



St Matthias Academy Newsletter Term 2 2025-2026

Fishponds Focus

English

This term in English Key Stage 3 has been studying Love and Relationships poetry. Despite some of the poems being complex and often from many centuries ago, students have engaged well, debating complex themes.

Key Stage 4 have been looking at persuasive writing and have produced some excellent pieces on topics such as homework, vaping and social media. Well done!

Spelling Bee

This term at Fishponds we hosted our first ever spelling bee. Although this was voluntary, the majority of the school decided to get involved (even the maths teacher!) Students competed in a spelling test, then the top five students entered into a sudden death round.

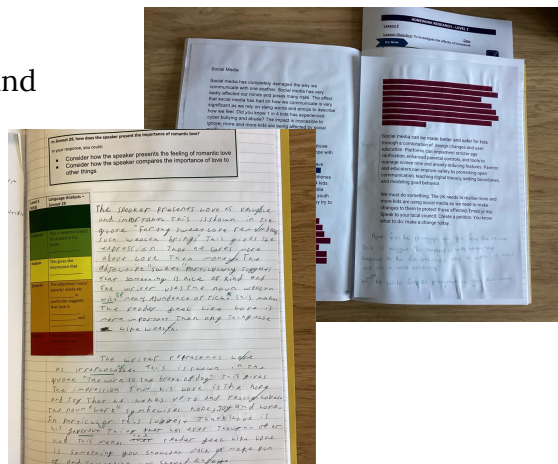
‘Independently’ was the word that knocked out our final spellers, leaving Sainab our victorious winner!

PSHE

This Term in PSHE, students focussed on gaining an AQA Bullying. This has raised many conversations and also allowed the students to think and reflect on their own behaviours. Well done to all students who made a positive contribution to the topic this term.

Art

Students at Bath and Bristol sites did themselves proud this term with their efforts working on their GCSE Art & Design Mock exams! Students worked on their final project outcomes for 5 hours (a whole school day) as a practice for the 10 hour exam in May 2026. A bonus is that the work they produced will be marked as part of their coursework. They all worked really hard on a variety of work including photography, drawing and painting. Well done Year 11!



Lastly, a massive shoutout to JCJ and MU, who have put a lot of effort into their artworks on the theme of fairy tales this term! JCJ has drawn these freehand and MU is finishing a sculpture of King Arthur's Excalibur sword.



Brentry Bulletin

English

This term in English, pupils have been exploring poetry across different time periods, developing both their reading and analytical skills. They began by reading and analysing *Winter Swans*, focusing on how language and imagery are used to convey feelings within relationships. Pupils then learned about the historical and social context of Shakespeare's sonnets, helping them to better understand why these poems were written and how they reflect ideas about love and identity. Building on this, they closely read and analysed the language of Shakespeare's *Sonnet 29*, exploring the poet's emotions and use of imagery and structure.

Pupils also studied John Donne's *The Flea*, examining how Donne uses wit and persuasive language to present romantic love in a very different way. Pupils engaged extremely well with this challenging content, showing curiosity, resilience, and a growing confidence in tackling complex language and ideas. It was a real pleasure to see how thoughtfully they contributed to lessons, and I thoroughly enjoyed the lively classroom discussions and debates that emerged as pupils shared and developed their interpretations.

Maths

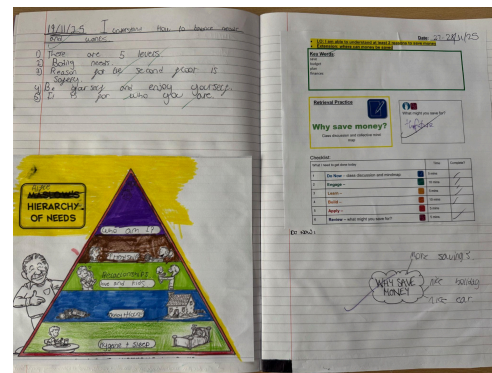
At Brentry in Maths this term we have been learning about sequences, angles and probability. This has led to some excellent extended learning: shout out to Alfie and James in Maths in particular from Mr Kershaw for their engagement and progress.

PSHE

In PSHE we have been extending our real life Maths skills into the AQA in Personal Finance and Money Management. More than just a qualification this popular unit builds essential life skills preparation. Students have gained: Financial Fitness: learning to understand key skills like budgeting, saving, and managing debt. Gaining confidence to handle income and build security from day one in the workplace; Smart Decision Making: learning to critically evaluate needs and wants and extending to learning about financial products (like loans, mortgages, and credit), making them savvy consumers who avoid costly mistakes. Career Readiness: The qualification showcases responsibility, planning, and strong numeracy—skills highly valued by employers across every sector. This certificate isn't just about money knowledge; it's about financial confidence and building steps to a secure future.

Careers

We have been working towards the AQA in Identifying a Career. Congratulations to Lexie and James who have completed all the parts of this award. It was notable how deeply engaged all our learners have been this term with the Unit Award. Moving beyond simple career day ideas. Students have been developing critical self-awareness, learning how to effectively match their unique skills, interests, and personal values to potential employment sectors. This structured approach to future planning has empowered them to make informed, confident decisions about their next steps, whether that involves further education, vocational training, or direct employment. We are so proud of the thoughtful, proactive way they are taking charge of their own pathways and next steps beyond school.



Food Studies

Students have been learning a variety of cooking skills and building on some of their prior knowledge about food and cooking processes. This helps prepare each student for re-engagement with their Food and Nutrition lessons as well as offering career opportunities for our year 9 students who will be choosing their GCSE options soon.

Pupils in the pictures are demonstrating the creaming method of mixing butter and sugar, and the process of bain marie to melt butter. Another highlight was LM made savoury pastries which included making shortcrust pastry using the rubbing in method. She filled each pastry square with a mixture of grated cheese, ham, chopped tomato, spring onion and red pepper. Each pastry was then glazed with an egg wash and crimped at the edges to keep the filling inside. Don't they look yummy?



Personal Development

Students have also been learning beyond the curriculum during their Personal Development sessions this term. A major highlight was the 'Creativity and Making Christmas Decorations' project, where students took incredible care in decorating our school environment. The results were truly spectacular, bringing a wonderful festive spirit to our classrooms and hall! This unit is so much more than just arts and crafts. By participating, students are actively enhancing their creativity and collaboration skills, which are crucial for any future career path. Furthermore, caring for and decorating their school environment fosters a strong sense of community ownership and responsibility. These activities directly support their wellbeing by promoting teamwork, reducing stress, and providing a sense of achievement—all essential life skills that contribute to happy and successful futures.



Rush Hill Roundup

Sports Activities at Break and Lunch

Students have really enjoyed their new site at Abbots Alphage and have made the most of the opportunity to play sports during break and lunchtime. These activities have become highly competitive, with both students and staff taking them very seriously.



Important Dates

- **5th and 6th January** - Inset days
 - **7th January** - Home visits
 - **8th January** - Pupils back in school
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Word of the Head

“The first Year 3 site trip of the year, to the ice rink, was a fantastic and very successful day out. For many students, this was not only their first school trip but also their first time ice skating, making the experience especially exciting. The session was filled with fun and laughter as both students and staff had the opportunity to showcase their skating skills, encourage one another, and celebrate progress, whether taking first steps on the ice or gliding with confidence. All students behaved impeccably throughout the trip and represented the school brilliantly. A big thank you from me, the Headteacher, to the staff for their excellent organisation and support, and to our wonderful students for their positive attitudes and behaviour. Here’s to many more whole-site trips in the future.”

Ms. De Iulis

