

Weekly **NEWSLETTER**

Summer Term 1 – Week 2

It has been another busy week across the school, with students enjoying P.E, outdoor pursuits, cooking activities, and making the most of the beautiful Devon outdoors. There has been lots happening in classes and PE activities, with students developing new skills and enjoying the sunny weather. This week also marks the start of exams, so we would like to wish all students the very best of luck.

Be sure to check out this week's newsletter for more exciting stories and updates from across the school.



Headteacher's Awards



This week the Headteacher's Award goes to

Olivia . D



&

Kai . W



School Project



A Fantastic Whole-School Response

We've already had a brilliant response from classes across the school, with learners eagerly sending in their facts for our 100 Facts for 100 Years project. The enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity shown so far has been incredible, and we can't wait to watch our 100-leaf tree display take shape as more colourful, fact-filled leaves are added.

This celebration also links directly to Article 17 – The Right to Information from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Article 17 highlights every child's right to access information that supports their wellbeing and helps them understand the world around them – a perfect match for a project inspired by David Attenborough's lifelong mission to educate others about our planet.

Exams

GCSE Exams – Good Luck to All Our Students

Our students have now started their GCSE exams, and we want to wish every learner the very best of luck. Your hard work, focus and determination have prepared you brilliantly, and we know you'll approach each exam with confidence.

If parents or guardians have any questions or need support, please get in touch with your child's tutor, who will be happy to help.

Support/Therapies

Family Information Service

We also provide a service to help families who are struggling to find suitable childcare.

School Transport Service

Phone number 0345 155 1019

Link to Widget software

Symbol Resources = Navigating Puberty, Wellbeing pack, Phonics pack, Feelings and emotions scales/charts, Ainsley Harriott and Tom Kerridge Recipes.

Link to the ACE Centre

Resources = Symbol Charts = Reading, bath, art, chat about TV, bubbles, turn taking, core (Widgit symbol system recommended)

Coffee Mornings

14th May - Lime
21st May - Holly



Pictures of the Week



Staff Flowers of the week

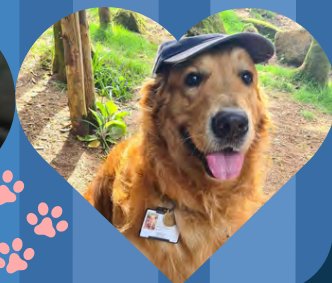
Adam



Therapies

Our Wonderful Therapy Dogs: Milo and Rodney

In our therapies department, we're incredibly grateful to have Milo, our beloved therapy dog, who brings so much joy and comfort to our students. Alongside him, we also have Rodney, our therapy dog who works with the outdoor education team, making a positive difference every day.



P.E at Magdalen Court school

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL




All our students enjoy lots of varied sporting

Students have continued to enjoy a wide range of Physical Education activities this week. Cricket skills sessions have continued, alongside dodgeball activities and the popular lunchtime Badminton Club.

Students have also benefited from coaching sessions with the Exeter City football coach, developing teamwork, confidence, and sporting skills. A highlight of the week was the opportunity for students to venture to Teignmouth to take part in a cricket-based school event, which was brilliant fun for everyone involved.

It has been fantastic to see so many students actively engaging in sport and physical activity throughout the week.



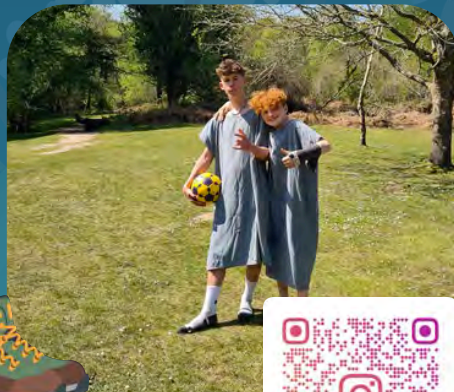
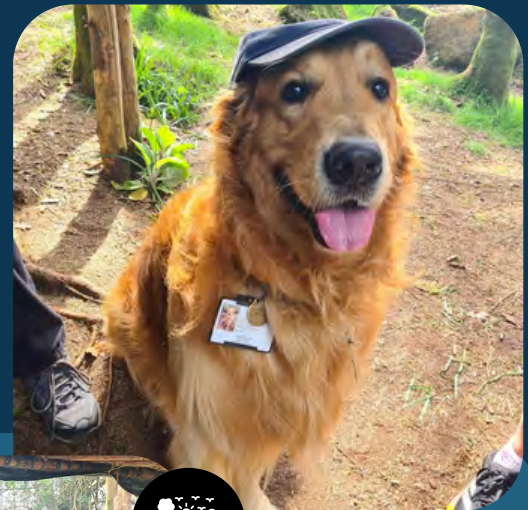
 **Swimming:- Thursday: Sycamore, Laurel, and Oak classes Location: St Luke's Swimming Pool**



Outdoor Education at Magdalen Court school



*All our students enjoy lots of varied
Outdoor Education this week.*



Outdoor Education



Our students have continued to enjoy a fantastic range of Outdoor Education opportunities this term. Activities have included sensory walks, swimming at the beach, Dartmoor walks, cooking at Forest School, and fun sunny days spent at Spitchwick.

These experiences give students the opportunity to develop confidence, independence, teamwork, and new life skills, while enjoying the incredible outdoor spaces Devon has to offer.

Students have also been joined by members of staff, including Rodney our therapy dog, who has been a very popular companion on many of the activities.

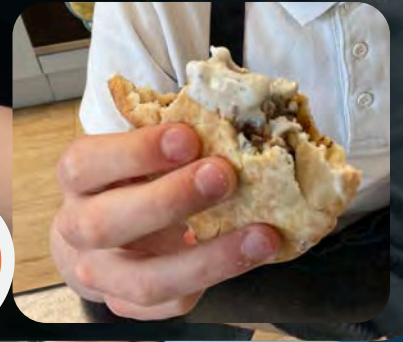
We know how lucky our students are to have such a varied Outdoor Education timetable, allowing them to learn, explore, and create lasting memories in the natural environment around them.

Food Tech at Magdalen Court school

MAGDALEN COURT SCHOOL



All our students enjoy learn all the skills needed for Food Tech at the school.



Food Tech Weekly Roundup



Food Tech Weekly Round-Up

It's been another fantastic week in the Food Tech department, with learners across the school producing an impressive range of dishes and developing valuable culinary skills.

Learners in Hawthorn and Sycamore continued strengthening their knife skills while preparing Mulligatawny soup, a brilliant foundation for confident, independent cooking. Laurel and Oak created a king prawn chow mein, combining marinated prawns, sliced vegetables and refreshed egg noodles. In Larch, learners thoroughly enjoyed making lamb koftas, mastering translucent onions, spice blending and shaping before serving them with warm pittas and homemade tzatziki.

Hazel class produced a first-class chilli con carne with long-grain rice, carefully controlling the heat and exploring the many sides that pair with this winter favourite. Our new learners in Beech embraced their first sessions by preparing vegetable samosas, practising knife skills and learning key routines for successful cooking lessons.

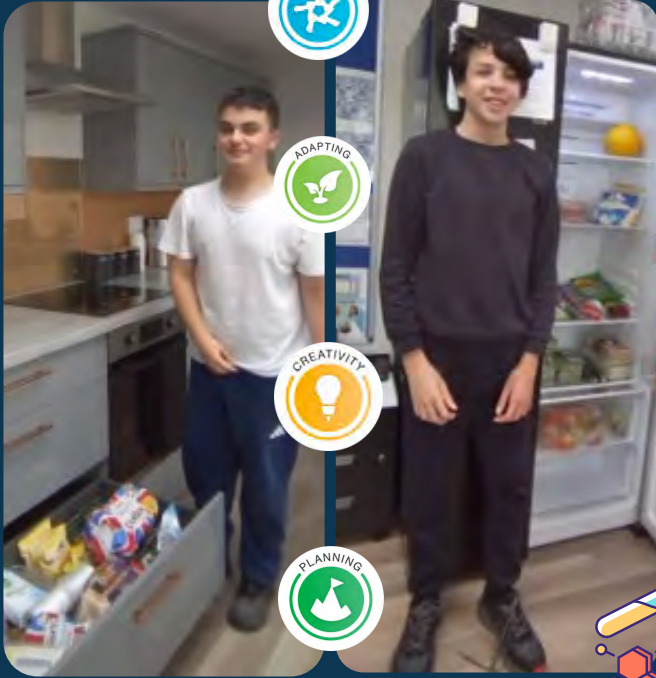
Learners completing Level 1 assessments in Elm, Palm and Beech worked hard on their skills records, demonstrating independence and ownership of their chosen recipes. Meanwhile, Maple and Birch prepared wonderfully succulent skewered chicken thighs, learning how to remove the bone and marinate the meat for maximum flavour.

We've also made a small group reshuffle for KS4/5 learners who are either leaving or remaining with us at MCS. Our Wednesday "remainers" group baked delicious pinwheel cookies, which were very much enjoyed by staff at the coffee and chat.

Well done to all learners, your enthusiasm, progress and creativity continue to shine. Keep up the amazing work!



Careers



"This week Palm class have begun their packed lunch project! During the course of the week pupils compile a shopping list, conduct the shopping and then make their own lunch independently each day. They have all begun to try new healthy foods and develop their skills in money management using their £2 a day budget."



BTEC Science – Chemical Reactions in Action

During BTEC Science this week, learners in Lime and Holly class explored how different metal reactants behave when combined to form new products. Using a range of metals, they carried out practical reaction tests and observed the changes closely, working scientifically to deepen their understanding of chemistry. This hands-on investigation helped strengthen their prediction skills, observation techniques and overall confidence in applying scientific methods.



Magdalen Court School : The Green Initiative



Enjoying the Great Outdoors
Our students have been making the most of the outdoor environment and all the beautiful green spaces local to our school. It's been wonderful to see learners exploring nature, enjoying fresh air and appreciating the natural world around them.



Creative Corner

Birch class tapped into their imaginations this week during a fast-paced Creativity session. Working against a one-minute timer for each round, learners first drew an animal, then added a sport activity, and finally placed their creation in a setting of their choice. This quick-fire drawing challenge sparked plenty of laughter and originality, showcasing just how uniquely imaginative each learner is. A fantastic way to build confidence, creative thinking and expressive skills.



Stars of the week



Stars of the week for each class

Ash Class:- Maisie Boxhall for going above and beyond to support her classmates.



Aspen Class:- Olivia D



Beech Class:- Ivor W – for helping keep the classroom tidy.



Birch Class:- Lucca E for kindness to peers inside and out of the classroom



Elm Class:- Brooke for having a positive attitude and making everyone feel included.



Hawthorn Class:-



Hazel Class:-



Holly Class:- Justin for continuing to help in Holly as the 'date manager' (not forgetting his weather reports!)



Juniper Class:- Finlay V



Oak Class:- Darci for being a positive role model to our new learner.



Larch Class:- Jake L - for being lovely all the time!



Laurel Class:-



Lime Class:- Casey King for showing kindness to her peers when they are feeling anxious about upcoming exams.



Maple Class:- Eboni for managing change positively



Sycamore Class:- Lukas V for showing kindness towards a peer and trying to help when they were upset.



Palm class:- Sebastian Makewell for supporting his peers in Maths this week.



Outdoor Education

WEEK STARTING MONDAY

11th May 2026



Monday

OUTDOOR ED

**BEECH,
LAUREL, JUNIPER
& HAWTHORN**

**B - Canoe trip Exeter Canal
L - Wild River Swimming
J - Beach Swimming
H - Forest School - Cooking**



Tuesday

OUTDOOR ED

**ASH, HAZEL, ASPEN
& OAK**

**A - SUP at Haven Banks
H - Canoe trip Exeter Canal
A - Canoe trip Exeter Canal
O - Forest School - Cooking**



Wednesday

OUTDOOR ED

**ELM, LARCH
& SYCAMORE**

**E - Mountain Biking
L - Canoe trip Exeter Canal
S - Sensory Walk**



Thursday

OUTDOOR ED

**MAPLE, PALM
ROSEWOOD 1 & 2**

**M - DofE Canoe trip
P - DofE Canoe trip
R1 - SUP at Haven Banks
R2 - SUP at Haven Banks**



Friday

OUTDOOR ED

**LIME, HOLLY
& BIRCH**

**L - Canoe trip Exeter Canal
H - Canoe trip Exeter
Canal
B - Beach Swimming**



Please remember the appropriate clothing.

Food Technology



WEEK STARTING MONDAY 11th MAY 2026



Monday

Food Tech

Aspen
Ash
Holly

A - Plan main meal with a friend
A - LI recipes Thai Green Curry & freeze vegetables
H - Cheesy pinwheels

Tuesday

Food Tech

Beech
Sycamore
Rosewood
Elm

B - LI recipes Thai Green Curry & freeze vegetables
S - Spicy Mexican Soup
R - Cheesy pinwheels
E - BTEC LI assessment

Wednesday

Food Tech

Juniper
Lime
Hawthorn
Birch
Palm

J - Chicken Rogan Josh
L - Cheesy pinwheels
H - Spicy Mexican Soup
B - BBQ ribs
P - BTEC LI assessment



Thursday

Food Tech

Laurel,
Oak
Larch
Hazel

L - Lamb Korma
O - lamb korma
L - Plan main meal with a friend
H - Chicken Rogan Josh



Friday

Food Tech

Maple

Online Lessons

M - BBQ spare-ribs



Information

Idiom of the Week:

Jump through hoops

Word of the Week:

Vivid

Number of the Week: **19**

TEN TORS

We are incredibly proud to have both students and staff representing us at the Jubilee Challenge and Ten Tors on Dartmoor this weekend. It's a fantastic achievement to take part in such a demanding and memorable event, and we wish everyone involved the very best of luck. We can't wait to hear all about their experiences and see how they got on when they return.



Social Media



Please take a moment, if you're able, to check the school's Instagram and Facebook pages and share any new content.

QR Code



Careers Week – We Need Your Help!



We are looking for parents, carers, and family members who would be willing to come in and talk to our learners about their careers. These sessions will take place between 8th–12th June, from 10:30am to 12:45pm.

If you are available on any of these dates and would like to share your experience, skills, or career journey with our students, we would love to hear from you. Your insight can make a real difference in helping young people understand the wide range of opportunities available to them.

Please contact the school office or your child's tutor to express your interest.

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Student news

Careers



When is the best time to begin talking about education pathways and careers?

It can be tricky when broaching the subject of careers with your young person, but we have found having conversations about interests and skill development at an early age can help provide direction and motivation towards their studies. The National Careers service (see link) can help parents/carers to begin and encourage these conversations and also provides a link to a national careers advisor.

Link



Help a young person make career choices | National Careers Service

The School Parliament is underway updates to follow soon



Safeguarding

At Magdalen Court School, safeguarding is our priority and underpins everything we do.

Our Safeguarding Team:
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jane Kendall
Email: jkendall@MagdalenCourt.org
Tel: 01392 494919



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IMAGE-ALTERING FILTERS

From playful puppy ears on Snapchat to 'beauty mode' on TikTok, image-altering filters are now a routine part of how young people communicate online. While many are harmless, others subtly reshape people's faces and bodies. This can blur the line between reality and edited content, potentially influencing how children and young people see themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALTERED BEAUTY STANDARDS

Many 'beauty' filters smooth skin, reshape facial features, or adjust body proportions. Over time, repeated exposure to these filters can shift a child's idea of what is 'normal' or attractive, creating unrealistic expectations about their own and others' appearances.

PRESSURE TO LOOK PERFECT

Filtered images can often attract more 'likes' and positive comments. This can encourage children and young people to rely on editing tools to gain others' approval, rather than feeling confident in their natural appearance.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

Regularly viewing heavily filtered content can lead to comparisons with unrealistic images. This is linked to body dissatisfaction and reduced self-esteem, particularly among children and teenagers.

HIDDEN ADVERTISING

Some filters are linked to beauty products or trends, subtly promoting third-party brands. Children and young people may not recognise this as advertising, while also sharing personal data – such as facial images and usage habits – with apps and third parties.

BLURRED REALITY

As filters become more advanced and natural-looking, it can be difficult for children and young people to distinguish edited content from real life, especially when filters are used in everyday photos and videos.

SEXUALISED EDITS

Certain tools can make users appear older or more sexualised. This may attract unwanted attention, increase the risk of images being shared without consent, and expose young people to unsafe interactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly about filters, such as how they work and why people use them. Ask the children and young people in your care how filtered images make them feel and encourage honest discussion without judgement.

REINFORCE WHAT'S REAL

Help children and young people understand that filtered images are digitally altered and are not an accurate reflection of real life. Emphasise that they don't need to meet these artificial standards.

CHALLENGE 'PERFECT' POSTS

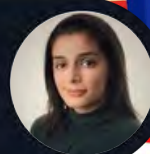
When viewing content together, gently point out the signs of editing, filters, or posing techniques. This builds critical thinking and helps children and young people question unrealistic images.

PROMOTE OFFLINE CONFIDENCE

Encourage activities that build self-worth beyond appearance, such as sports, hobbies, friendships, and creative interests, so that confidence isn't tied solely to online validation.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a digital parenting expert and founder of Kids N Clicks, a platform dedicated to helping parents navigate the online world alongside their children. She is an expert contributor for Internet Matters, offering practical guidance on emerging online safety issues. Her insights have been featured by the BBC, The Telegraph, TalkTV, and other major media outlets, supporting families across the UK.



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See full reference list on our website

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