

END OF TERM
NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers,

It's been a great Spring term here at Magdalen Court! We've had new staff and learners, as well as improvements to the building - with new carpets throughout and new classrooms. We've also launched our word, idiom and number of the week social media posts - boosting vocabulary and number skills around the school. Safer Internet Day gave us a great opportunity to talk to our learners about the way they use the internet and how to build healthy habits.

In February, we had an inspection from OFSTED, which spoke positively about the curriculum, stating that it is '*clear, well understood and strong*' and that the school '*recognises that each pupil needs unique and individual support to access the core curriculum*'.

Many of our older learners have visited colleges, including Bicton and Exeter, and our younger learners enjoyed a trip to Escot Park this term - you can find some great photos from the trip in this newsletter! Our older learners have also been working hard for their mocks, preparing them for future examinations. Despite the anxieties of exam taking, they approached these with great maturity - well done everyone!

The last two weeks of term have been full of excitement! Last Friday we had some brilliant Red Nose Day celebrations - raising over £100 for some worthwhile causes! Oak class organised a fantastic cake sale and the whole school got involved wearing a flash of red. This week, we then held our first ever Careers and Curriculum Evening which was a great success and we are already making plans for the next one!

Have a lovely Easter everyone!

END OF TERM NEWSLETTER



Marathon success!

A big well done to Hollie (Oak TA) who ran her first marathon last weekend at the Great Welsh Marathon and crossed the finish line with her dog Rio!

Our Occupational Therapist Lucy will also be running the London Marathon in April and is raising money for the South West Multiple Sclerosis Centre. If you'd like to donate, please visit - www.mstherapycentresw.enthuse.com/pf/lucy-gillett-34898.

Good luck Lucy!



OFSTED

In February, OFSTED inspected the school and we are now pleased to be able to share the full report with you [here](https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50242252) (<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50242252>). In particular, we are pleased with the comments regarding the curriculum, leadership and the staff, recognising how the school has developed and that the staff *'know the pupils they work with well'*. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work during the inspection and as the school continues to grow and thrive.

Staffing Changes

This term, we are saying goodbye to Hollie who has been at MCS for a year. Hollie has been a great addition to the primary team and will be missed greatly by staff and learners! We would like to wish Hollie all the best and thank her for all her hard work!

Free Sensory Packs

Lucy has kindly shared a link from Caudwell Children, who have created subsidised Sensory Packs for children with disabilities who may benefit from them. For more information, or to apply for the packs please visit this [link](http://www.caudwellchildren.com/changing-lives/how-we-can-help/equipment/get-sensory-packs-3/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Post&utm_campaign=Get+Sensory+Packs&fbclid=IwAR3I3ZZG-B_SyoQ5qfuYbfDj4qIngzTXDvjgCpGfm1dcaxZPQUuQAbAH6i0):
www.caudwellchildren.com/changing-lives/how-we-can-help/equipment/get-sensory-packs-3/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Post&utm_campaign=Get+Sensory+Packs&fbclid=IwAR3I3ZZG-B_SyoQ5qfuYbfDj4qIngzTXDvjgCpGfm1dcaxZPQUuQAbAH6i0



Summer Term

Term will restart on Monday 15th April.
We look forward to seeing you all!

CAREERS & CURRICULUM EVENING

On Tuesday, we held our first Magdalen Court School Careers & Curriculum evening. This brought together colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers with our learners and their families, for an opportunity to discuss next steps after their time with us. We also had our teaching staff present, who were able to discuss the curriculum for different subject areas and showcase the resources that we use in class.

We've had some lovely feedback from both learners and their families and we'd like to say a big thank you to all our families for attending! This was the first event of it's type for the school and we are hoping to make it a yearly occasion. It was also a great opportunity for the school to build relationships with the companies and colleges who attended and we look forward to continuing these relationships as our careers provision develops.

It was interesting to find out which different places offer different opportunities. I'm hoping to go to Bicton because I want to be a veterinary nurse.

I enjoyed it because there were lots of people that I was interested in, like the NHS team because I found out that I can be a nursery nurse and look after new born babies and you get full pay on their apprenticeship!

There were lots of interesting things, including music stuff at Exeter College.

I was interested because it's careers, it's my future.

CAREERS & CURRICULUM EVENING

A big thank you to all the companies and colleges who attended and spoke to our learners:

- Bicton College
- Careers South West
- Dawlish Garden Trust
- Exeter College
- Exeter University
- Hair at The Academy
- Lifeworks
- NHS Apprenticeships
- PETROC
- Preparing for Adulthood team
- Reaching for Independence team
- Skills Group UK
- Savills Estate Agents

We would also like to say thank you to the staff members who helped pull the fair together and supported learners and their families throughout the evening. If you have any questions regarding careers and next steps for your learner, or you would like to provide any feedback or ideas regarding the event then please email your class teacher or Grace (gplant@magdalencourt.org).



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



We have had a brilliant final week of the spring term in the Food Tech department. Aspen, Larch and Oak classes did a fabulous job updating their workbooks with evaluations from previous practical sessions and made some delightful Easter chocolate crispy nests. Learners in Hazel, Chestnut and Ash class enjoyed making beef burgers. Some learners in year 11 & post 16 capitalised on their chocolate brownie skills having recently completed this as an assessment recipe and helped to produce some mouth-watering treats to be served during the Easter feast brunch on Thursday. Learners in Holly class have been involved with organising and helping out with the end of term celebration brunch, which included flower arranging, laying tables, preparing food ready for service such as fresh fruit, cakes and cooking bacon and sausages. It was a real team effort to complete two sittings simultaneously in different locations within the school for the upper and lower school. Many thanks for everyone's hard work and contributions.

Next term, classes Aspen and Larch will be producing a range of classic Italian pasta dishes. Oak class will be making savoury delights; stir fry, curry and koftas. Beech class will be making recipes inspired from 'around the world', chilli con carne & fajitas etc. Level 1 learners in year 9 & 10 will begin the assessment process and select a recipe to practice and adapt. Level 2 learners in year 10 will be making BBQ cuisine next term. Most of our 'leavers' in year 11 & post 16 will be working towards completing the Level 2 BTEC home cooking skills qualification.



LARCH & OAK CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

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This half term, we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons. In Larch class, we have researched and written non-chronological reports; visited the Saxon village at Escot, where we cooked bread, made iron jewellery and learnt to carve.



Oak class also joined the trip to Escot and had a fantastic day learning about the Saxon village and meeting the animals!



ASPEN CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

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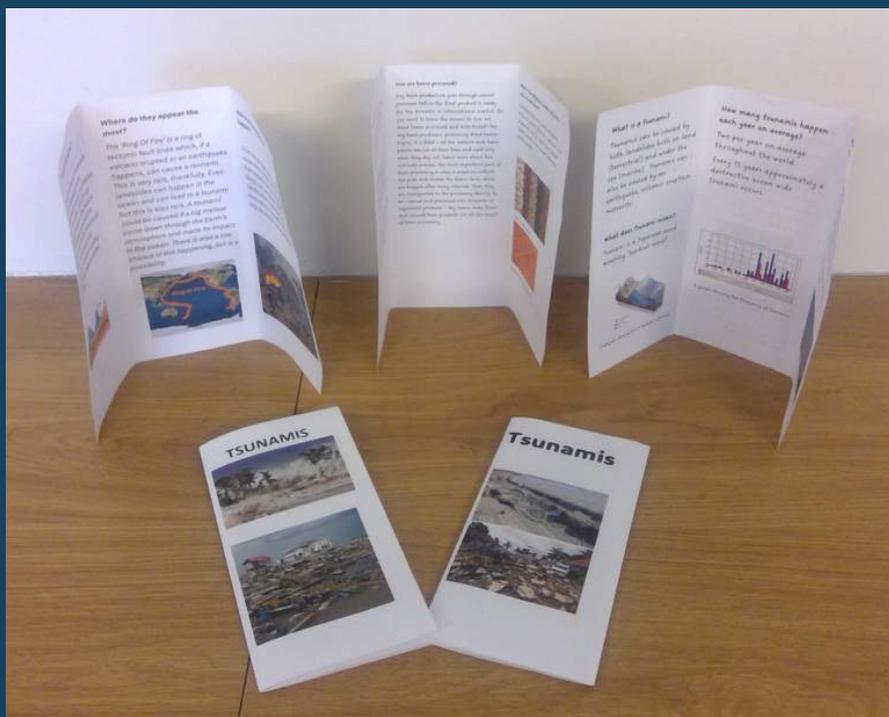


Aspen class have loved learning about the Anglo-Saxons. They really enjoyed visiting Escot Anglo-Saxon village and designing Anglo-Saxon shields.



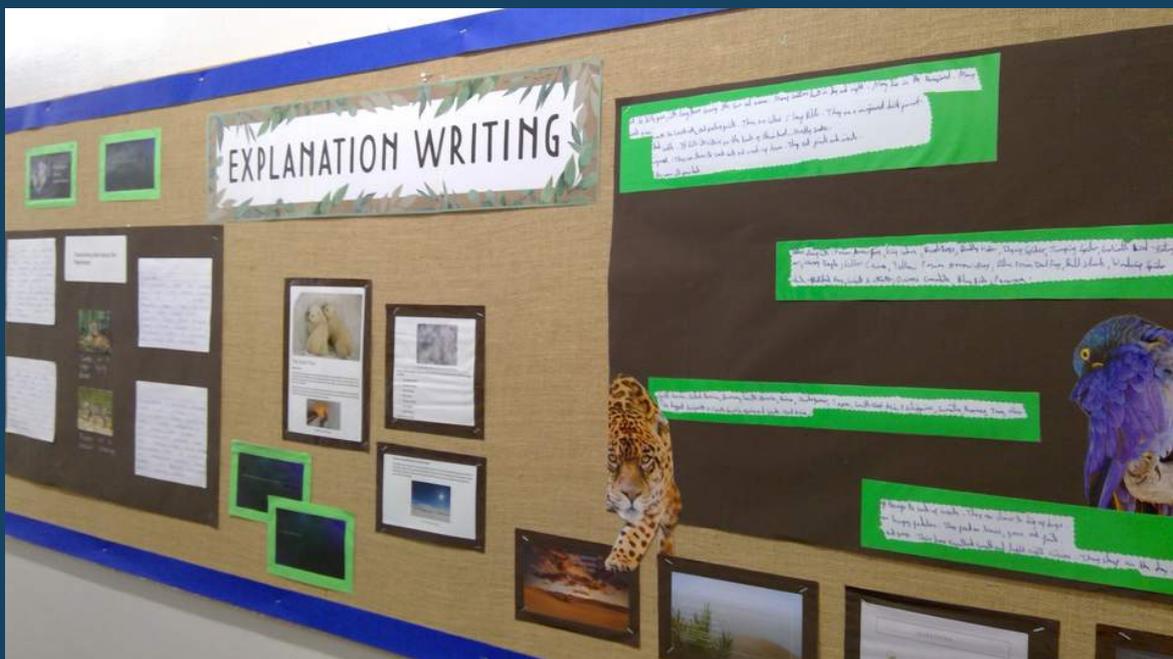
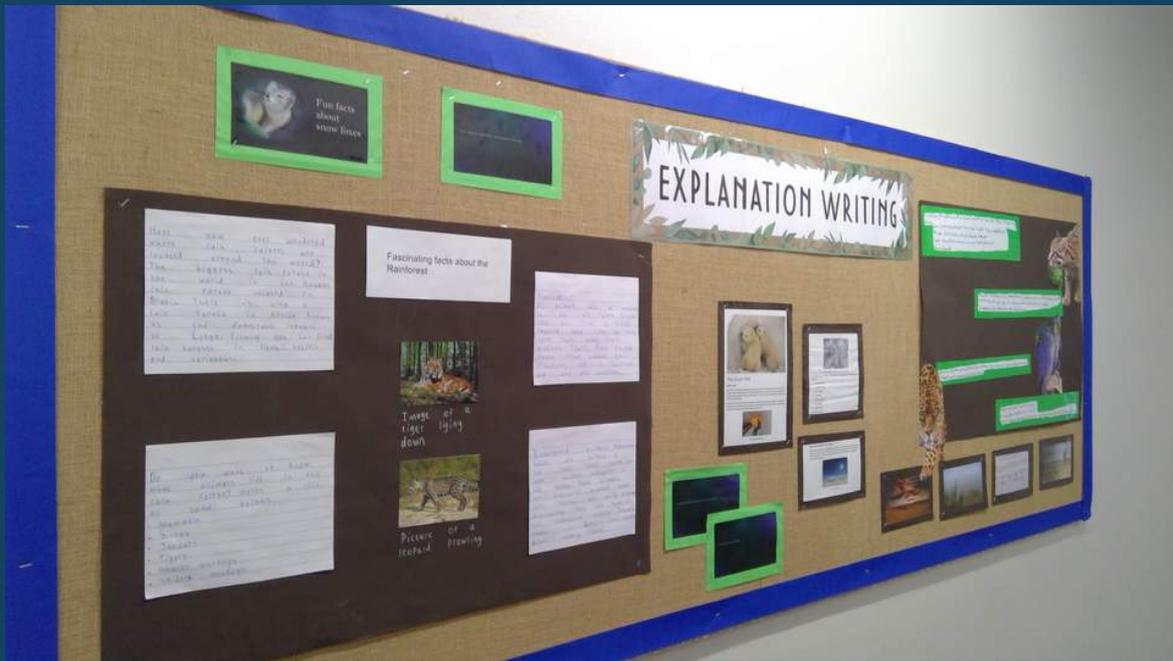
BEECH CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

This half-term, Beech Class have explored and analysed the effectiveness of a range of information leaflets and looked at the key features of non-chronological reports. The children then researched information on tsunamis, then planned and drafted a report for their own information leaflets. In Art we have explored the work of Japanese artist, Kasushika Hokusai, his use of colour and movement, and used pastels to create our own 'Great Wave' image.



HOLLY CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

Another fabulous piece of writing completed by Holly class as one of our writing tasks this term. Learners chose an environment to write about and used their non-fiction writing skills to explain the different aspects of that habitat.



ELM CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

These stories are a response to a unit looking at Dystopian worlds and developing characters in short stories. Great work, Elm class!

Jack's story -

James sat at his desk contemplating what to do next. It had been 3 months and 14 days since his last endeavour and during this time he had stumbled across something that truly caught his eye. Back in the 1940's several high standing Nazi leaders had commissioned a TOP SECRET project involving the meddling of time. It also mentioned that it was theorised Hitler never died in his bunker in Berlin and that he could have faked his own death. Some sources even claimed that they had seen a man who resembled the Nazi Fuhrer in his hometown of Braunau am Inn, and when he noticed them looking at him, he vanished.

There had been several other instances of Nazi war criminals possibly being sighted shortly before vanishing. Now this, thought James, "This could be the break I'm looking for." Suddenly James was jolted from his daydream by some turbulence which lasted for a few moments before ceasing to reveal the seemingly distant rumble of the plane engine. A few seconds later the captain's voice came over the speaker: "Attention everyone can you please fasten your seat belts as we will now begin our descent into Berlin!"

Seth's story -

We start this story on a Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. I woke up at half past nine, I then woke up the rest of my family. While my mother was out taking our dogs to our aunt Katie, me, dad and my brothers started packing for our trip to Canada.

"Marie! Have you packed the toothpaste?" My dad called out cheerfully.

"Yes dad, I have." I replied. I then called my mum,

"Hello?" My mum asked.

"How long are you going to be? We must leave in one and a half hours!" I exclaimed.

"I'll be home in 10" she replied speedily.

We are now in the car, on the way to the airport my mum and dad are chatting about politics and money in the front, while my brothers talk about football and sports. Meanwhile I'm just on my phone.

We arrive at the busy airport, as we check in, we see hundreds of people standing around waiting at gates for boarding. We finally get through security and make our way to Gate 4. We wait around thirty minutes for our plane to arrive and 5 minutes for them to start boarding because they had to get a new flight crew as the originals had worked over fifteen hours. As we board, I see a little scratch but take no notice of it as they probably knew about it and it was probably fine. That is where I was wrong...

CHESTNUT CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Chestnut class have been studying World War Two and art at the time through Lowry's paintings, looking at perspective and tone. We have investigated how Exeter was impacted by bombing on May 4th 1942 with the loss of many lives, over 11,000 houses were damaged and the High Street was severely damaged. We then took a walk through Exeter to explore where the bombs had dropped.



ASH & HAZEL CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

Hazel class have had a great term, settling well to some challenging new learning, including writing some excellent English pieces. We've included this great example from Beth below, which is a narrative-descriptive story based on the idea of waking up to strange noises in the night! Ash class have also completed this work, with Oliver's included below.

Beth's story

I'm awake

I'm awake. The bedroom is dark. I look on my phone and see it's 3.13am.

You've got to be kidding me.

Then, there is a loud knock on the door.

I look out of the window. I see my cousin and roll my eyes. He had a fight with his dad again. Every time he has a fight with his dad he walks from his house to mine.

As I drag my zombie like body out of bed to open the door I fall down the stairs and land on my ankle. I hear the sound of glass shattering.

Waking up - Oliver

Gasp. I am awake. The sky is misty and the room is dark.

The clock hits three. 3AM. But the noise continues with a "tap tap tap". It doesn't stop and the noise is getting louder.

"Arrrrrr" I hear a scream. Then a BANG. The scream stops in an instant.

Now more scared than ever I look to the door and there is a shadow of a man. A man with a shotgun. I hold my breath and watch as he slowly passes and slowly walks down the stairs. I gasp for air.

The man runs back up the stairs. I leap under the bed then I see the man's feet next to my bed.

"I know you are in here. Come out. There is no escape."

"Got ya" he yanked the cupboard door open. I am still holding my breath. By now he has pulled all the covers off my bed.

He has moved my bed and I am looking straight at a man with a long white beard and a hairy shirtless belly.

BANG. The shotgun goes off.

LIME CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

This term learners in Lime class have revised particularly hard due to their mock and upcoming exams. The level of maturity and perseverance the students have demonstrated when faced with challenge has markedly improved an area which has been supported by our Occupational therapist, Lucy.

Learners have continued to explore the world of work, visiting Exeter & Bicton College, meeting with teachers and observing the facilities. They also visited the National Apprenticeship Show which provided the students with potential career opportunities after Magdalen Court school.



Learners have continued to develop their independent skills by utilising ICT applications and tools, for example students are becoming au fait when using the Stagecoach and Traveline app's when using public transport in their community.

Well done to our Geography and History students who have been conducting field studies to support their understanding for their upcoming Geography exams.

Finally, as a result of their hard work and endeavour pupils visited the Boom Battle Bar in Exeter and thoroughly enjoyed playing interactive darts. Excellent work!



MAPLE CLASS
HIGHLIGHTS

This term in English, Post16 and Y11 have been working on their persuasive writing. The class really embraced the challenge and focused their energy into writing letters to Adele and Rowena, with suggestions on ways to improve their school community. The letters were well received and have resulted in some actions taken. Through this, the upper school have learned positive ways to express their opinions, as well as persuasive writing techniques to clearly articulate their intentions. Well done everyone!

To Rowena,

I'm writing to you to express my feelings about the blue pen policy I believe as a member of staff I should have the choice to choose the colour of the ink of my pen. All of our books figure black ink so the sudden change of pen colour won't be helpful. I also believe majority of your emails, letters and paperwork are in black ink, but you want us to use blue?

As for my headteachers award last when you used black ink. If you really feel like we should use black ink, you should too. Reasonably, I don't think my work looks neat in blue ink and it even asks me to do after a year. One with some of the pen does they get the same.

I understand you are a busy lady, while trying your best to manage a school, but as a student I should raise my voice instead of my English paper and term is persuasive writing. So I'm using this opportunity to put two words with one word.

As a conclusion to my letter I would like you to raise my suggestions as soon as blue ink may be less staining but black ink is often than contracts against white paper, making in excellent legibility. It is especially suited for documents that need to be written clearly and easy to read.

Kind regards,
Adele

Dear Adele and Rowena,

I am writing to you about the fact that there should be a DT room again, the school once had one a few years ago but it was replaced to make space for a new classroom. I am not sure where it would go but I can think of a few reasons why it would benefit the school and learners:

- #1 It would obviously offer a new subject to teach the learners.
- #2 Also, it would teach the learners useful life skills that could benefit them in the future.
- #3 DT can offer a new GCSE pathway for learners to try and achieve which could lead to a career path in that sort of industry.
- #4 Offering DT at the school could give learners a new hobby that they could enjoy during their own time.
- #5 Doing DT as a subject could teach learners how to be safe around dangerous equipment, possibly avoiding possible injury later on in life.

Those are a couple of the good reasons I think we should have DT room again but there are a few things I would like to mention:

- #1 I think to avoid injury there should be close supervision at all times when a learner is using dangerous equipment.
- #2 I also believe that it would be a good idea that the learner knows clearly how to use the dangerous equipment to avoid injury once again.
- #3 I would recommend maybe limiting DT to sensible learners that are in key stage three or higher to avoid injury or messing around with the equipment.

I know some of these seem to be obvious suggestions, but I thought it would be a good idea to mention these just in case. I appreciate that you took time to read this and will consider my suggestions.

Yours Sincerely
From one of the learners (anonymous)

Dear Adele and Rowena,

I am writing to you today to explain why I think it would be beneficial for skiing to be added to our ongoing outdoor education curriculum.

Not only would skiing make everyone happy, research shows that it is one of the best exercises to target the most areas of the body. Statistics show that 80% of people that regularly engage in the sport, develop greater confidence and have increased body positivity, freeing body and mind.

For such a unique sport, our local dry slope is really cheap, costing only £4 per person, depending on the time you go and the level of need. The slope runs quiet sessions for learners with additional needs.

I think we have lots of different activities on outdoor education, but something unique like Skiing will give students incentive and something new and exciting to look forward to.

Yours sincerely
Jasmine

Dear Adele and Rowena,

I am writing to you today to talk about introducing a snack shop on the school grounds.

I think this will be a good idea because we can give the students a snack or drink at break time, and we can keep the cost low but give any profit to PAFOM in order to better the school.

Studies show that 80% of students are happier and work better when they have a snack it keeps their sugar levels balanced throughout the day. We will be selling fruit, crisps and chocolate for the students and we will make sure that they don't have too much sugar.

Post-16 can run the shop for work experience which will be good for their CV's and would mean and we don't have to pay anymore to run the store.

Yours Sincerely
Isaac

HIGHLIGHTS

Yesterday saw the first staff vs Post 16/Year 11 Netball game! Emma had been working hard with the learners to learn the rules as part of their work on invasion games. With a staff team made up of Hollie, Gemma, Lucy, David, Emma, Emily and Grace, Freddie and Tia on timekeeping and James as a very efficient referee, it made for an exciting game!

We saw some fantastic goals from Ruben and Theo which led to a 3-0 score at half time and the staff team feeling pretty dejected! However, after a 'motivational' team talk led by Tia and the decision to put David and Gemma in as shooters, the staff team managed to make a come back! At the final whistle blow, the score was 6-4 to Post 16.

Hopefully we can make this an annual event and the staff can claim a victory next year. Until then, check out the action shots below!



OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Our Outreach learners have done a great job this term, becoming more settled in Alley House and getting to know each other, building some great friendships. One piece of work that we've been really impressed with is this Online Safety poster, created by Hannah as part of her Personal Development studies. It's full of helpful tips and we love the colours that she has used!





National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

14 WAYS TO BE KIND ONLINE

Showing kindness online can mean so much to someone else. It is a choice we can all make that helps others, puts people's needs before our own and which can generate feelings of empathy and compassion. Small gestures can have a large impact and often one act of kindness can lead to more, making the world a happier and more positive place. That's why we've created this guide to suggest a few simple 'acts of kindness online' that can benefit people's mental health, support their wellbeing and encourage a more positive approach to engaging online.



1. BE POSITIVE

Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten up someone else's day.



2. OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes a friend or family member might post a question online or ask for help with something they can't do themselves. If you know the answer or are able to offer help, provide support and send a response. Something that may be easy for you might be difficult for someone else.



3. SHOW APPRECIATION TO OTHERS

If somebody you know has done something good or shown kindness themselves, thank them for it. It costs nothing and showing them that you appreciate it means so much.

4. SHARE FUNNY VIDEOS OR IMAGES WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY

We often come across funny videos or images online that make us laugh and then we move on. If you found it funny, your friends and family might too. It could help someone smile who may be having a bad day.



5. LIKE, LOVE & CELEBRATE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, like it, love it or celebrate it! It's a small gesture but could mean a lot.

6. VIDEO CALL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

It can be easy to be consumed by daily routine. Using apps like Zoom, FaceTime or WhatsApp are great for connecting with others far away and shows you're thinking of them even though you can't physically meet them in person.



7. TELL SOMEONE YOU'RE THINKING OF THEM

We can't always tell how people are feeling online and just dropping somebody a message to ask if they're ok or that you're thinking of them could literally make their day.

8. SHARE POSITIVE POSTS

If you see something online that inspires you, share it with people you know. An inspirational quote, a beautiful photo or a motivational video can lift spirits, improve self-esteem and help make people feel better about themselves.

9. HOST AN ONLINE QUIZ

Video conferencing apps are a great way to get friends and family together. If you know someone who is feeling lonely, host an online quiz and invite them to join in. It could really cheer them up.

10. THINK BEFORE YOU COMMENT

Sometimes thinking before you act can be just as significant as acting in the first place. Showing thought before you comment could stop you posting something hurtful, offensive or negative. It's always better to post positively or post nothing at all.

11. BE COMPASSIONATE & UNDERSTANDING

Being empathetic towards others and their situation is often an act of kindness and selflessness that gets overlooked. If you notice someone who is upset, drop them a message and offer to listen.

12. CONNECT FRIENDS & FAMILY WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS

You may know two people amongst your friends and family who you trust and know well who have similar interests and likes. Introducing them can be a great way for them to make new friends but remember to always ask their permission first.



13. RECOMMEND SOMETHING YOU ENJOY DOING TO OTHERS

If you enjoy doing something online, such as playing a game, or if you've found a great learning resource, share it with others. Even if you've watched a good film, letting others know can be an act of generosity that brings them excitement or pleasure at a time when they might need it the most.



14. PRAISE OTHERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Sometimes your friends or family might post something online that they're proud to have done. It might be an exam they've passed, learning a new skill or just completing a task. Either way, it's always kind to recognise hard work and effort through praise and celebration.



Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Happy Easter!

From all the staff at Magdalen Court School

