

AUTUMN TERM

NEWSLETTER

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Dear Magdalen Court Parents/Carers,

It has been an exciting term here at Magdalen Court, ending with a wonderful trip yesterday to Aladdin in Torquay and the fantastic PAFOM Christmas Fayre. The staff were incredibly proud of the students behaviour at the pantomime and, despite a very loud and busy show, the students coped fantastically. It was a joy to take them to the theatre and we look forward to many more trips in the future!

This bumper edition of the newsletter features some key notices for next term, photos from our lovely Christmas dinner and fayre, as well as some fantastic work from our students!



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Headteacher's Awards



The following students have been awarded Headteacher's Awards for their outstanding work and effort this term. Congratulations!

Oak - Sophie

Larch - Neve

Beech - Harrison

Holly - Oliver

Elm - George

Hazel & Ash - Freddie

Post 16 - Lewis

Outdoor Education

Next term, we will be having a big focus on First Aid in our Outdoor Education sessions. Students aged 14 and above will be studying for an official qualification, and those under 14 will receive an in school certificate. In the first week, students will be visiting Shaptor Woods and learning how to identify emergency situations and prioritise casualties. Please bring spare waterproof clothing.

Food Tech

Hello and seasons greetings from Harry! I am very excited to be teaching food tech as of January 2023. Next year students will be developing their understanding of healthy diets by learning about the 'Eat well plate' and food from different cultures and traditions. Alongside practicing their home cooking skills pupils will be learning about where foods originate from globally. We will also be improving on our existing outdoor areas to grow herbs and edible plants which can be prepared for the kitchen. Our cuisine theme for January is going to be Italian foods, Belle Italia!

Safeguarding

Our focus this week is on HiPal, an app which turns phones into walkie-talkies and allows users to have voice conversations with friends and strangers. There are two account options - under 12 and a 12+ accounts, however there is no content moderation and limited security precautions. Please see the attached PDF to this email for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS

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Take a look at some of the amazing things that have happened this term!

Outdoor Education



Oak

Daylun, in Oak, made this truck with some help from an LSA.

"The pick-up truck is a Mercedes Benz X350D. It has a red body, grey windows and a black trunk with coloured signal lights and license plates. The truck is made out of cardboard. We covered it in masking tape and coloured it in. Now it will be a fun toy in the Oak class."



HIGHLIGHTS

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Beech

This term, Beech and Larch created our own Creature-Characters in English. We explored mythical creatures and then analysed extracts from 'The Hobbit' and 'The Iron Man', so we could 'magpie' some 'golden nuggets' for our own writing.

My Creature by Toby Luscombe

The Dimolored lies underneath the biggest tree in the forest, in its burrow with five other pack members. As it is hungry once more, it will now leave the burrow and go on a hunt. It crawls out from inside a small burrow and starts in a random direction through the forest.

After several minutes of walking, it comes across a small tree bearing fruit. It stands up on its hind legs and grabs a piece of fruit. It stands back down and bites on a piece of fruit and scratches a mark on a nearby tree, then continues on its walk.

After another five minutes of walking, it hears a rustle from the trees above. It then immediately drops into a low crouch. It crawls over to one of the trees around it, stands on its hind legs and sinks its claws into the bark, and begins to climb. It reaches the top of the tree and finds an unattended infant monkey. In an instant it swipes the baby monkey and jumps to the forest floor. It makes quick work of the monkey and sprints back to its den.

My Creature by Thomas Eraut

The island was a hive of activity. In a chamber at the centre of the island the Lotan lay trapped by The American Government. It was lying in a pool of water, each head wrapped in thick chains. Various diodes in gaps between its scales, monitoring its heart rate and other things. The scientists were walking around on metal gantfys high above the pool. Then there was a hissing noise and the change in the room temperature rose dramatically.

The chains ran down the robots sinuous neck, in rivers of molten steel. It shivered, and the diodes snapped off with a pop. The Lotan was free! The scientists ran for the doors in a desperate attempt to escape. All made it but one, and the blast door slammed shut with a bang.

The Lotan reached him moments later, and his screams echoed around the chamber. The beast smashed into the blast door and with a smash, the door crumpled like tinfoil. It slipped into the ocean, leaving behind a destroyed island, and the lingering smell of rotten fish.

Miles away, a seagull perched on a buoy, feeling the change of the tides and the smell of rotting fish. The seagull looked around and saw nothing. Then, from underneath a geyser of scalding water, the seagull was cinders.....

HIGHLIGHTS

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Larch



As the evil monster crawled his way into the town, his drooling lips were ready to eat. His slimy skin started to fall off. His nasty fangs stuck out of his mouth. His small fire blazing eyes lit up in the night's sky. His grotesque face scared enemies away. It acts in a deeply depraved form, ready to attack. His claws have many ridges, so it cuts skin like a knife. His bite injects poison into it's victims, that makes them feel depressed and dissolve on their inside. His long body is as wide as an elephant, it gargles disgustingly as it munches on it's helpless prey. His skin is tired and worn. It's hooves are old and deformed. Its weakness is running as it's hooves are slowly rotting away. It grew up on a farm but it ate a plant that made him a monster that corrupted him.

Oscar McAleer



The gruesome twitching rotten dirty robot chased the man through the grimy, garbage strewn alley. His rusted metallic bolts cracked. The loud scraping of metal on rusted metal echoed through the rancid streets. The robot's arms and mouth ajar, his water filter jar cracked and broken. It makes no noise, unable to warn it's enemies of it's presence. His body is as rusted as a roman coin.

Arthur Whiteley

HIGHLIGHTS

Holly

In our most recent writing unit, Holly class have been writing information texts - their aim is to introduce their topic at the start, produce several paragraphs explaining their chosen topic and then summarise it at the end. Below are some extracts from those pieces - We were very impressed with the end results!

What Christmas is all about

Christmas is an event where parents around the world put up hundreds of lights and decorations because of this the average electricity bill goes up by 69%. Along with this most of it revolves around Santa a magical being parents say is the one that gives them presents.

What are monkeys like?

Did you know that monkeys are just like humans?
They copy your every move. How creepy!
Many monkeys are always busy stealing from innocent folks of Paignton Zoo. You should be very careful if you come across marmoset monkeys. They have specialised claws to establish a firm grip on tree trunks and gnaw little holes in the bark. When monkeys are hungry they're very loud and aggressive.

Where do penguins live?

Summer in the Southern Hemisphere is from January to March, and at this time when the ice is breaking up, the Emperor penguins head out to sea to binge on krill, squid and fish. As March brings with it the end of summer, they start to head inland towards their rookery at Snow Hill and in the winter they go to a colder place to have their babies.

Where do polar bears live?

They live in the Arctic where it's super cold!
Polar bears can overheat so that they run short distances. DNA can be taken from their footprints. Finally polar bears can swim constantly days at a time hunting for food.

Role of Santa

Santa has a bunch of little elves that work for him all year making gifts for all the little girls and boys in the world. Santa has a sleigh that he puts all the gifts in so he can deliver them and fast, Santa has a bunch of animals called reindeers. Santa is taken all over the world by them.

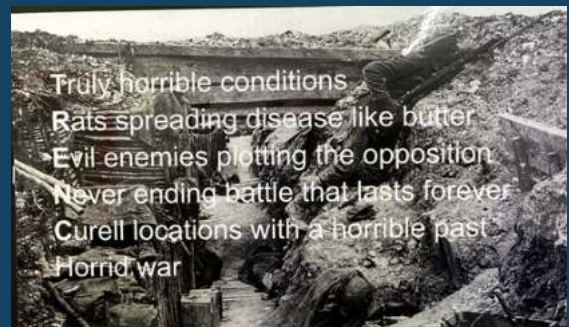
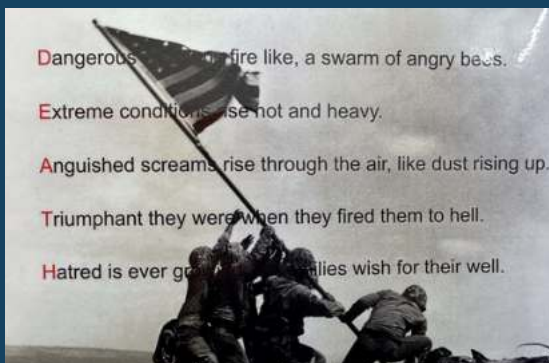
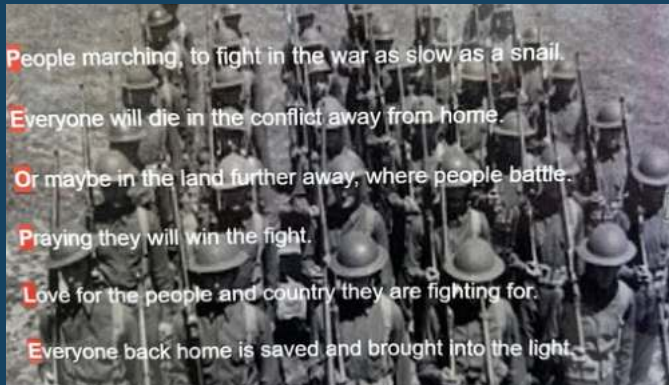
HIGHLIGHTS

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Elm

This term, Elm wrote acrostic poems, inspired by images of war. The poems were then displayed and discussed on Remembrance Day.



The truck is full to the brim with troops ready to fight.
Roaming towards the target base, like a colony of ants.
Using shields and machine guns as weapons of war.
Carving through the skin of their foe with many shots.
Killing loads of enemies with many bullets flying around
the air like a swarm of bees.



HIGHLIGHTS

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Hazel & Ash

The Volcano Vomits

-Anonymous

The volcano lies craggy against the bright blue sky, like a bomb in wonderland. There is no timer, no red wire or green, we live never knowing if it will rain lava and rock.

If it will destroy us and all we have worked for. But like anyone who lives with a constant danger, you learn to put it out of your mind. Then one day a stranger comes and has that wide eyed look that lets you know that they think you're out of your mind completely.

The volcano has been simmering for as long as I've been alive. The white wisps rise from the top like the fumes that give away a secret smoker. The sides are much like any other mountain, covered with old growth forests, the farmland below is fertile and around it are the very flammable homes we all live in. One day it will blow.

Post 16

A word from Mr Bushrod

I have been amazed by the way in which our anxious cohort have engaged so positively and conscientiously with GCSE, BTEC and A level studies this term. In this world where 'examination pieces of paper' seem to matter so much and society's pressure to achieve is so overt, our students have worked incredibly hard with their teachers to develop strategies to allow them to cope with the consistent effort needed to make the most of their potential. I am frequently struck by the good humour, kindness and resilience shown by the group and I wish to congratulate them all whether they are taking one examination subject or eight. This is a really exciting time at Magdalen Court, the much-improved level of both calmness and optimism are reflected in the student's ability to settle to their tasks and gain the confidence to ask questions, risk 'getting it wrong' and feel that their own attempts at answering are worthy.

From all the staff and students at
Magdalen Court School,

Happy Christmas