to flourish independently and professionally once they leave The Courtyard.



- Personalised work experience
- Bi-weekly masterclasses and assemblies
- Inspirational/ motivational talks
- Employability workshops
- Visits to colleges- taster days
- Careers event, careers month
- Transition workshops for leavers
- Support with applications, interviews
- Careers workshop for parents
- Transition guidance and advice for parents
- Sixth form social evenings

**WORK EXPERIENCE**



- This year will be offering virtual and in person work experience placements.
- Placements will be tailored to the needs and likes of our students.
- Students will be working on a project individually or as part of a group with other students for six weeks.
- Parents will receive more information about their child's placement shortly.

**SUMMER TERM: Subject Focus**

**Mon 6 September - Mon 13 September**

<b>Maths Entry Level</b>	Introduction to Maths at The Courtyard	Baseline assessments
<b>Maths FSL1</b>	Introduction to Maths at The Courtyard	Baseline assessments
<b>Maths GCSE</b>	Introduction to Maths at The Courtyard	Baseline assessments
<b>Maths Statistics</b>	Recap of Maths Keywords and Simple Probability - Baseline Test	Simple Probability Continued
<b>Maths A/AS</b>	'Identity' and Index Laws	Trigonometry Identities
<b>English Entry Level</b>	Introduction: Why study English?	Baseline Assessments
<b>English FSL1</b>	Introduction: Why study English?	Baseline Assessments
<b>English GCSE Lang</b>	Introduction: Why study English?	Baseline Assessments / Persuasion through animation
<b>English GCSE Lit</b>	Introduction: Why study Literature?	Poetry and Music Videos
<b>ICT Informatics</b>	introduction to basic coding	x 2 coding tasks
<b>ICT FSL1</b>	Introduction to FSL1 ICT course	Baseline assessments
<b>ICT FSL2</b>	Introduction to FSL2 ICT course	Baseline assessments
<b>ICT ECDL L3 PPT</b>	Introduction to ICDL L3 ICT course	Baseline assessments
<b>Science BTEC Principles</b>	Introduction to Biology	Genes, DNA & Variation.
<b>Science BTEC Applications</b>	Introduction to Biology	Food Groups & Exercise
<b>Home Cooking</b>	Introduction to course	Introduction to health & safety
<b>Hospitality</b>	Introduction to course	Baseline assessments
<b>PSD</b>	Own personal strengths and skills, what we are good at and/or enjoy	What can positively and negatively affect the way we feel about ourselves
<b>WorkSkills BTEC</b>	The importance of self-management for work and home	The importance of self-management for work and home
<b>P.E.</b>	Baseline - Cooper test	Biology
<b>Creative Expression</b>	Discussing song lyrics and their meanings.	Lyric writing.
<b>World Studies</b>	Perspective and perception - understanding the importance of employing and accepting multiple perspectives	What is history - human evolution
<b>Art</b>	Introduction to art techniques	Introduction to art theory
<b>RSE 6th Form</b>	To learn about the challenges young people might face as they move through adolescence	To learn about ways to promote positive mental health to help manage challenges during the adolescence period
<b>RSE 6th Form- Independence</b>	To explore who you are	To explore who you are
<b>Independence group 1</b>	What is a budget and why is it important.	Sticking to a budget while food shopping.