



St Matthias Newsletter – Term 1 2023/2024

There have been a huge number of great successes this term, pupils returning to mainstream, some pupils attending 100% and others excelling in their learning in PSHE and maths to name but a few. I hope you enjoy reading about all our achievements.

Don't forget Monday 30th October is an inset day, so we will see you again on Tuesday 31st October 2023 for Term 2. Have a fabulous half term!

Ms Morrison

Fishponds Focus

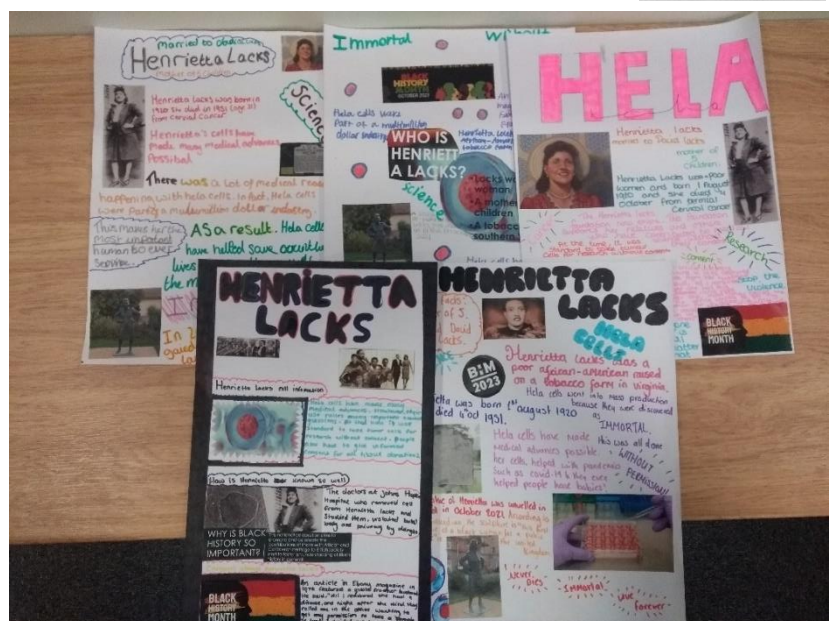
Black History Month

October saw the return of Black History Month. Again, this has formed the basis of assemblies and PSHE lessons that look at the largely unpublicised role that black people have played in the history of the country and the world.

Here in Fishponds, at the start of the month students engaged in an assembly for Black History Month.

This year's theme was 'Saluting our sisters' and it was only appropriate for them to learn about Henrietta Lacks and her unknown contribution to history. Henrietta Lacks was an African-American woman whose cancer cells are the source of the HeLa cell line, the first immortalised human cell line and one of the most important cell lines in medical research. Her cells are still being used in medical science today, even in the fight against Covid-19.

Students planned and designed a fact sheet about Henrietta Lacks and the results were amazing. Lots of the students were extremely proud of their work!





In many ways, **Black British History** can be used to educate people, young and old, about the pioneers who were the first to do jobs and roles that had previously been unthinkable for a black person to do. Our students have learnt about **Sislin Fay Allen**, Britain's first black female Police Officer. A real ground breaker.



So, for this year's Black History Month we salute Henrietta Lacks and the pioneering women who helped change the world.

Another new arrival

This term sees us saying goodbye to **Miss Russell**, as she starts her maternity leave.

The students are very sorry to see Miss Russell leave and some have found it a particularly emotional time. Miss Russell has been a big support to her current and ex tutees and many will miss her greatly. We wish Miss Russell **all the best** for the birth and the next twelve months of motherhood.

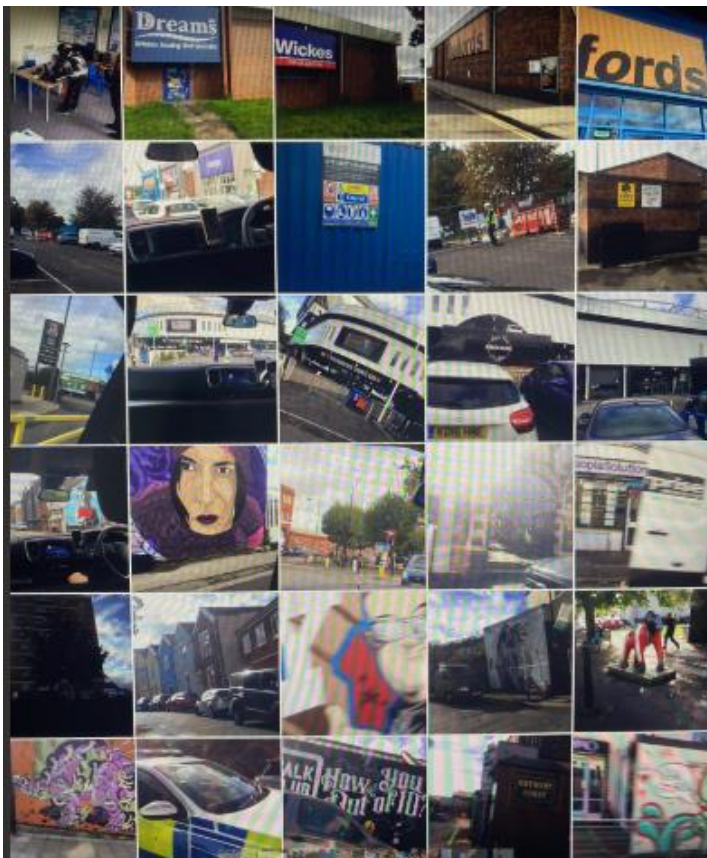




Brentry Bulletin

What an amazing, busy start to the new school year this has been. So much going on and so many students getting engaged and attending school every day! We can't wait to see what you will all learn next. Thank you for your effort and progress, and especially for sharing your emotions and feelings and having a go at new things.

This term we have been learning to express how it might feel to be a soldier in World War I, through reading war poetry and writing our own. Some of the work has been of a very high standard and we are enjoying sharing it on our wall of excellence. In Science Ms Grant has been teaching all about our organs: we even did a dissection of a real heart! Some of us found out we were truly fascinated by how amazing our bodies are and all the work they do for us: one student has even talked about taking an interest in medical professions further.



Careers with Mrs Price has been extremely popular, with lots of really focussed learning and in-depth thoughts and wondering about what steps we can take today to secure our futures. We have even been out to different areas to see how rich and varied the employment options in our city and beyond are. See what people do all day, outside of school, has really cemented our learning and got us thinking about how to prepare for the next stage of our education and beyond.



In Maths, we have been working on place value, number and the four operations. Mr Sales gives special mention to the high levels of commitment and progress in Titan class, where work has extended into advanced areas including prime factorisation and the laws of indices. Team Building has also been a roaring success, with some students really shining in this area and developing their social as well as their problem solving and reasoning.



Art has been a complete pleasure to teach and has included some wonderfully engaged and creative outputs in our topic of colour pattern and marks. We have developed our understanding of colour theory and its impact on art – in particular by focussing on the studied the life, work and times of Van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso and Hockney.

ICT has included a close look at clear messaging in digital media and extended our critical thinking around e-safety and social media. For more links and support in this area you could check out the resources at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z9k3r2p>





Rush Hill Round Up

New leadership team and new academy merger for Rush Hill site

Lots of changes have taken place in our busy first term, here at Rush Hill. Mainly, a whole new Senior leadership team with a new vision and ethos for the school.

We started the academic year with all places filled. Week by week new schools have been found for our pupils to enable a fresh start. The leadership team will continue to support our current and future pupils to move forward with their educational and social needs.

The teaching team started the term off with a book look of each subject, to understand the academic and learning needs of our pupils within the different areas of our curriculum.

The picture shows one of our pupil's Art project folder for term 1.



Credit to Lou Carr, our Art teacher.

Celebrating achievement

Our pupils have bought into and have a daily investment in our newly designed learning points programme where we celebrate each pupil's individual learning journey. We have a levelled enrichment programme each Friday where pupils can earn different activities including off site trips. Planned by Louis and Ricky.

Pupil of the Week is also helping our pupils to increase their self-belief and confidence, as well as supporting them to be the best version of themselves. We award this every Friday. Sadly, we haven't any photos. We will include some in next terms newsletter.



Lunch time puzzle

Pupils are encouraged to complete our termly puzzle, to help them focus and calm in unstructured time.

Credit goes to Gemma for leading and encouraging our pupils to have a go and find a piece!

Special mention to Scarlett and Katie for helping to complete the puzzle. Staff are on the hunt around charity shops to find the next puzzle for Term 2!



Social skills, whole school enrichment and cultural capital!

As well as progressing with their academic knowledge, it is important for our pupils to understand group situations and social dynamics.

These are supported by our fantastic team here at Rush Hill, who all offer different experiences to help guide our pupils through their teenage years and the social situations they find themselves in.

Building relationships and trust is key to build aspirations and growth mindset for our pupils. Taking them off site supports their understanding and respect of the local area as well as building resilience and positive mental health.

Offsite PE and gym sessions planned for term 2 will continue to support this.

