



St Matthias Newsletter – Term 1 2024/2025

“This term has been a very eventful one indeed. Ofsted visited, met lots of pupils, heard from parents and saw some fabulous learning. Our newsletter showcases that and all the other events that went on this term. Enjoy!”

- Ms. Morrison

Fishponds Focus

Personal Development Sessions

Explore

This term a group of pupils from St Matthias Fishponds Bristol, undertook research about world-renowned street artist Banksy. They were able to explore art in an interactive and exciting way. Pupils planned which part of The Banksy Trail in Bristol to take and to document and gather information for their Art GCSE.

A Banksy trail trip can also turn into a local history lesson, as children learn about Bristol’s vibrant cultural scene and its connection to graffiti art. Walking around the city’s streets lets our pupils see the contrast between the old and the new, while exploring various neighbourhoods.

The trail is an educational yet fun way to inspire students, encouraging them to think critically about art, its meaning, and its place in everyday life. Explore provides a memorable day out that blends learning with adventure.

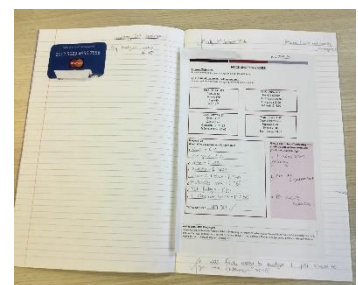


PSHE

Congratulations to all the students at Fishponds who gained an AQA Award in **Personal Finance and Money Management** this term.

Students worked very hard in learning about budgets and the importance of being able to have control over their finances.

Pupils learnt that budgeting is a planning tool that enables not only businesses but also everyday people to establish quantifiable financial targets for the future.





#HelloYellow

This term we also celebrated the **Young Minds' Mental Health Awareness Week**. Pupils worked on the topic of Mental Health in different subjects and shared their strategies for staying mentally healthy and strong. Our in-class assemblies also promoted nice discussions around the topic as pupils shared their knowledge with peers and staff.

Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who help us raise Money for #HelloYellow World Mental Health day!

Together, Hello Yellow supporters have raised an incredible £2,168,180 since 2016. Every pound raised helps us continue to work towards creating a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health. At St Matthias Fishponds, we raised £98 which will help Young Minds in their quest for fighting for young people's mental health.



YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

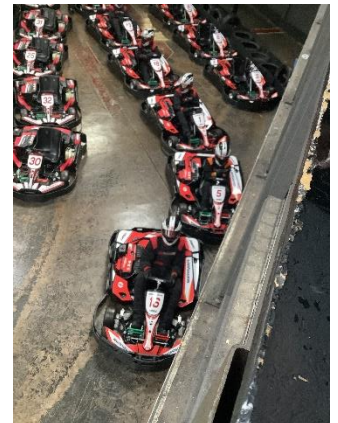
Speech and Language

Lexi-Jo is our Speech and Language Therapist for St Matthias Academy. She works at both Brentry and Fishponds site every Wednesday. Lexi-Jo sees all new students to complete an initial Speech and Language Therapy assessment, and also provides additional support through interventions with pupils that need a bit of extra help. A report is provided following assessment with strategies to support students' communication within the classroom.

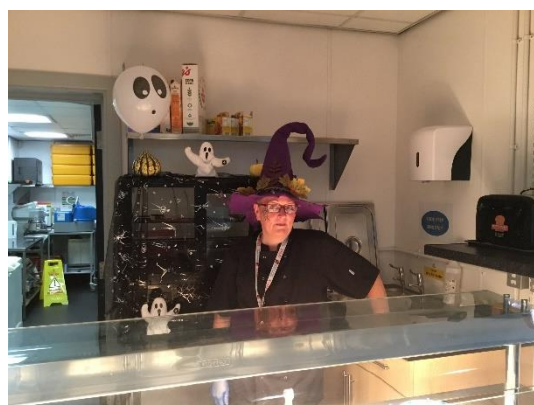
Speech and Language UK 
Changing young lives.

End-of-Term Fun

This term we also took our pupils on a couple of trips to celebrate a successful term and reward their positive behaviour in school. The 10 students with the best overall behaviour reports had the chance to join Go Karting or Ice Skating and end the term in a super fun way!



Finally, we would like to wish everyone a relaxing break and we look forward to seeing everyone again after Halloween! Here's a **SPOOKY** goodbye from our chef Sarah!





Brentry Bulletin

Personal Development

Our PD targets underpin all of our planning, but is brought to the fore during our PD sessions on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Several students have gained their AQA in Creativity. During Thursday afternoon sessions they have explored and imagined at least two different pieces of work themselves inspired by a picture and piece of music. One student was so moved by Coldplay's 'The Scientist' she has learned to play it on the keyboard. The atmosphere of calm, creativity in the room and outside on our nature walks has been inspirational: finding each of their own creative purpose and direction and then honing their artistic voice is what this is all about. By embracing their own differences and rather than trying to fit it, to dig into the essence of what's already there inside waiting to be expressed in their own artistic thumbprint is something we will continue to work on this year.

PD has also brought us to start the AQA in Exploring the Outdoors - the Lower Wye Valley: walking in the footsteps of poets and painters including Wordsworth, Turner, and Coleridge. We are studying a painting or poem in the landscape in which it was created: getting the benefit of being outdoors in the natural beauty and historically significant Wye Valley. Building cultural capital for mind, spirit and body and we even rounded it off with physical activity, team building and challenge with a trip to Go Ape at Mallards Pike.



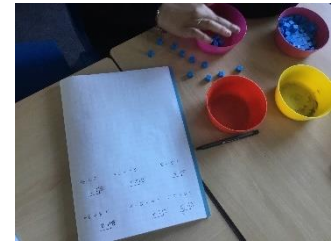
Art

This term at Brentry has been full of creativity. In Art our learners have enjoyed exploring Colour, Pattern and Marks and produced a wide range of studies including on the life and work of Van Gogh. In developing our sketching and observation from life some of the work drawing hands has been exceptional and in paint we have put all our learning about colour theory into practice. We are hoping to go see some Van Gogh and other famous art works soon next term, so we can continue to develop our cultural capital and life experience.





In Maths we have been learning about Number, Place Value and Fractions, with lots of opportunities for concrete learning and real-life examples to underpin the abstract concepts and fundamental building blocks of Mathematics, building firm foundations for the future.



PSHE has seen us all working toward the AQA Award in Britain as a multicultural society. This week we were focussing on Migration - its positive benefits, learning about how Britain has a long history of immigration from various countries - how it has changed over time and identifying at least two countries from which people have migrated to Britain. This fun, interactive topic took in Google Earth, atlases, looking at Census data and even building a historic timeline from the Romans in Britain.



DT

In Design and technology this term pupils have been working on isometric drawings and have designed and built wooden phone holders. This has involved a considerable amount of hand sawing and sanding to create some very attractive pieces. A few students have worked extra hard throughout the term and the result of their work can be seen in the picture.



Sports

In Sport this term we have been working on Badminton, focussing on coordination and sportsmanship. Working in small groups, we have learned techniques for badminton including overhead smash, underarm clear, outwitting an opponent and serving. We have learned all about the court lines and rules. Break and lunchtimes have become very competitive with great sportsmanship as we play knock-out tournaments.

Science

This term we have been delving into the fascinating world of living organisms by exploring both their structure and function. The hands-on practical lessons have been particularly engaging, allowing students to examine their own skin cells, taken from the inside of their mouths, under the microscope. It's been a great opportunity for them to see science in action. In addition, we've explored how the body changes during exercise, observing the impact of physical activity on various systems. Additionally, the students have been studying bones; they've had the chance to not only look at but also feel a range of bones This hands-on experience with bones has given students a practical insight into skeletal structure.





Rush Hill Round Up

DT Successes

This term in DT pupils learned how to use a sewing machine and worked incredibly hard on producing amazing tote bags. Here's KS focussing on making sure her hem was neat as a pin. The results were fabulous



Being Safe in the Community

The community organisation, Solve, came in to school to talk to pupils about the dangers of online grooming and of knife crime. All pupils engaged really well in the session and one pupil commented that he didn't realise how dangerous it can be to carry a knife. Solve make you definitely think about knives in a different way.



Mental Health Awareness

Staff and pupils celebrated #Hello Yellow on the 10th October. This day highlights the importance for us all to look after our mental health. Pupils talked about how they keep positive and discussed how to help and support each other. Here's MM modelling the photo frame that she made with Gemma, as well as a lovely group picture.





End of Term Awards

End of term awards this Term went to FB for excellent progress, LD for effort and LK for attendance. There was also a huge round of applause for SD who has done so well and who is moving on to mainstream in Term 2.



Our Leavers

Lots of pupils have left St Matthias this term. Herbie, Rory, Brooke, Leah, Hal, Jackson and Jordan have returned to mainstream. We also said goodbye to Mia, Sav & Betty, too. While it's sad to say goodbye, we are still so proud of everything they have achieved and know that we have done our best to help them make positive choices going forward.