

**St Matthias Academy Newsletter** Term 1 2025-2026

**Fishponds Focus**

**English**

We have had a fantastic term in English at Fishponds. Students have been looking at non-fiction texts. Key Stage 4 pupils have been focusing on summarising, comparing and analysing. Whereas Key Stage 3 have also been writing their own persuasive examples.

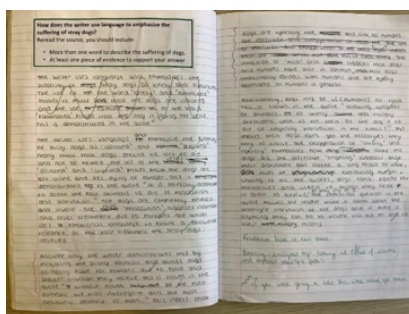
**Helping the homeless.**

The Problem

In 2024, around 370,950 house holds were offered support with homeless! bet u didn't know 4,667 people were sleeping rough? Isn't it weird that life expectancy for the non homeless is 81 but for the homeless its 45?

How We Change Lives

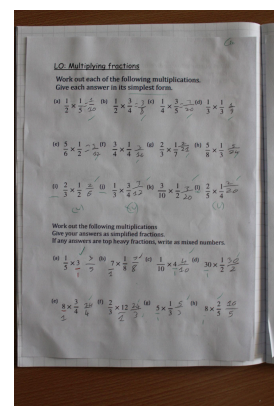
How would you feel if you had to sleep out in the cold? We run a shelter and a soup kitchen for the homeless. People need to help the homeless more think how you would feel being freezing cold with nowhere to go. I've seen people make fun of the homeless its very sad but I am glad I'm helping most of the homeless. Our shelter don't just provide food and water but a bed aswell also we offer them support to get a job.



Students at St Matthias have been recording their reading in new journals. Students have been reading the news, young adult novels such as Noughts and Crosses and Dead Popular or older favourites such as The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas.

**Maths**

Pupils have been focusing on operations using fractions and simplifying improper fractions. We have seen a brilliant level of effort from all of our pupils, with some even taking on the challenge of teaching others to do their work on the whiteboard - in front of the whole class. Well done, everyone! Amazing effort!



**Science**

This term in Science, students are learning about Genetics and Biological Sex. We'll explore how traits are passed from parents to children through genes, and how these genes help determine characteristics like eye colour, hair type, and biological sex. Students will also learn about DNA – the “code” that makes each living thing unique. Our lessons will include simple experiments, model-building, and discussions to help students understand how inheritance works in humans and other animals. We focused on using correct scientific language and literacy, while encouraging curiosity and respect for individual differences.



## PSHE

In PSHE, students have been working on an AQA Wellbeing Award. Pupils were able to discuss ways to take care of their wellbeing and also how to assist others with theirs.

For Black History Month, students learnt about two black Tudors who were remarkable in their time. John Blank, who petitioned Henry VIII for more pay and received double the amount, and Mary Fillis, who was Baptised to fit into British society.

## Art

It has been a delightful term in Art, with all groups working well and sustaining their effort throughout the term. Pupils have looked at colour theory, the work of Van Gogh, Shemza and Stella, as well as practiced their drawing skills and learned how to make a relief print using styrofoam and lino. Here are some pictures of our lovely pupils having fun in the Art room.



## D&T

We started this term building our technical drawing skills on an isometric grid. Students gave their best effort trying to wrap their heads around this rather tricky concept, and some were very successful! Lastly, we also looked at famous designers throughout history like Porsche, Mackintosh, Chanel and Rossi. Pupils discovered how some of these people influenced the design of the material world we live in today, and how some of their inventions evolved into sought after products in this century.

## Food Studies

This term in Food Tech the students have cooked a variety of different dishes from around the world. These dishes include a very flavoursome Thai Green Curry, Spaghetti and Meatballs with a delicious fresh made sauce, Chelsea Buns that ended up identical to Cinnamon Rolls due to a slight change in the recipe - but to the delight of the students who all requested the recipe to take home. And finally, the School Traybake was a great success and the students compared it to the one they had when they were younger in school with very fond memories.



### Personal Development: Arts and Crafts

Our Arts and Crafts sessions have been very successful this term, with all pupils engaging intently and eagerly every Friday. Honorable mentions go to SF, who always challenges herself, to RS, who always perseveres despite trying complicated pieces, and to NOF for taking suggestions and being creative. Here is some of what we made this term, and a little snippet of Mr Quinn trying marbling inks for the first time with the help from our pupils.



### Personal Development: Boardgames & Social Skills

We have seen some excellent engagement from pupils this term as they polished their logical skills and competed against each other in a number of different games. From simple games like Dobble, domino and memory games to more sophisticated strategy games like Scrabble and Risk, pupils have displayed good sportsmanship and problem solving skills, whether competing against each other or working together as a team.

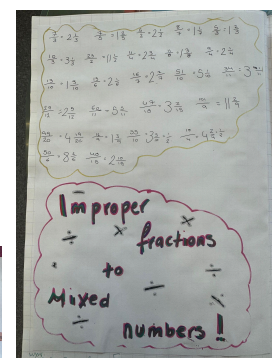
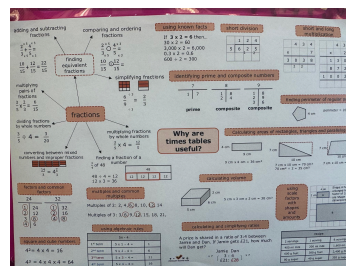
# Brentry Bulletin

## English

This term in English, pupils have explored the theme of charity while developing their persuasive writing skills using HADAFORREST techniques. They considered how and why texts are written, structured, and organised to influence readers, practising how to identify and analyse these choices effectively. Pupils also strengthened their analytical writing by creating detailed PEEZE paragraphs, comparing how two different texts use language and structure to convey powerful messages about generosity and compassion. I have been so impressed by the pupils' focus, creativity, and enthusiasm throughout the unit. Their written work and thoughtful discussions have shown real progress and pride in their work.

## Maths

We have been studying place value, the four operations, and fractions. Students have worked hard and everyone has made at least one point's progress in their end of term assessments. Special mention to RLS who scored 100% in his end of



unit assessment on fractions and heads back to his mainstream school on target for a grade 4 at GCSE.

### PSHE

In PSHE this term at Brentry we have been working toward AQAs in Multicultural Britain and Black History. There have been some very thoughtful and insightful discussions and students have demonstrated high levels of engagement. In PD we have enjoyed Art as friends and learning the piano: both areas have had AQAs submitted. We rounded off the term with a cultural capital and PD trip to Cardiff, to the National Gallery and Museum. Highlights of that visit included the Impressionists and Renaissance paintings by Van Gogh, Monet, Botticelli. We also enjoyed the temporary exhibition celebrating 250 years since the birth of J.W. Turner as well as the Welsh Hip Hop gallery.



### D&T

In DT at Brentry, pupils have been designing and making phone holders from softwood. They have also produced some excellent isometric drawings and been learning about different types of wood. Lilly-Mai and Lexie in particular have worked consistently well in lessons on their practical work and their designs and have created an excellent duck and heart phone holder.



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## Rush Hill Roundup

### Personal Development: Messy play

Students at Rush Hill had the opportunity to engage in a fun and creative messy play session as part of their personal development activities. During the session, they made slime, an exciting sensory experience that sparked both joy and curiosity. The hands-on activity not only allowed students to explore different textures and materials but also provided a therapeutic and calming effect for them. Throughout the session, the students

were all smiles, clearly enjoying the process of mixing and creating their own slime. The session was so successful that a few of the students have already asked to do it again in the future!

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop their fine motor skills, creativity, and emotional well-being in a fun and supportive environment. We look forward to more sessions like this in the future!

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## Important Dates

- **24th October** - Inset day
- **27th - 31st October** - Holiday break
- **3rd November** - Pupils return to school

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## Word of the Head

“As we begin this new academic year, I’m delighted to say what a strong and positive start we’ve made across all our sites. It’s been fantastic to see students returning with energy and focus, and I’ve been especially impressed by how smart everyone looks in their uniforms, a real reflection of the pride our community takes in itself. Progress is already being seen both academically and pastorally, with staff and students working together to build the right habits for success. I’m also thrilled to share how excited we are about the opening of our new site in Bath, a brilliant opportunity for the staff and students who will benefit from this fantastic new space. Our outreach programme will begin there on the 3rd of November, with all students being welcomed on-site from the 10th.

A special mention must go to Sainab and Yahya, who represented the school brilliantly when welcoming senior leaders from Bristol MET. They volunteered to give a tour, shared their learning confidently, and even joined our senior leadership team discussions for the afternoon. I was incredibly proud of the maturity and leadership they showed, a great example of the potential we have across our school. As we look ahead to next term, the weather will be turning colder and darker, so please make sure you’re ready with coats and hats, and above all, keep yourself safe and sensible in the community.”



Ms. De Iulis