

Weekly NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1 – Week 2

Welcome back to Week 2 of the Autumn Term. Our learners have enjoyed another busy and exciting week, with new learners continuing to settle in and build positive friendships.

From mountain biking, forest skills, beach visits and Dartmoor adventures in Outdoor Education, to developing badminton skills in PE and employability skills through community trips, there has been plenty to celebrate. Learners have also been creating some fantastic meals in Food Technology and continuing to make excellent progress across the school.



Headteacher's Awards



This week the Headteacher's
Award goes to

Caleb. O-M

&

Lennox. E



Information



MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



School Parliament

Is your child or student interested in joining the school parliament?
Are you going into Year 10 or Year 11 next year?

Magdalen Court School wants you!

Email:
schoolparliament@magdalencourt.org to request an application form, or speak to a member of staff

WE WANT
YOU!



EXCITING
NEWS

Lunchtime Clubs

Our outdoor gym is a popular lunchtime hotspot, with learners making great use of the equipment and enjoying staying active.



Our Activity Wall is proving a huge hit during lunchtime clubs, with learners diving in, getting involved, and making it their own.

LOST PROPERTY ANNOUNCEMENT

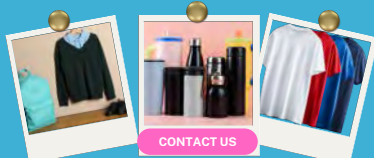
Magdalen Court School – Lost Property Notice

We have a growing collection of lost property items waiting to be reunited with their owners. Currently, we have several jumpers, T-shirts, and water bottles that have been found around the school grounds and classrooms.

If your child is missing any of these items, please check the Lost Property Box located in the school office or please get in touch with Kim or Emily via

Phone/Email below.

Thank you



CONTACT US



01392 494919



office@magdalencourt.org

Coffee Mornings

Therapy Thursday Coffee Mornings

10:00am – 11:00am

Magdalen Court School

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to our Therapy Thursday Coffee Mornings.

Each session will focus on a different topic and provide an opportunity to meet members of our therapy team, ask questions, share experiences, and learn more about the support available to our learners.

If you are interested in attending, please contact your child's class teacher, who will pass your details on to the therapy team so that we have an idea of numbers.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Dates & Session

24/9 Interoception With Lucy, Emily and Angie.

1/10 Understanding emotional regulation

8/10 Sensory ideas for home

15/10 Drop in Q&A with the team for curiosity week

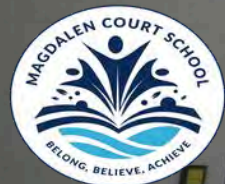
Staff Flowers of the week

Kim & Emily

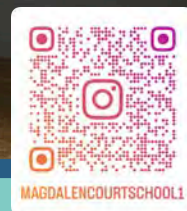


P.E at Magdalen Court school

MAGDALEN
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All our students enjoy lots of varied sporting



PE

Magdalen Court School

It has been another fantastic week in the PE Department at Magdalen Court School, with students taking part in a wide range of fun-filled activities, including football, dodgeball, volleyball and football coaching with Exeter City.



Our Year 10 and Year 11 students have also begun their Sports Leaders course, developing valuable leadership skills and gaining experience in supporting and encouraging others.

Many students have been working hard to develop their badminton skills, making excellent progress with every session. They have been focusing on overhead shots, timing and coordination, and their commitment has been fantastic to see.



The sports hall has been filled with fun, laughter and enthusiasm throughout the week.

Well done to everyone for your hard work and positive participation!



Outdoor Education WEEK STARTING Monday 21st Sept 2026



Monday

**BEECH, LAUREL,
JUNIPER
& HAWTHORN**

SUP BRO

B - Beach visit. SUP
L - Beach visit. Swim
J - Beach visit. SUP
H - Beach visit.
Swim

Tuesday

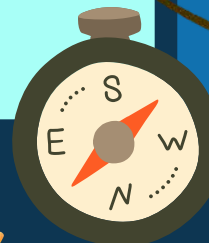
**ASH, ASPEN
& SYCAMORE**

A - Beach visit. SUP
A - Beach visit. Swim
S - Beach visit. Swim

Wednesday

**ELM, LARCH
& OAK**

E - Beach visit. SUP
L - River Dart Country
Park
O - Beach visit. Swim



Thursday

**HAZEL, MAPLE, PALM &
WILLOW**

H - . DofE Practice
Walk
M - DofE Practice
Walk
P - DofE Practice
Canoes
W - DofE Practice
Canoes

Friday

**LIME, HOLLY, BIRCH &
ROSEWOOD**

L - Beach visit.
Swim/SUP
H - Beach visit.
Swim/SUP
B - Beach visit.
Swim/SUP
R - Beach visit.
Swim/SUP

All activities
are subject to
weather
and may
have to
change.

Please
remember the
appropriate
clothing.



Please
remember
water bottles
please.

**Don't
Forget!**



Food Technology

WEEK STARTING Monday 21st Sept 2026



Monday

Food Tech

Aspen
Ash
Maple
Hazel

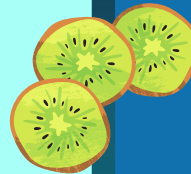


A - Cheese & Bacon
muffins
A - French Toast
M - Cherry oat bake
H - Cherry Bakewell

Tuesday

Food Tech

Beech
Palm
Elm



B - Poached pears
P - Cherry oat bake
E - Poached Fruit



Wednesday

Food Tech

Juniper
Sycamore
Lime
Birch
Laurel



J - French Toast
S - Tropical granola
bars
L - Shepherd's Pie
B - Hot Health Snack
L - Muesli bars

Thursday

Food Tech

Hawthorn
Holly
Larch
Oak

H - Smoothie tasting &
survey
H - Shepherd's Pie
L - Tropical granola
bars
O - Breakfast Muffin



Friday

Food Tech

Willow
Rosewood - Online

W - Cherry oat bake
R - Online



Outdoor Education at Magdalen Court school

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

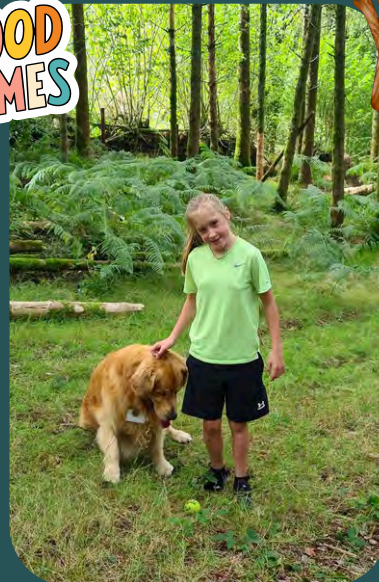
What a fantastic week of Outdoor Education! With the autumn sunshine on our side, learners have enjoyed a wide range of exciting activities across Devon. From exploring rivers on Dartmoor and mountain biking through Haldon Forest, to beach walks, Forest School sessions and nature walks at Stover Country Park, our learners have been developing new skills, building confidence and making the most of the great outdoors. Outdoor Education continues to provide valuable opportunities for adventure, teamwork and personal growth, and it has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces enjoying everything the week has had to offer.



THE WILD WEST @
STOVER PARK



GOOD
TIMES



News from around the School

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**LATEST
NEWS**

"This year Palm class will be continuing to develop their class garden. They have worked hard to tidy up the area this term already and are looking forward to planting more things this year!"

"Full of beans cafe was a huge success last year with Palm & Birch class making lots of treats for the staff & pupils throughout the year. Again, this year the cafe will be back with a new and improved menu, payment system and new chef who specialises in smoothies & milkshakes! We look forward to opening the cafe later this term."



News THIS WEEK

In the news this week

Nepal has announced that its wild tiger population has more than tripled, rising from 121 tigers in 2010, to 429 today. Officials say the turnaround is the result of years of protected wildlife corridors and local communities working hand-in-hand with conservationists to protect the big cats. With tiger numbers now increasing, more encounters between tigers and nearby villages are leaving experts asking how people and wildlife can safely share the same land going forward.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you think it's fair that wild animals need the same land that people want to use? Why?
- If you lived near a forest with tigers, would you feel excited, nervous, or both? What would help you feel safe?
- Is there an animal, plant, or wild space near where you live that you believe deserves more protection? What would or could you do to help it?



UN Rights of the Child



All children have the right to an education that helps them to live peacefully and protect the natural environment.



The MCS Green Scene

"MCS environment: Aspen & Oak class will be working hard this term on developing their classes outdoor space, we look forward to seeing what they do over this term!"



CAREERS



Skills Builder PARTNERSHIP

Lime class learners have begun their upcycling project by visiting Topsham Quay Antiques Centre in search for inspiration and perhaps a few goodies. In addition learners have been catching the bus to develop their travel training skills in preparation for their progression to college and employment.



Creative Corner



Warhol-Inspired Creations, Our learners explored bold colour, repeated imagery, and the pop-art flair that made Andy Warhol iconic.



Laurel Class have been exploring Ancient Greece, practising traditional pottery techniques and creating their own Greek-inspired designs. A brilliant mix of history, creativity and hands-on skill.

Food Tech at Magdalen Court school

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

★ Food Tech Roundup

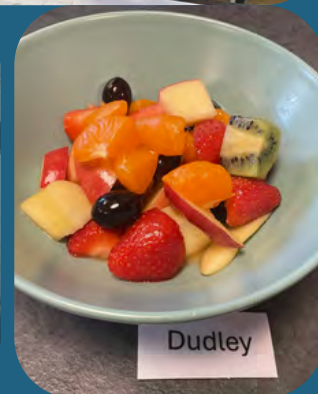


We've had another productive and busy week in practical Food Tech sessions, with learners developing a wide range of cooking, safety and independence skills across the department.

- Sycamore, Laurel & Larch prepared breakfast bars, practising accurate weighing to 50g and 25g and developing portion control when dividing their dough.
- Hawthorn built confidence preparing fresh fruit using safe knife skills and hygienic food-prep routines to create a tasty fruit salad.
- Oak & Aspen completed food-safety quizzes before a breakfast muffin tasting activity, analysing the characteristics of five different muffin types they'll be making in the coming weeks.
- Ash & Juniper cooked delicious mini vegetable frittatas and explored creative, healthy filling ideas.
- Birch developed independent skills operating the grills to prepare a classic croque monsieur grilled cheese sandwich.
- Beech & Elm enjoyed preparing scrambled eggs and discussed animal welfare, egg varieties in supermarkets, and how to source local eggs.
- Maple, Willow & Palm learned about enrobing and practised frying while preparing French toast served with fresh fruit, yoghurt and honey, simply delicious.
- Lime & Holly continued developing knife skills, preparing root vegetables for a slow-cooked beef casserole.

A wonderfully hands-on week full of teamwork, skill-building and tasty results.

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Dudley

Yum!



Jenson

Stars of the week



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Stars of the week for each class

Aspen Class:- Ross P this week for playing fairly and respectfully with others.



Ash Class:- Jack. L



Beech Class:- Jacob M



Birch Class:- Eve. H for being respectful in class and playing basketball with peers in P.E



Elm Class:- Evan M



Hawthorn Class:- Eden M



Hazel Class:- Charlotte B



Holly Class:- Ellie



Juniper Class:- Olivia D for being a brilliant friend to the other members of the class.



Larch Class:- Arsenii



Laurel Class:- Reggie



Lime Class:- Eboni for demonstrating respectful behaviour to her peers and members of the public whilst modelling respectful behaviour to younger learners.



Oak Class:- Bobby M



Maple Class:- Noah O for his kind and polite manner to staff and his peers.



Palm class:- Amy



Sycamore Class:- Sonny F



Willow Class:- Poppy for taking the initiative to tidy up shared spaces and respecting others' space.



Information

Idiom of the Week:

Golden handshake

Word of the Week:

Available

21

Number of the Week:



Therapies



As part of our Just Right State Groups with each class, we have been trialling 'Strengths'

MUSIC Lessons

Music Lessons at MCS! Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to level up, we're thrilled to have our talented music teacher Chris Hoban offering lessons here at MCS. Chris makes learning simple, enjoyable and inspiring, every session is built to help learners shine. He teaches singing, piano and guitar only, and he's in Olive AM on Tuesdays. If your child would like a taster session, just let Chris know and he'll get them sorted.

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Please get in touch

Belong Believe Achieve



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



This weeks Sign of the Week, which will be features on social media throughout the year.

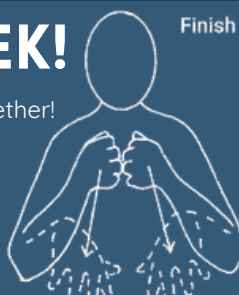
SIGN OF THE WEEK!

Learn with us!

'FINISHED'

HOW TO SIGN "FINISHED"!

Let's sign together!



Hand Position: Place both hands in front of you, palms facing upwards or forwards, with fingers extended and close together
Movement: Move your hands outward and back toward yourself in a repeated motion, often paired with tilting your head slightly back to emphasize completion

Practice saying "Finished", with clear visible hand movements while signing, to support communication.

MAGDALEN COURT SCHOOL



Student news

Half Term

School Breaks up Wednesday 21st October

Inset Days 22nd-23rd October

Pupils return Monday 9th November



upcoming events are scheduled as follows:

Open Days (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM):

- 24th October
- 23rd January
- 17th April

Taster Days (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM):

- 26th October
- 15th February
- 2nd June

All these events can be booked online through our events page. Please see poster attached.



PTFA Volunteers Wanted, We're seeking parents, carers and friends to join our PTFA team. Come along to our meeting on 8/10/2026 and see how you can get involved!

Staff photo of the week



Safeguarding

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

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



CHILDLINE SUPPORT FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS 0800 1111 or online

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 18 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

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