

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 11 September 2020**

### **Headteacher Notice—Deborah Shepherd**

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world' - Nelson Mandela

At a time when change in society and our daily lives is constant, one thing is always consistent at the Courtyard - education is paramount. In my 14 years of working in education, I do not think I've ever had such pride in a group of pupils and staff as I have had this week. It has been an absolute pleasure having all of our pupils back in school. Attendance has been outstanding. Engagement in learning has been on point. Relationships have blossomed or continue to flourish between pupils and their peers as well as with staff, both new and established.

Within school there have obviously been some necessary changes: social distancing, use of PPE, sanitation, new staff, new pupils, new classrooms just to name a few, but our young people are taking it all in their stride. Communication is strong, confidence is high.

I've spent time reflecting upon why we are experiencing such success at a time when anxiety could be high, and I do believe it is because our pupils want to learn, they want to succeed, they aspire to achieve. The power of quality education! The power of skilled educators! Simply inspiring!

It does not go without notice that it is the parents at home who are most often the drivers behind the attendance, engagement, relationships, communication and confidence. As a school, we are hugely grateful to you for your efforts in helping your young people to attend school so consistently.

Long may this continue.

### **Covid-19 response**

As daily announcements are made by government with regard to increased restrictions due to Covid-19, there is understandable concern about our personal safety and the safety of our families and friends. The Courtyard has been working closely with the Public Health Team in Islington to ensure that our practise in school meets the needs of the pupils and staff.

Current guidance from Public Health and the Department of Education, is that the best method of limiting the risk of infection is by practising appropriate social distancing, increasing personal hygiene and sanitation, and reducing contact across 'bubbles'. As the school is a complete 'bubble' our focus can be specific to social distancing and personal hygiene/sanitation. We will continue to monitor the nation's situation closely and follow any guidance published by the government to protect all individuals. Should any of our school processes change, families will be updated.

### **Deputy for Behaviour and Safety—Louise Norman**

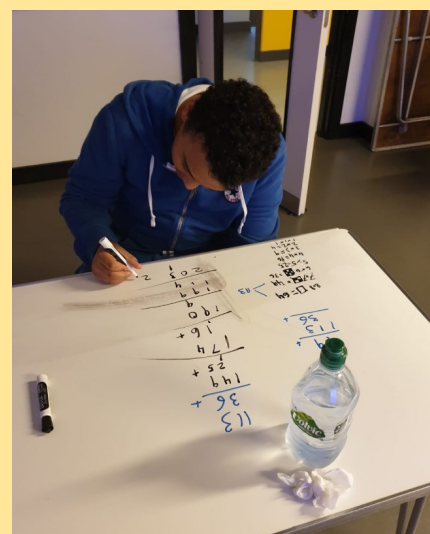
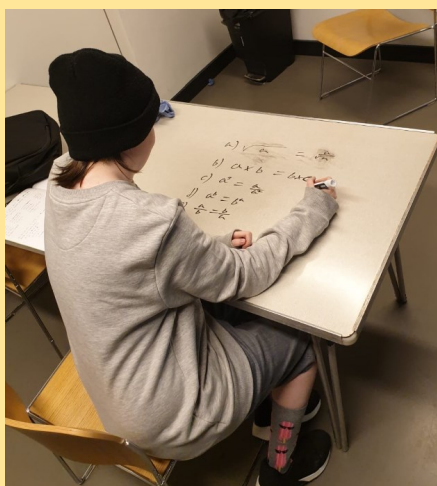
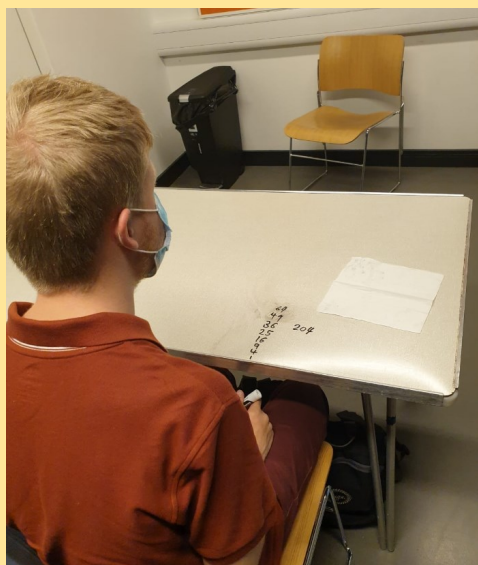
This week has been our first full week with all students present. It has been very successful with all of our new students settling into The Courtyard way of life, and current students returning in an extremely positive way whilst also getting to know all of our new students.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a new curriculum programme that I have been working on with Claire Harvey who is our Speech and Language Therapist. The programme will be focusing on students' Social, Emotional and Communication skills and will be part of their timetable as Social Skills. We know that a significant part of a child's life is spent interacting with their peers, whether it be laughing and joking at break times, working with a friend on a school project or arguing over friendships. These are commonplace for most children and sometimes we often don't stop to think how these social interactions in school lead on to children becoming socially competent as adults. However, not all children develop social competence naturally. Some children will require support to help them to develop into socially skilled adults. There are four areas covered in the curriculum, Self esteem, Social skills, friendships and assertiveness, students will start at a level that is appropriate to their needs and will then progress through the levels until they reach their full potential.

## **Subject focus in lessons next week beginning 14th September 2020**

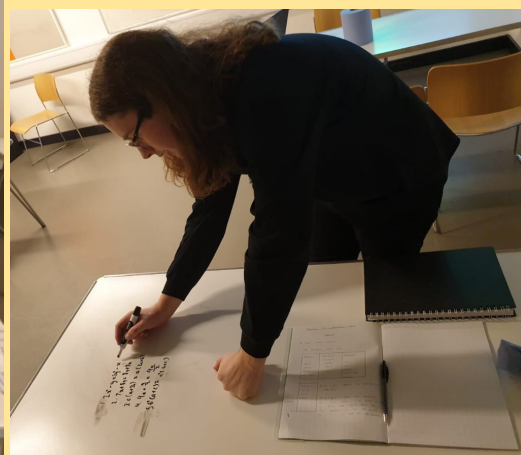
<b>Maths Entry Level</b>	Adding/Subtracting and Greater than/Less than
<b>Maths FSL1</b>	Multiplying and Dividing
<b>Maths GCSE</b>	Recap of Maths Keywords and Sequences
<b>Maths Statistics</b>	Recap of Maths Keywords and Simple Probability
<b>Maths A/AS</b>	Identity' and Index Laws
<b>English Entry Level</b>	Punctuation
<b>English FSL1</b>	Punctuation
<b>English GCSE Lang</b>	Assessing understanding of texts
<b>English GCSE Lit</b>	Poetry Anthology
<b>ICT Informatics</b>	Creating an E-safety flyer
<b>ICT FSL1</b>	Use an internet search engine to find information. Show how you did this by: • taking a screen shot of the search engine page you used showing the text you typed in
<b>ICT FSL2</b>	Use an internet search engine to find information. Show how you did this by: • taking a screen shot of the search engine page you used showing the text you typed in
<b>ICT ECDL L3 PPT</b>	Audience and Environment. Understand how audience demographic (age, educational level, occupation, cultural background) and knowledge of subject impacts on planning of a presentation.
<b>Science BTEC</b>	KS4 to be able to describe the physical and chemical properties of elements. KS5 to understand the importance of plants
<b>Home Cooking</b>	Food-related causes of ill health
<b>Hospitality</b>	Identifying key features in the hospitality industry
<b>PSD</b>	Healthy Living: What are the elements of a healthy lifestyle; The 5 Food groups; Making healthy food choices
<b>WorkSkills BTEC</b>	Introduction to Workskills <b>Year 1:</b> Thinking about job choices and Work Experience possibilities <b>Year 2:</b> Personal and Social Relationships; communication styles
<b>P.E.</b>	Touch Football (Touch Rugby) @ Highbury Fields
<b>Creative Expression</b>	The history of puppetry
<b>World Studies</b>	Perspective and perception - understanding the importance of employing and accepting multiple perspectives
<b>Art</b>	Creating artwork based on Keith Haring's signature art style
<b>RSE 6th Form</b>	Mental health& emotional wellbeing (strategies to manage challenges); Independence: Identity (all about me)
<b>Independence 6th Form</b>	Staying safe in the community

## This week at The Courtyard



### Maths—desk working. Clockwise from top left:

Henry Walker—Y13, Nathan Nee—Y13, Constantine Proferes—Y13, Group: Dennis Gordon—Y13, Hamza Musse—Y13, ElSharief Mohamed—Y13, Blaise Thomas—Y12



### Break and lunch times:

**Table tennis:** Tyrese England—Y12 and Enkel Halimi—Y9

**Socialising:** Dennis Gordon—Y13, John Musisi—Y9 and Max Coulton—Y11



## This week at The Courtyard



**World Studies—identifying countries on the world map.**

**From left to right:**

Lula Collard—Y11, World Studies teacher  
Mr Abdul, William Smith—Y10, Charlie  
Cutmore—Y9



**Nathan Mpleenda—Y13 took part in the Barge Project as part of 'The Story Garden' in Kings Cross over the summer. The project was run by the educational charity 'Global Generation'.**