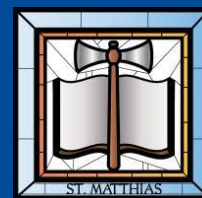


Look Up! Newsletter

Enjoy our end of term updates

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 5th June 2023

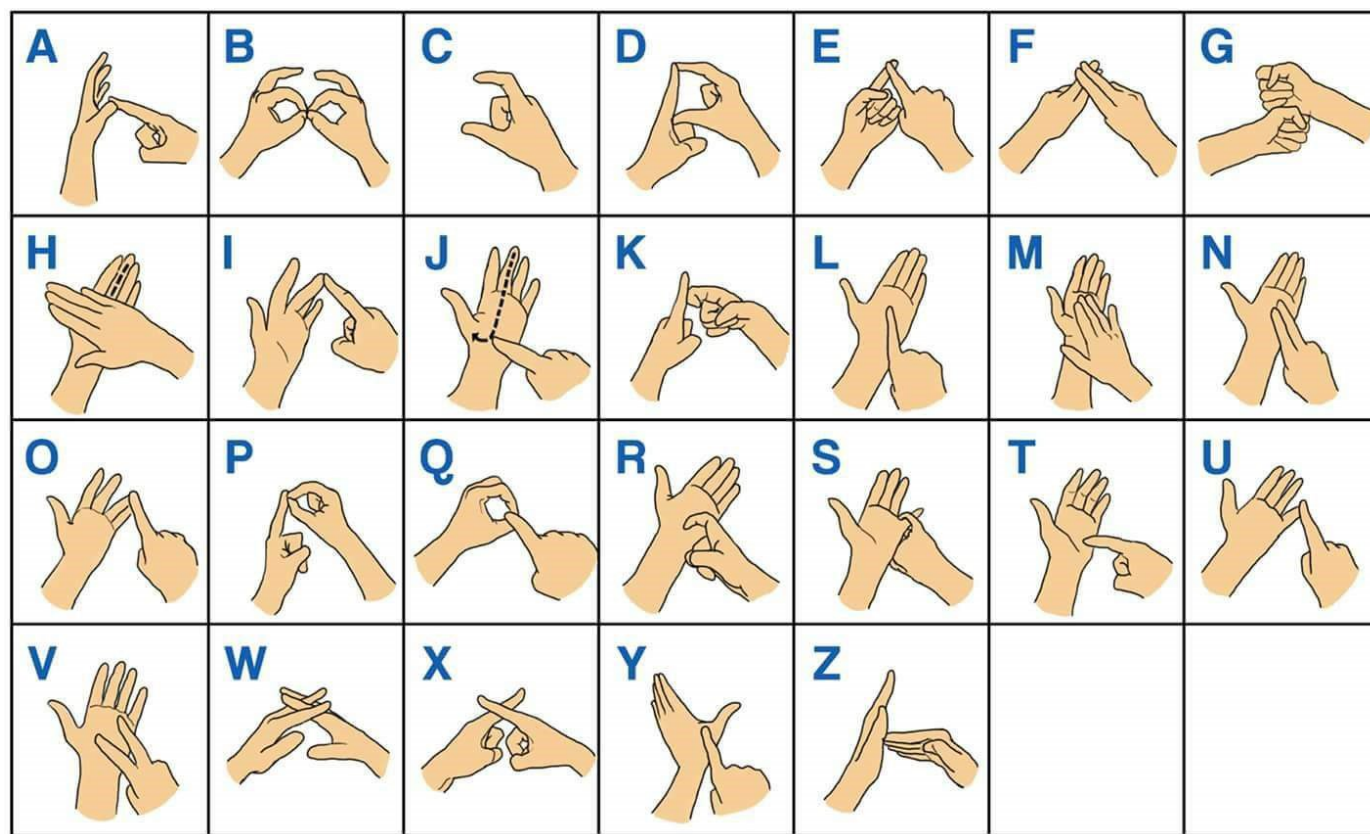


British Sign Language Lessons

The St Matthias deaf resource base provides specialist teaching to develop deaf pupils' reading skills. Our deaf pupils are fully integrated into school life and are well supported by teaching assistants in other areas of the curriculum.

Deaf students have different ways of communicating. Some deaf students use British Sign Language (BSL), others use Sign Supported English (SSE), or speech, listening and lip-reading.

This term, all students in year 7 began an introductory course in BSL. Sessions are led by our signing support staff accompanied by our deaf students. Our students have sessions every Monday afternoon and are learning the basics including the alphabet, simple greetings and key words needed to talk about family and school. Our deaf students have been amazing ambassadors and have taught their peers with confidence and flair!



Careers and PSHE updates



National Citizen Service

Students in Year 11 have attended a virtual assembly led by the NCS team. NCS is a government endorsed experience for young people designed to increase their skills and confidence and enhance their CVs as they leave school and move into the world of work and college. This year NCS is offering three types of experiences to help young people grow their strengths: away-from-home, community, and online.

- Five-day away-from-home experiences are focused on one of three themes: employability ('Boss It'), life-skills ('Live It'), or social action ('Change It'). You can find out more about these here.
- Community experiences are taking place all over the country, giving young people the opportunity to take part in regular activities in their local area.
- Online experiences that can be done from home — on a laptop or smartphone. There are a range of different formats available, from content which can be consumed at their own pace, to live sessions with other young people and experts.

Each experience gives young people the opportunity to grow their strengths, build their confidence, learn new skills, and make new friends with people from different backgrounds.

Last year, over 30 year 11 students attended residential experiences with NCS and feedback was excellent. To learn more or sign up for this years opportunities visit: <https://wearencs.com/head-away-from-home>

School Nurse in PSHE Lessons

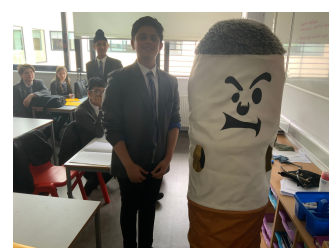
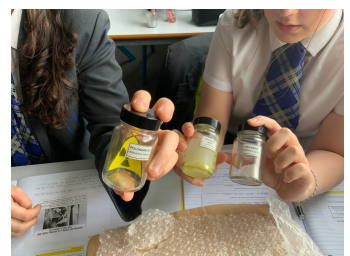
This term the school nurse has come in to meet students during PSHE lessons. Lessons have focused on well being, living healthily and how to ensure healthy relationships with others. Details were shared with students about ChatHealth for any further questions arising from the lessons. ChatHealth is an NHS messaging service for young people across Wolverhampton. 11-19 year olds can text a school nurse at any time for advice about a range of health and wellbeing issues including sleep, family issues and friendships, anxiety, emotions and anger.



Anti smoking / Vaping

To raise awareness about the dangers of smoking and vaping, students were surprised by a very special visitor in their lessons. Sid the cigarette visited students to share a very important message about the importance of not smoking and vaping. With a focus on 'do you know what you are smoking and vaping?' our students had the opportunity to look at the concoction of harmful ingredients that are found inside cigarettes and discuss the harm that they can cause. Students also learnt that vapes can expose young people to chemicals and toxins at levels that can cause negative health effects and increase the risk of depression and anxiety. Vapes can also contain nicotine making them addictive.

If any students are concerned about issues to do with smoking and/or vaping then they are advised to speak to their PSHE teacher.



The Kings Coronation

A Coronation Lunch

To celebrate the Kings Coronation the school's catering team laid on a very special themed lunch! With traditional fish and chips and a dessert of red white and blue cupcakes it was a welcome way to mark this special event. Happy faces all around!



Poem: A story frequently told by Hannah Collett

The greed of man, a never-ending thirst for land and profits,
all our values cursed, with no remorse for our rainforests.

A story frequently told.

The air we breath,
The water we drink,
All affected by this deathly link.

A story frequently told.

To the distructions of the forests we depend, a future for all, a tragic
end.

This is a story frequently told.

But if we plan, there is a chance we can turn back,
to preserve the forests and to keep them intact.
We will plant more trees, and protect the land,
creating a better future hand-in-hand.

So let's spread the word, let's make it known.
That deforestation must be overthrown.
If we try,
for the sake of the earth, let's not let it die.

A story frequently told,

but not not heard.

We Have One Chance Poetry Competition

Earlier in the term, the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE, teamed up with the city's libraries and Boom Writer to stage the 'We Have One Chance' poetry competition. Students from across the city were asked to write a poem about the environment, entitled We Have One Chance. Mayor Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE said: "We know that King Charles is a passionate advocate for the planet and in Wolverhampton we wish to celebrate his coronation with a poetry competition for all ages."

We are delighted to share that two of our students are finalists in the competition. Hannah Collett and Naisha Mtonda will now be invited to perform their poems before a panel of judges who will pick the overall winner for each category. They will also be invited to a celebratory tea with the mayor and receive a copy of the published anthology.



Poem: The price we pay by Naisha Mtonda

Watching the world from thousands of feet high, with my nose pressed
against a transparent glass, was my favourite place to be.
High up above, the clouds dispersing revealing tiny specks of light from
the cities below.

And with these same crisp-white cotton looking clouds, they spit acid
rain like a viper, slowly but surely dissolving our beloved statues and
poising our sacred trees.

But...
Excitement rushes though my veins as I stare out into the blue abyss,
soaring over the teal waters.

Though with every take off, the chances of smog darkening the skies
increases.

But...
Despite peering through the smallest of windows, the otherworldly sight
of the sky was like gliding through a painting. Like the colours pink and
purple were dancing on the horizon of the earth, announcing the suns
uprising.

Although pink and purple may be pretty, it's hard to enjoy when you
realise the trail of pollution the plane leaves behind.

But...
I stare out mesmerised engulfed with complete and utter serenity.

But... in the end, is it all worth it if this very same vehicle is the cause of
the beautiful world below to die. Though it's a sight one may not see
often is that reason enough to contribute to the change in climate?

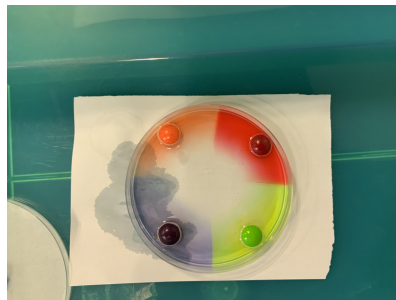
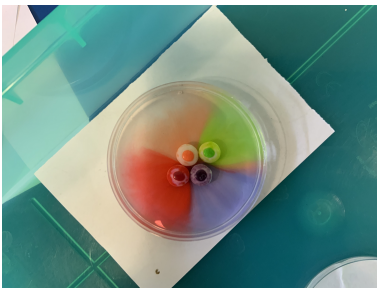
Our planet has never charged rent for living on it, and I fear not all the
money in the world is enough for the price we have to pay.

Science and English updates

Diffusion

In science our Year 9 students have been studying diffusion (the movement of particles from an area of high concentration to an area of low concentration) this half term using skittles – the results were excellent as shown in the pictures! A number of classes have also been studying osmosis (where water molecules move from an area of high concentration to an area of low concentration through a partially permeable membrane) with potatoes. Despite the amount of food that has been used in science lessons this half term, we have made sure to follow the lab rules and not let any of it be eaten.

It has been the last push to the GCSE exams for Year 11 and students have been working hard to ensure they achieve what they need to make it to their chosen destinations next year. With students being given extra lessons in the run up to the exams with their revised timetable, they have risen to the occasion and have been working well with science staff to ensure the best chances at high grades.



A Twisted Tale

On Thursday 18th May, the English department took 10 students in Year 9 to see Michael Rosen's 'A Twisted Tale' adaption of the classic Charles Dickens' story, Oliver Twist.

This was a reward for their exemplary behaviour, attitude and effort within English this academic year.

From the very start – and in the words of Hargreen – we were thoroughly “entertained and engaged.” There was singing, dancing and our very own Teraina was selected to conduct an impromptu dance scene at the end! It certainly left us asking the all-important question: please, can we have some more?

However, despite the musical elements of the play, there were several very important and serious messages promoted. The play dealt with hard-hitting and emotive issues, such as bereavement, poverty, peer pressure and gang culture. We all left with the realisation that the story of Oliver Twist is a timeless one, and many of the issues are still prevalent today.

Hopefully, Year 9 will take this understanding forward to their GCSEs next year, when they study Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

Mrs Jones and Mr Mincher.



Religious Education update

Year 7 visit to St Matthews Church

When we think about Christian prayer we often have a perception that it involves kneeling with hands placed together, however as year 7 students discovered, prayer can take many forms for a Christian and can be both practical and colourful! Year 7 students visited St Matthew's Church to learn more about Christian prayer and worship as part of their studies in RE. We discovered that this was a very unique time to visit the church as they had created a vibrant prayer room and members were taking part in 10 days of continuous prayer as part of the international Thy Kingdom Come event.

The prayer room was very thought provoking and included many activities to help Christians to focus their prayers. For example, a stunning cross draped with rope that people were invited to tie knots into. This was designed to help people think about the knots in their lives that they might be struggling with. There was a planting activity that encouraged us to think about how seeds bring life and what seeds in our own lives we wanted to nurture and grow. The centre piece of the prayer room was a camp fire. Students were invited to take a stone, write/draw their reflections about the prayer room and how it could help a Christian to pray and place it round the camp fire.

Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and left with a fresh perception of what it means to be a Christian today. Here are some of their comments:

'Every Christian has a reason to pray'

'Whilst I planted a seed I thought about my great grandma who has passed away'

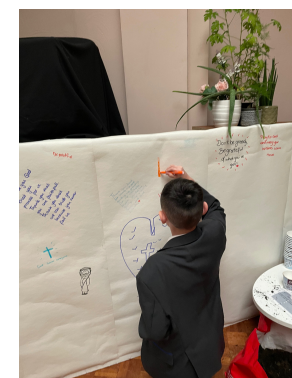
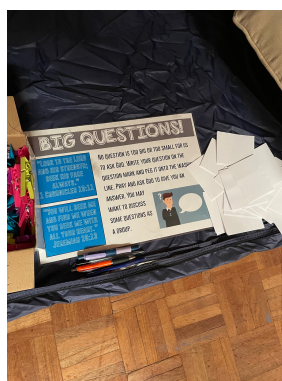
'Prayer doesn't always have to be quiet'

'I thought about someone that I wanted to forgive'

'I was expecting an empty room'

'I thought we were just going to be sat down listening'

'I didn't know it would be so colourful'



Student Ambassadors

A Summer of Volunteering and Service for the Kings Coronation

This term we have had a HUGE focus on cleaning up our school. St Matthias School was thrilled to join the Big Help Out, a voluntary initiative to mark the coronation of His Majesty the King on Saturday, 6th May 2023. We have needed everyone in school to take on an ambassador role, volunteer and help to make a difference.

The Big Help Out aimed to bring together organisations across the country to raise awareness of volunteering in the UK and provide opportunities for people to make a difference in their communities. From environmental charities to local social care initiatives, the campaign encouraged people across the UK to lend a hand to a wide range of good causes.

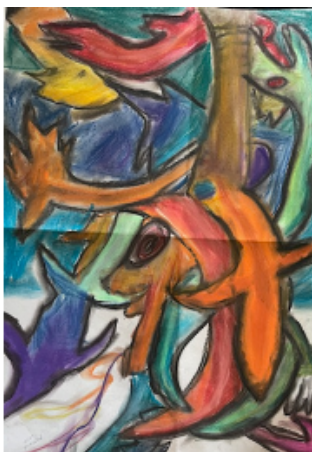
So, how did St Matthias get involved?

To celebrate the Big Help Out, we encouraged our students to volunteer to help the environment and clean up our school and local community by litter picking. A presentation was shared with students about the impact of litter and our responsibility to help. A rota for litter picking was created and sessions took place at the end of each school day. Our student ambassadors were on hand to help organise the rotas and distribute the litter picking equipment. A community litter pick around the school perimeter was also organised and was attended by a large group of willing volunteers. It has been fantastic to see our students taking a stand and lending a hand to make a real difference to our school environment. As well as giving our students the opportunity to get involved, the community litter pick strengthened our school's relationship with the community with which we are a part of and introduced them to the importance of volunteering from a young age. We posted our activity on The Big Help Out website and encouraged others to do the same in their local area.



Art and PE updates

Inspired by artists



In art students have been working in the style of a range of different artists.



Year 9/10 Handball team take joint 2nd

This term the year 9/10 boys competed in the Wolverhampton City Handball Tournament. Only four teams entered after a few schools dropping out of the tournament so every chance for us to win it.

First game, the group were very rusty having not played for a while and were woken up severely getting beat 6-0 by Heath Park (who finished joint second). Second game, we had OLSC the best team of the tournament. After some serious strategic planning we looked to set up correctly and play with speed and pace. We went down 2-0 but fought back well to get it to 2-2. Some smart play from Yusuf with a sharp shot took us into the lead. We conceded from a penalty due to some lazy footwork but with 30 seconds to go we got a penalty. Up stepped Hargurleen who converted the penalty under immense pressure to seal us the win!!

In the third game we played Moreton, a relentless team who were very physical. We took another set back, being behind 2-0 with 5 minutes left. Again, we showed our resilience and Yusuf again pulled up some smart play to finish an underarm shot through a players legs to get us a goal back. Then, we really hit the gears with some sharp short passing and movement to score on the break. 2-2. We set up a 'protect the D' defence looking to steal the ball and flood our attackers forward. This was led in both games fantastically from Tyler, Liam, Hargurleen and Adian. With 2 minutes left, we finished two sharp plays by Adian to bring the game home winning 4-2.

We finished joint second on goal difference, with OLSC winning it with two more goals than us. It is unfortunate the first game finished as it did, otherwise we would have won the competition. In the end the group had a great time, gelled as a team and got better and better as the tournament went on. We are proud of them, they really showed what we are about - never give up attitude and grafting together to get a result! Four PE teachers from other schools commented on the group saying that they were a great bunch of lads and really have great teamwork and handball skills!

Well done team!



Music, Btec Enterprise and Health and Social Care



Progress in Year 10

We are currently working on Component 2 Pearson Set Assignments where all students have engaged and tackled each task with resilience and enthusiasm. The assignments have replaced the old-style coursework and have had a positive impact on the delivery and recall of knowledge.

In Enterprise students have learnt about entrepreneurial skills and developed transferable employability skills such as pitching an idea to investors and critical researching skills to create an enterprise in school. Financial awareness has been a key topic in this component as students have learnt about budgeting and cashflow forecasting.

In Health and Social Care students have been learning about services and values in health and social care. We have been studying case studies and applying knowledge of the health and social care systems to show how an individual can be helped and supported with their needs.

We would like to say well done to year 10 for adapting to the new style of assessment. Keep up the good work.

Music

Tuesday 23rd May saw a visit from 3 members of music service staff who performed to a group of year 7 students plus students who receive instrumental tuition. Students enjoyed the performance and were treated to music from films such as Rocky and Encanto, plus more traditional music such as 'William Tell'. The music service staff introduced the audience to lots of different instruments and all of the students involved thoroughly enjoyed the session!



BTEC Enterprise and Health and Social Care

All students have completed component 2 PSA's and we are now awaiting moderation. All students worked to the best of their ability and produced some amazing work, which we can share once moderation has been completed. All students are now engaged in project work which will deepen their understanding of the course and prepare them for the examination component in year 11. We look forward to our continuing learning of our new components and looking at careers within each sector.

History and Food updates

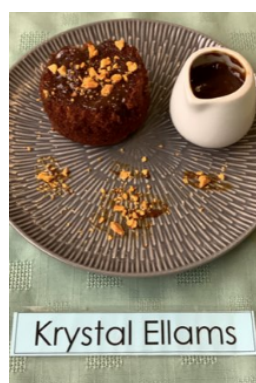


Year 10 History - Belgium success

42 of our Year 10 students had a fantastic opportunity to visit the World War 1 battlefields in Ypres (Belgium) and the Somme (France) in April. On the Wednesday, we travelled by coach and Eurotunnel to the city of Ypres where we explored a reclaimed trench system at Sanctuary Wood, visited the Passchendaele Memorial Museum where students were able to engage with a range of exhibits related to the battles of Ypres and go through a reconstructed British and German trench system. We also visited the biggest Commonwealth War cemetery at Tynecot to take in and pay respects to the soldiers who lost their lives in WW1. We went to a local restaurant for our meal and then spent the rest of the evening souvenir shopping. On the second day, we went to the Somme region in France. On the way, we stopped at the Vimmy Memorial - a huge monument that commemorates the impact the Canadians had in the war. We then went to see the impact of the explosion at Lochnager crater which is 100m wide and 21 metres deep. After our evening meal at another city centre restaurant, we did some more shopping for chocolate before we laid our school wreath at the Menin Gate memorial. On our way home on the Friday, we went to the Bellewaerde Theme Park - there were rides and attractions for everybody (including the teachers). It was an amazing experience for everybody who went, and our students really did make us proud. We were so pleased, as a school, that we could offer so many students in History this opportunity.

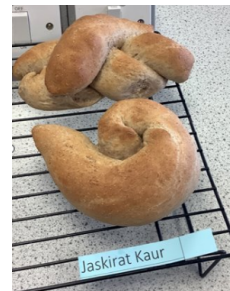
Food

Year 10 students had a second opportunity to prepare and cook a salmon dish courtesy of the Fish Heroes initiative. They cooked either honey, soy and garlic glazed salmon with stir fried noodles and vegetables or salmon skewers with flatbread and salad. As part of 'No Meat May,' Year 10 also made a vegetarian 'meal deal' of spicy falafel and couscous, served with garlic dip and coleslaw.



Food updates continued

Year 9 students
– great bit of
team working
while preparing
to cook!



Year 8 pasta salads
from scratch, fresh
colourful and
appealing! Improving
their knife skills and
using the hobs safely
and efficiently.



Year 11's Foodies had their last practical
before starting their exams



MFL SPRING NEWSLETTER



MFL Speaking exams

This half term has been extremely busy with the speaking exams. Congratulations to all the Year 11 students who have successfully completed their exams. 51 students completed Spanish exams and a number of students have completed exams in : French, Arabic, Persian, Italian, Polish and Punjabi. Well done everyone!



Big news!

We now have a partner school in Madrid! We will be working collaboratively with them on a project with Year 10 from September and hope to arrange reciprocal visits in 2024. Mrs Bibby will be attending a conference in Madrid to meet our colleagues from Wisdom school and other delegates in October.

Spanish club

In Spanish Club, this half term we have been busy learning about different Spanish Festivals, including Las Fallas. We have walked the streets of Valencia (all be it virtually) and have recreated our own 'ninots', elaborate parade statues inspired by the students' own interests and passions. Unlike the Valencian tradition, we shan't be parading them through the streets of Wolverhampton and setting them alight.