

END OF TERM **NEWSLETTER**



Dear Parents & Carers,

What a wonderful term we have enjoyed here at Magdalen Court School! In September, we celebrated learners who completed their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and even a learner who met the Royal Family, speaking passionately about their experiences in care.

In October, our new gym equipment arrived and learners were excited to get started! We also had a trip to a Football Tournament, where learners played fantastically and represented themselves and the school very well.

In November, learners got to grips with pastry in their Food Tech lessons, making delicious cheese straws and almond twists! We also attended another football tournament, with two teams from Y8/9 and Y10/11. They played brilliantly and we saw some incredible team work! We also marked Anti Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day and activities in each class throughout the week. Finally, we updated our Stars of the Week Awards, to reflect our school values.

December has been filled with excitement - from our Christmas Fayre (organised by the wonderful PAFOM) to our end of term class trips, going bowling, to the cinema and even climbing!

It's been a fantastic term, with lots of exciting developments as the school continues to grow. We are really proud of the way that the learners have negotiated these changes and progressed throughout the term.

Well done everyone - a fantastic Autumn term!

END OF TERM NOTICES

Uniform

After the holidays, the value we will be focusing on will be respect for our uniform. Class teachers have spoken to all learners and we are expecting all learners to return wearing school uniform - either the official uniform or dark jogging bottoms with a white tshirt. Please speak to your class teacher if you have any concerns or visit the school website, for the full uniform list.

A message from Mr Bushrod - GCSE and A Level Studies

Congratulations to all our learners on their efforts this past term. For many of our anxious students, it is a huge step to make and to cope with the rigorous and detailed learning requested to successfully tackle public examinations. I am particularly impressed with the level of practical work that I have seen, since the reopening of the lab earlier this year. Please keep up the hard work in 2024. Happy New Year!

Autism and Us Training

Devon Council's free 'Autism and Us' courses return in 2024, with a mixture of one off workshops and four week courses. The four week 'live online' programme provides an overview of autism, communications needs, understanding and supporting behaviour and sensory needs. The one-off workshops are based on specific topics such as Vulnerability and online safety, Autism and girls and communication support strategies for non - or limited speaking children. For more information, please visit: www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/autism-and-us-spring-2024-places-now-available-to-book/

Staffing Changes

As previously mentioned, we have a number of new staff joining us in January.



Lizzy Webix
will be joining
us as the class
teacher for
Aspen class.



Gerry Davis
will be joining
us as the class
teacher for
Elm class.



Liz Spowage will
be working in the
new flat provision,
supporting
Outreach learners.

END OF TERM NOTICES



PE - Emma and Grace

We have had a wonderful term of PE - Grace and I have been amazed at the progress the pupils have made! Larch and Oak class have been looking at racket sports, mainly badminton and short tennis. Their rallying skills are awesome, and they have loved having Post 16 Theo help with their lessons. Further up the school, Post 16 and year 11s have started their Sport Leaders qualification, teaching the primary classes how to play bench ball. The young leaders been fantastic role models for them.

We have welcomed the new gym, which is small but mighty and has already had lots of use! Daylan's face lights up every time he sees the treadmill and Callan has set himself a personal challenge of rowing the furthest every week, I think he is up to 2600m although Emma P is hot on his heels. The new weights have arrived and in the new year we will be looking at circuit training with the cardio machines and weights.

In badminton news, there is an informal competition going for the most rallies which I think Alfie and Oliver are currently winning, closely followed by Jack and Daylun. Seth and Sophie have been putting me through my paces with our rallies but we haven't quite got to the 100 mark yet. I can safely say that I will be practicing my badminton skills over the holidays as nearly all of Beech class has beaten me this term! We have also enjoyed our first football tournaments this term. All pupils involved worked so hard and made us all very proud. It is wonderful to reflect on this achievement and we can't wait to build on this next year.

We have some exciting plans to move sport on at Magdalen Court coming in the new year. I hope all of you and your families have the most wonderful Christmas break and I am looking forward to welcoming all the pupils back to the sports hall in January.

Outdoor Education - Moss and Katie

The plan for Outdoor Ed starting in January 2024 is learning about the basics of First Aid, Rescue Skills and continuing with the John Muir Award and DofE. We will be utilising various woodland venues and our Forest School site to deliver the learning. Pupils will have the opportunity to gain a school based First Aid certificate which will cover everything from bandaging through to dealing with non breathing casualties and common medical emergencies.

In addition to the usual packed lunch and drink, pupils will need suitable clothing for the cold wet conditions and we advise everyone wears wellies or sturdy outdoor footwear. Sports trainers are not always suitable for what we do on Outdoor Ed sessions.

Look forward to seeing you in the new year for some more adventures!

12 days of Christmas – Magdalen Court style!



On the first day of Christmas, my teacher sent to me
Milo having a wee!

On the second day of Christmas, my teacher sent to me
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!

On the third day of Christmas, my teacher sent to me
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!

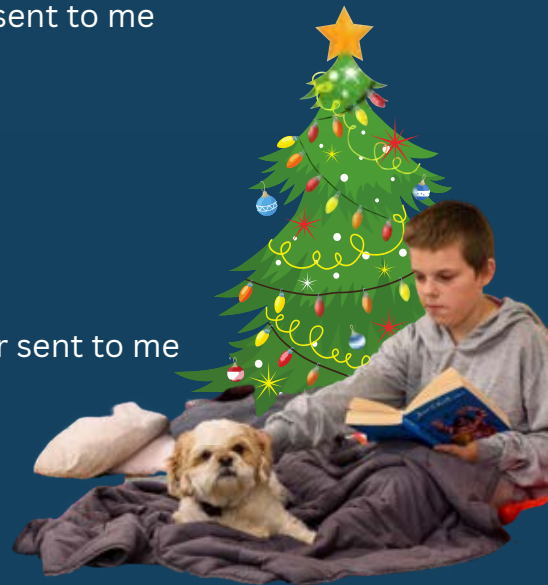
On the fourth day of Christmas, my teacher sent to me
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!



On the fifth day of Christmas, my teacher sent to me
Five radios crackling
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!

On the sixth day of Christmas, my teacher sent to me
Six Science lessons
Five radios crackling
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!

On the seventh day of Christmas, my teacher sent to me
Seven people reading
Six Science lessons
Five radios crackling
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!



On the eighth day of Christmas, my teacher sent to me
Eight fish are swimming
Seven people reading
Six Science lessons
Five radios crackling
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!





On the ninth day of Christmas, my teacher gave to me
Nine neglected plants,
Eight fish are swimming
Seven people reading
Six Science lessons
Five radios crackling
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!

On the tenth day of Christmas, my teacher gave to me
Ten tired teachers
Nine neglected plants,
Eight fish are swimming
Seven people reading
Six Science lessons
Five radios crackling
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!



On the eleventh day of Christmas, my teacher gave to me
Eleven Rodney's running
Ten tired teachers
Nine neglected plants,
Eight fish are swimming
Seven people reading
Six Science lessons
Five radios crackling
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!

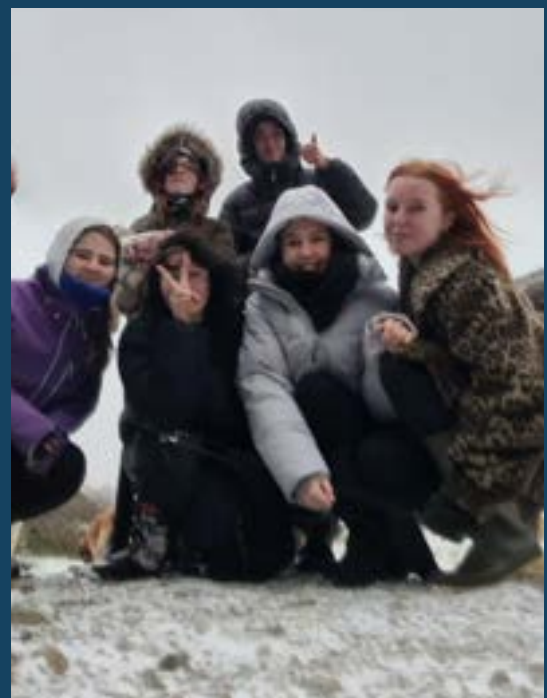
On the twelfth day of Christmas, my teacher gave to me
Twelve mince pies baking
Eleven Rodney's running
Ten tired teachers
Nine neglected plants,
Eight fish are swimming
Seven people reading
Six Science lessons
Five radios crackling
Four IKEA chairs
Three laughing children
Two kidnapped ducks and
Milo having a wee!

**Well done
to Isabel P
for writing
this
brilliant
poem!**



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



OAK CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



It's been a lovely term here in Oak class! A big well done to all our learners for settling in and making such great progress.

We've had a busy term, full of Outdoor Education trips, Food Tech and even a trip to Haven Banks climbing centre last week for our end of year trip! In some of our English lessons this term, we've been focussing on setting descriptions as part of a narrative focus. We used a story taking place at an airfield to collect vibrant vocabulary for the sentences and then displayed this work in our room to inspire us to use fantastic vocabulary in all our writing!

LARCH CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Larch class have been working on poems, inspired by their reading of *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright. Picking their own topics and using a variety of fantastic vocabulary, learners then created their own versions. We loved this example below, inspired by the Exeter City Museum!

The Exeter City Museum

I will collect for the museum
The ripple of the net when the ball rolls in
The shine of the floodlights on a Tuesday night
The feeling of joy on the day we got promoted.

I will collect for the museum
The smell of fresh grass as you walk by the pitch
The chants from the Big Bank throughout the game
The anger of the manager when the team loses.

I will collect for the museum
Seven goals scored against Cheltenham last August
The signing of the contract when the fans took over
The superstitious decision to change the kits from green to red.

I will collect for the museum
The hammering heartbeat of the goalkeeper during a penalty shootout
The crowd's nerves at 1-0 down
The tense feeling as the clock ticks into stoppage time...

The museum room is built from memories, hope, fear and 'impossible' dreams,
filled with highs and lows,
and a door made from joy,
windows made from hurt.

In the museum I will relive everything:
the start of Exeter City, St Sidwell's United, in green,
to the
present day –
Exeter City FC, fan-owned and thriving.

BEECH CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Having followed a set story structure to practise the skill of writing a Quest Story, Beech Class have now been planning and creating their own ideas for Quest Stories using the "Tell It In 5" technique of telling a story in 5 key sections. This fantastic story by Billy demonstrates many of the key skills we have been working on, but also perfectly captures his wonderfully cheeky sense of humour!

Once upon a time there was a boy called Jeff. Jeff had black hair, black eyes and wore a scruffy school uniform. He was in the final term of Year 10 at Magdalen Court School. It was an unusual day. The type where you can see both the sun and the moon in the sky at the same time and it was also chucking it down with rain. The school was dull and grey and Jeff was incredibly bored.

Luckily for him, Jeff's dad Bob decided to pick Jeff up early from school to take him on his quest to find a magnificent dinosaur fossil which was worth 10 million pounds. Bob found a possible map to find the treasure at his current job site. "Hey," they said to each other, "We've done it! We found the last map of dinosaur artefacts," dad exclaimed passionately. The map pointed them to a massive volcano in the middle of nowhere and at last we they saw it. Jeff did a foolish move and threw a stick into the volcano and the dog jumped in.

"For goodness sake!" said Bob, "Why did you do that? You have to go in and get him."

"OK sure, said Jeff "Oh I am dead"

"Yay"! Woo!" said Bob, "He was so annoying. I am glad he's dead! Hahaha!"

In the distance, Bob saw a wobbly bridge. He went over to the bridge to find a pit. After realising there were armed guards protecting the pit, Bob pulled out his rocket launcher and kills them all.

Finally, Bob retrieved the dinosaur fossil from the pit. After this altercation, Bob jumped into his sports car to drive back home. Almost unbelievably, he sold the fossil to an extremely wealthy man who gave Bob 5 million pounds. Instantly Bob got his house back and he lived happily knowing his son was dead.

HOLLY CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

Holly class have had a busy term! From the earliest days of September as we started our year together, to these last days before Christmas, I've seen them grow in confidence and resilience in their learning. Our English has been all about writing in a wide variety of styles, from a quest story, some fabulously imaginative war poetry, a non-fiction explanation text, and finally a story with a flashback element. I'm always proud to display my learners' work - the effort they put in deserves celebration.

In our first half term we studied a History unit looking at the modern world, and this half term has been a Geography focus on the Middle East. We created a working wall and through the half term we've covered a wide range of aspects of the area. Again, it's great to share their work and show how much development they're making.

A highlight of the term for me was taking some of the class to the Cathedral to take part in a carol service - we sat right next to the Lord Mayor at the very front and I was proud to see my class represent our school so well!

Great job Holly class - onwards and upwards next term!



ELM CLASS HIGHLIGHTS



MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Elm class have been working on Poetry this term and recently created poems inspired by winter images.

The wreath so very green,
The trees alongside the house lean.
The warm glow of the light inside,
The cold snow on the other side.
This Christmas as the snow falls.

The chimney made of brick,
Smoking as it makes the inside black.
The bows really red.
This Christmas as the snow falls.

The snow rising by the second,
Another few feet the family imagines.
The light shines bright and reflects from the snow,
As the snow begins to clear the family says "woah".
The holly green, the berries red, the lights brighter
than imaginable.
This Christmas as the snow falls.

By Seth

Chocolate for the children,
Houses in the snow,
Reindeers prancing outside,
Icing on the cake,
Stockings on the chimney wall,
Toys beneath the Christmas tree,
Mistletoe where everyone is kissed,
Angel who makes the Christmas list,
Santa who brings every present under the tree.
Tinsel on the Christmas tree,
Robins sitting on the roof,
Elves wrap the toys and give them to Santa to deliver,
Everyone celebrating Christmas together.

By Daylun

Christmas all around
Happy sounds
Robin singing in the Christmas tree
In the houses children giggling with glee
Stars are twinkling in the sky
Time for the reindeers to fly by
Mistletoe hanging with care
Among the snow hides the winter hare
Sleigh bells ringing for Christmas

By Bonnie

The lights are twinkling in the snow,
River frozen, no longer flows,
Stars shone bright and lit up the tree,
Lovely memory for you and me,
The lonely tree so brightly glows.

Icy snowballs are made and thrown,
I walk the bridge all alone,
Always waiting for you, my g,
A very good time.

A fire crackles and burns slow,
My mum cooks a gingerbread dough,
Watching the stars twinkle brightly,
The snow is falling so lightly,
Santa is coming ho ho ho`,
A very good time.

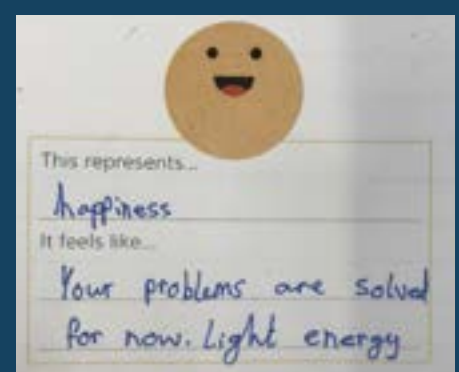
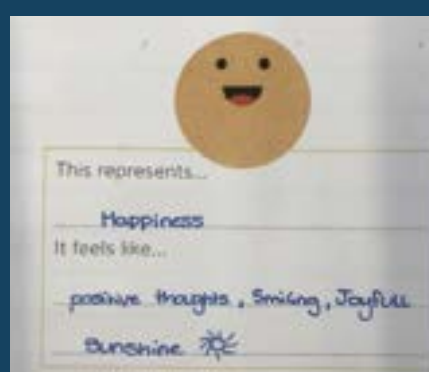
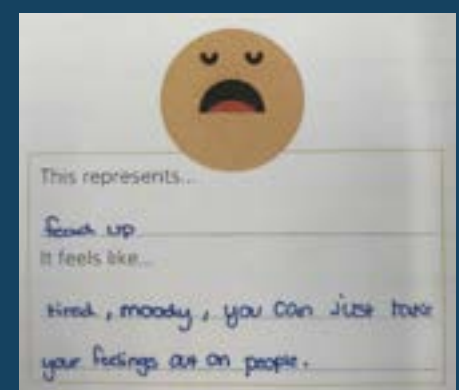
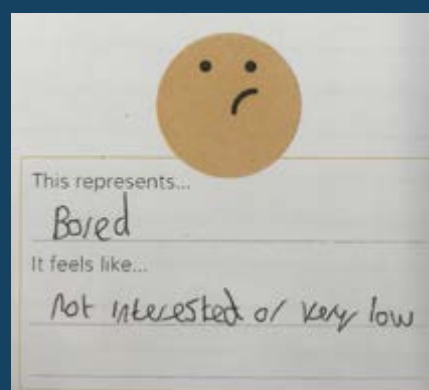
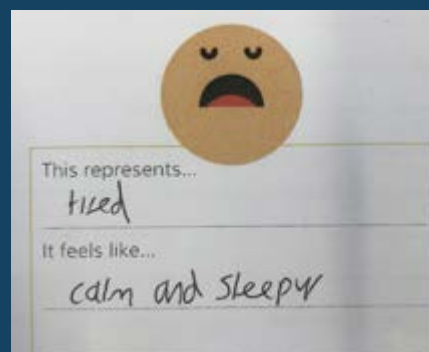
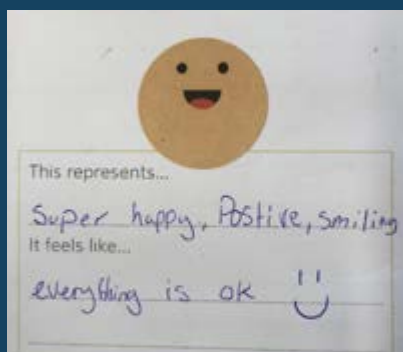
By Lola

ASH CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



We've had a brilliant term in Ash class! Amongst snowy trips on Outdoor Education, excellent bakes in Food Tech and even organising our own cake sale for Children in Need, we also found time to talk about mental health and our emotions during our PSHE lessons. This was a great opportunity to talk about how we understand our feelings and how we can support each other during difficult times. We've included some of our work below, showing what different emotions mean to us!



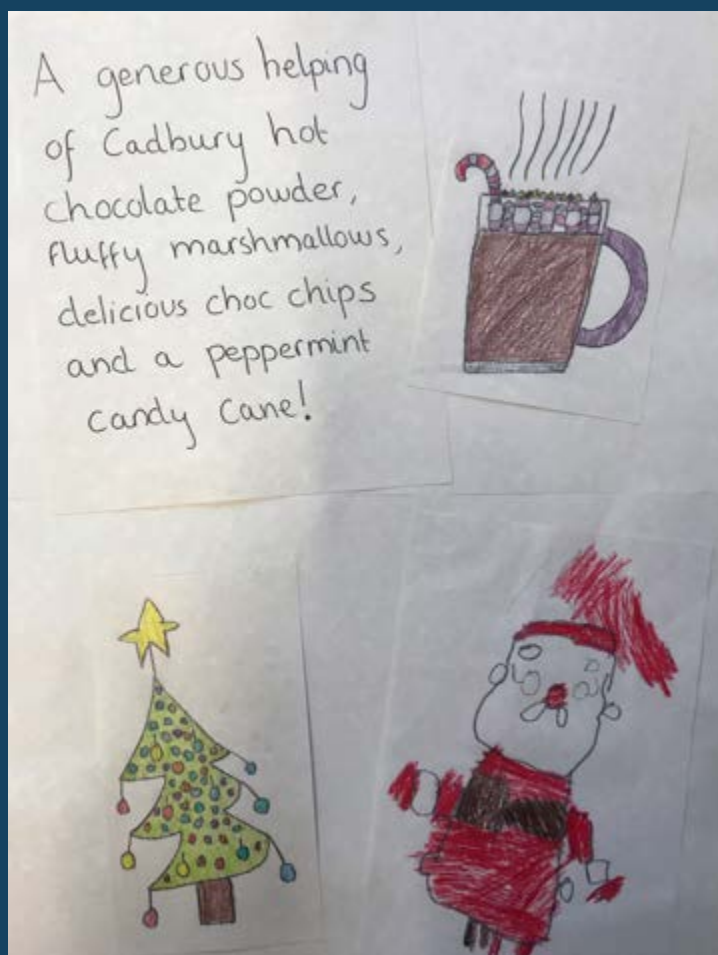
The technique that appeals to me would be mindfulness. This is because I like to do activities that make me feel happy and helps defeat bad thoughts.

HAZEL CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Hazel have had a great term together, but the highlight was probably the splendid thought and teamwork that went into producing our offering for the Christmas fayre - delicious hot chocolate kits with a snazzy poster for promotion!



LIME CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



It has been a really successful term for the pupils in Lime. As a new teacher to this group of students, it has been a really positive experience working with them and getting to know them better.

Students have been working hard to prepare themselves for their upcoming Mock exams in the new year and some of their work has been particularly fantastic. To expand their knowledge and explore their options of future pathways and potential careers we are planning to visit a number of establishments including Bicton College and Exeter College in the new year.

In preparation for their exams, students have been improving their independent and functional skills, such as using ICT and food technology. Additionally as part of their ASDAN award we have visited the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter Cathedral, Exeter Christmas Market and the Underground Passages. During these visits their behaviour and attitude have been exemplary and a real credit to Magdalen Court School.

The pupils have excelled in team building based activities such as designing, making and selling profitable decorations for the Christmas fair and when completing the 'Chocolate Challenge' during Careers Day. It is within these tasks that the students have the opportunity to culminate and present their ever growing curriculum learnt skills.

Well done all!



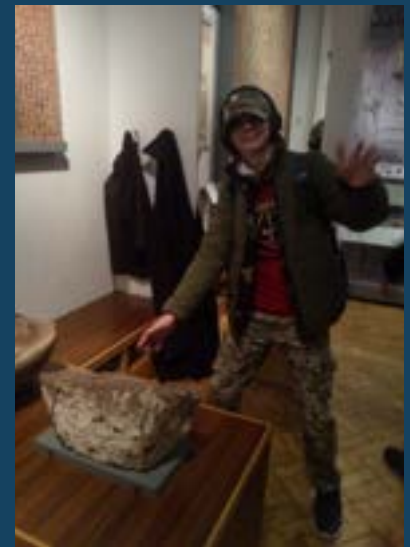
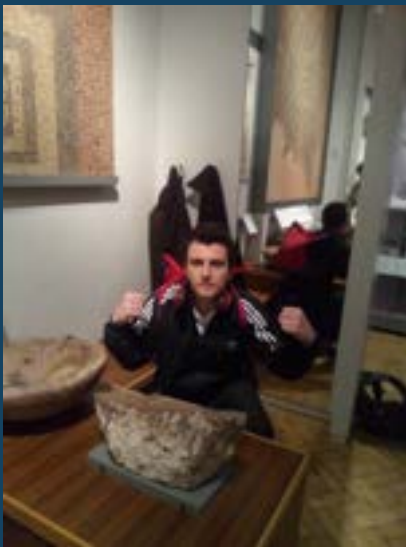
MAPLE CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Here are some fun photos from our Maple trip to the museum for personal development and some of the Hama bead decorations we made for the Christmas fair!

Since September Maple and Lime class have faced many changes, and the majority of students have found that challenging. I want to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of every single student for continuing to persevere, coming into school everyday and trying their best, even on the days where they might find that the hardest thing to do. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year and embarking on our new challenge of beginning to prepare for exams. I know this can seem scary, but I believe in all of our amazing learners, and I just know that we will absolutely smash 2024 out of the park! Merry Christmas everyone and see you next year!





From all the staff at Magdalen Court School

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New
Year!*