



## St Matthias Newsletter – Term 2 2023/2024

There were some amazing achievements this term with 9 pupils returning to mainstream and a further 4 getting allocated places. We also have some star attenders at each site and it's well done to Coby, Leah, Viv, Jav, Baileigh, and all pupils who have improved their attendance this term. Here are some important dates for your calendars:

**INSET DAYS** - Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd January 2024

**HOME / School meetings** - Thursday 4th January

**STUDENTS RETURN DATE** - Friday 5th January 2024

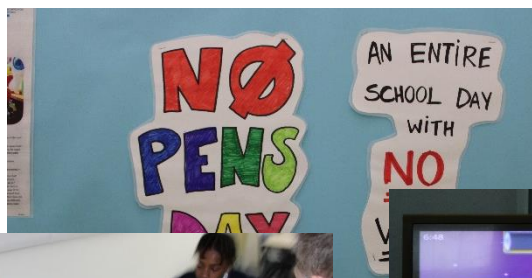
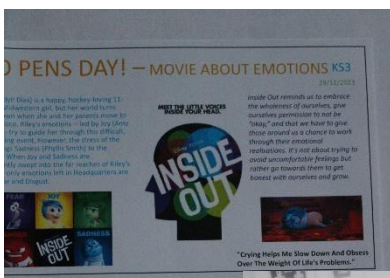
Finally, I'd like to wish you all a smashing winter break and look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Ms Morrison

### Fishponds Focus

#### No Pens Day

This year we took part in No Pens Day on the 29th October for an entire day with absolutely *no writing*. This movement has been developed by Speech and Language UK, an organisation that raises money to provide Speech and Language therapy to children all over the UK. The campaign also aims to raise awareness about Speech and Language disorders, and to show that learning can be achieved through far more than just pen and paper. Students played interactive games in Science, Pizza Fraction Fun in Maths, and Articulate in English. We also had a very hands-on Art lesson using Mod-rock, and students watched a film in PSHE. It was a great opportunity for everyone to interact and learn with each other through show and tell!





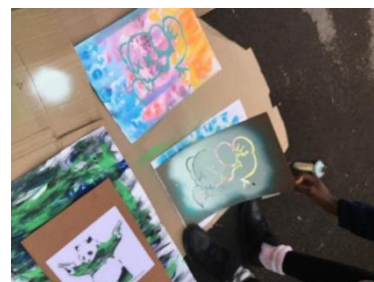
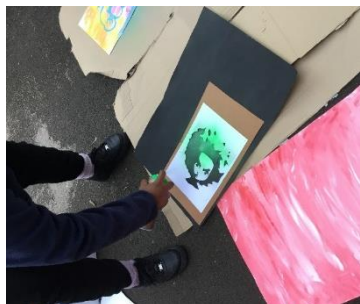
### Children in Need

Once again, the staff and students took part in a range of activities to raise money for those less fortunate than themselves. Pin the patch on Pudsey was a very popular game and everyone had a go at guessing the number of bears in the jar. The winner of which was Lily. Her guess of 299 bears was only 8 away! Thanks also to Tiamy, who led the team baking muffins and fairy cakes for the bake sale.



### Stencil Art

This term in Art we looked at the work of Bristolian street artist Banksy. Our pupils learned about the anonymous artist and his "stencil" graffiti technique, which allows him to produce his work quickly and with a dazzling result. Students then chose their own designs, cut out stencils and used spray paint to create their own work inspired by Banksy. You can see the wonderful results below.



### Sports

This term we have been focusing on improving the Badminton skills of the students. We started with a wide range of abilities, with some students having never held a racket before while others have shown to be quite adept. However, regardless of what level of skill pupils have started at, now the vast majority of them feels confident holding a racket. Working in pairs has shown to be difficult for some students but, as time has gone on, pupils have learned to communicate better with teammates and play off of each other's strengths.





Another exciting game that has been played a lot this term is football-tennis. This is a fast-paced game which can be played individually or in teams. Teamwork and communication are key to be a winner in this game. Football tennis was introduced by a group of new starters and it was great to see them teach the other students how to play.

We have also seen an improvement in our pupils' display of sportsmanship as well. All the students will now shake hands at the end of every game and we have seen many more positive comments from students. Sports is a great opportunity for new relationships to form, and it has been lovely seeing these competitive rivalries foster into friendships.



### Christmas Lunch

On the last Wednesday of term, we hosted a Christmas lunch for all staff and pupils in our dining hall. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal alongside their friends, classmates and tutors. A major shout-out goes to our chef, Sarah, who single-handedly took care of preparing lunch for all of us at St Matthias Fishponds. Merry Christmas, everyone!



Lastly, this term we also say goodbye to our Assistant Head-Teacher, SENDCO and GCSE Art teacher, Ms Julie Caswell. She is leaving the trust after 11,5 years and she will be dearly missed by staff and pupils alike.

Best of luck on your new job, Ms. Caswell!





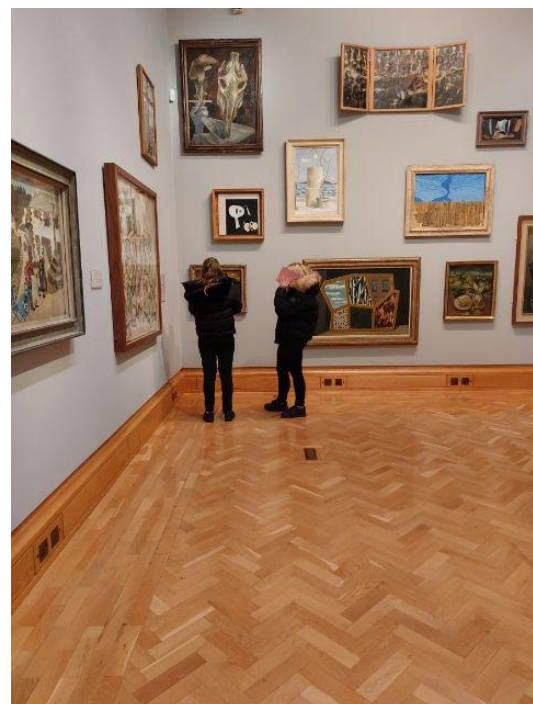
## Brentry Bulletin

What an enjoyable, fun-packed term this has been, with so much going on at St Matthias Brentry. We said hello to several new faces and will be saying a fond farewell to Ms Grant at the end of this term. Ms Grant has been here since December 2014 and while we are sad to see her leave we are totally delighted that she's moving on to such an exciting new job much closer to home. Good luck!

In Ms Grant's Science this term we have been learning about states of matter and particles. We have completed investigations into solubility and temperature and diffusion. We used food colouring for the diffusion investigation and many learners ended up blue handed! Last week we separated salt from a sand mixture and grew salt crystals.

English with Mr Kennedy has been seasonably atmospheric, with a deep dive into Gothic Literature. Learners have had the opportunity to explore a range of different texts from the genre including Frankenstein and Dracula. Over the past few days learners have been tasked with creating their own Gothic narratives. The resulting pieces have been packed full of descriptive details and ambitious techniques which demonstrate impressive levels of engagement, imagination and enthusiasm. It's also been encouraging to see individuals making progress during our Skills Workshop lessons. Maths has been looking deeply into number, place value, percentages and all the fundamental skills that underpin our subject.

Art and Careers had a combined trip to The National Museum and Gallery of Wales in Cardiff at the start of December. It was a fantastic day and the students engaged deeply and have brought their learning and experience back into the class room from this. In this and across our enrichment activities we are looking forward to more real-world experience to deepen the inspirational learning offer and environment for our young people and to equip them for the next stage of their education and their life beyond.







### Rush Hill Round Up

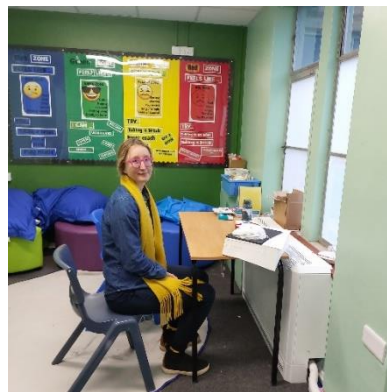
Meet Sarah Elford (right). She started at Rush Hill in November as our Receptionist and administrator. We can't believe how we managed so long without her!



We can now also offer Art and Music Therapy to our pupils every Thursday. Sessions will be held in our break out rooms.

Our pupils have shown great enthusiasm so far and have booked themselves in for sessions.

Please meet Vivienne (Music Therapy) and Jo (Art Therapy).



We have been busy with in year applications and we are sending out pupils work to their new schools.

Our resource base, known as 'the bungalow' is getting a new make-over during the holidays. Art is moving into the main school, making way for a new induction resource base.



We are also writing a new 10-day induction programme to support our pupils with their transition into Rush hill that will enable vocational, nurture and thorough assessments to be completed.

Lastly, The Rush Hill site staff team would like to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year!**

