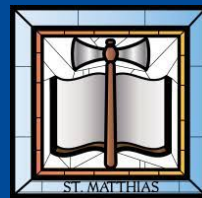


# Look Up! Newsletter

Wishing you all a very merry christmas!

Enjoy our end of term updates and we look forward to seeing you all on January 3rd 2023



## A message from the Headteacher

So, I've had two goes at coming up with a good Christmas message. The first one was all about John Lennon. A great popular song writer in the famous band The Beatles. His song 'Merry Christmas, War is over' starts with the words 'So this is Christmas and what have you done?' I reflected on this and invite you reading it to do the same. In the end it was depressing, not least of all because I starting thinking about John Lennon, his troubled life and premature death - he was murdered outside his home at Christmas time by a bloke who wanted to be famous.

The second attempt was even worse. I just reflected on this year 2022. Disease, war, fuel, food costs, global warming, stupid politicians, strikes, inequality the death of the Queen and Harry Kane missing a penalty. It was really depressing. In fact I depressed myself so much I had to eat a whole pack of custard creams.

So this is my third go! I'll keep it simple and share a 10 point plan for a Merry Christmas. I'm going to try and do this:

1. Accept the world as it is now is not how we want it to be. It's a bit rubbish.
2. Watch or read the news but maybe less often and if you are old enough and not driving have a happy drink in your hand.
3. Buy nice simple gifts for the people you care about. Write something lovely to them. It's free and it means something.
4. Go for some walks and get enough sleep.
5. Watch some Christmassy films. 'It's a wonderful life' will do nicely.
6. Make some biscuits or cakes.
7. Tell your favourite people you love them.
8. Wear a Christmas Jumper and hat too much.
9. Practise penalties just in case I am needed in the next World Cup.
10. Listen to Bob Dylan playing 'Must be Santa' every day at least once.

Merry Christmas.

Mr Coombes.



### Rewards lunch with the Headteacher

End of term rewards were in full flow during the final week of term. One very special group of students were invited to a rewards Christmas dinner with the Headteacher. The students were nominated by teaching staff for their hard work and excellent behaviour and conduct this half term. Well done students!



# Dance and PE



Dancers in action



## Dance

The dance studio has been so busy this term. We have had the pleasure of lots of amazing visitors to deliver workshops and assemblies. The studio has seen the launch of some outstanding drama lessons to extend our curriculum.

A particular highlight for us is the transition of our year 10 dancers to GCSE dance. They have learnt two new set phrases 'breathe' and 'scoop' for their final exam. A lot of hard work, but the students are adapting well.

25 young dancers across years 7-11 had the opportunity to do a workshop with 'FDC' a professional company. See some pictures below of our lovely dancers in action!

Finally, a range of year 7 dancers have had the pleasure of accessing dance through Pe curriculum and have been developing choreography using formations, levels and directions. Miss Adams

## Reading rewards

During this term the selected students have displayed an excellent attitude during morning reading intervention-attendance, punctuality, and participation. To reward this the students visited the Sealife Centre in Birmingham



## Physical Education

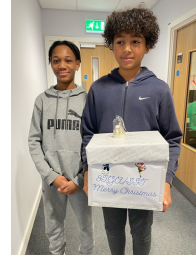
It has been one busy term! A lot of fixtures completed, great things happening in lessons and the World Cup. Some honourable notices, the Year 8 team have finished the first half of the season near the top of the table, Year 10 are going on a decent cup run, year 7/8 girls are through to the semi-final of the Wolverhampton Cup and the year 7/8 girls finish their round robin tournament over 5 weeks with 3 wins, 5 draws and 2 losses – a fantastic achievement! We go into the basketball season now with our year 7/8 basketball team entering the Jr.NBA competition again as well as the year 9/10 team who are representing us in the Wolverhampton city league. Lots more opportunities to come after the Christmas break with that being fixtures and new extra-curricular clubs. Have a great break and believe me it's coming home!!!! Take care, Mr Turner.



Our amazing footballers!



# Christmas at St Matthias



## The Christmas Challenge

This year we set our students the challenge of earning a Christmas jumper day at the end of term. The student ambassadors chose 2 charities for the school to support on the understanding that if we could collect enough items that we would all celebrate at the end of term.

We wanted to focus on children and families who might be struggling this year with the cost-of-living crisis. We also wanted to make sure that the help went to local children and families. The challenge was based on the concept of giving rather than receiving, and each form group was asked to decorate a box and fill it with non-perishable food items and toys each day. These festive boxes were delivered by our student ambassadors to:

Charity 1: The Well – Wolverhampton's central food bank  
Charity 2: Black Country Toy Appeal

## Christmas writing challenge

In addition to the festive boxes, to help to spread even more Christmas cheer, our students have also been busy writing some festive Christmas cards/letters to the residents of a home for the elderly. Some residents don't get many or even any visitors over Christmas. Our students wanted to help cheer them up and let them know that somebody, somewhere was thinking about them and wishing them a happy Christmas. Our student ambassadors were invited to personally deliver the abundance of Christmas letters and cards to the Wulfrun Rose Care Home. Thank you to all of our wonderful students who chose to focus this December on thinking about what they could do for others instead of themselves.



## Boxes collected = Christmas Jumper Day

65 festive boxes, filled to the brim, were collected – the generosity of our students and their families in helping to spread some Christmas joy to local families in need was heart-warming. We had a celebratory Christmas jumper day at the end of term as a huge thankyou to everyone that contributed to the success of the Christmas challenge.





# RE, PSHE, Geography, Drama, Enterprise



Active learning in PSHE



## Religious Education and PSHE

As we reach the end of a busy term for RE and PSHE it is a good opportunity to reflect on the students' achievements. Our highlights have included an Islamic exhibition, learning CPR, healthy eating and contributing to Black History Month. Our teachers have worked super hard to bring learning to life for our students and our students have responded impeccably and embraced every opportunity that has been presented. Now it is time for a well-deserved rest over the festive season. We look forward to more fun and learning in the new year! Mrs Phillips

## Christmas Enterprise Project

Princes' Trust students in Y10 organised a Christmas treat and sweet shop on the ground floor during break and lunch time on the last week of term.

Items ranged in price from 25p to £1. This shop made a fantastic addition to the final week of term.



## Geography

Geography have been getting up to some exciting things this term. Year 7 have been conducting some fieldwork in their local area and learning about some local geography, they have come to the conclusion that the environmental quality of Wolverhampton is poor! Year 8 have been learning about why people migrate and what might push people to move out of certain areas, they have planned an escape route for somebody to leave Syria to come to the UK. Year 9 have gone out on some fieldwork to East Park to determine how well the area is looked after by the local residents. Year 10 and 11 have been focusing on the weather and climate of our Earth and what causes different weather conditions. Year 11 also went out to measure rivers at the start of this academic year, where we found that the warm weather had dried up most of the river!



Carding Mill Valley

## Drama is back!

Drama has been re-launched at St Matthias and has definitely got off to a good start! Year 7 students have looked at a play. This play is called Stone Cold. It is about homelessness, and how this can affect people. Years 8 and 9 have looked at parts of a book called Gangsta Rap. It is about young people growing up, and the experiences and challenges they face. We have used the story as a basis for practical work. Students have embraced the opportunity to use their new drama skills.

# Science, Music, Enterprise and the BBC



Bath bombs in science

## Science

This term, Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been completing their Bronze Crest Award in their carousel Science lessons. Alongside their 5 periods of Key Stage Three Science lessons, students are on a carousel of different lessons that they rotate through during the year. One of these sessions is Science, and as a result by the end of the year all students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 will have the opportunity to complete the Bronze Crest award. Some students have been designing video game controllers, including making 3D models of them, while others have been making bath bombs and looking at how changing the amount of the ingredients affects how the bath bomb behaves, and what the best recipe is.

## English

It's been a productive term in English with Year 7 studying poems from other cultures. Students got to grips with a number of poems ranging from 'Gifts From My Auntie in Pakistan' to A Song of Hope'. Not only did students engage with traditions from other parts of the world, but were also able to appreciate the importance of identity within each culture. Year 8 focused on War Poetry, looking closely at Tolkien's inspiration for writing his various works and making connections to other poems about war. Pupils also focused on writing their own remembrance poems proving that we have some budding writers in this year group. Year 9 studied 19th century fiction texts; investigating with Sherlock Holmes and solving mysteries with Charles Dickens. For Year 10, 2022 was an important year as they began their GCSE journey. This half term, they have worked on poems of conflict, making some excellent comments on the writer's ideas. Their creative writing has also prove impressive with original stories written with flair and imagination. Finally, Year 11 have shown stamina and grit as they have completed their mock exams. We know that 2023 will open many doors for them as they work towards their GCSE goals and look forward to supporting them on their way!

Mrs Gallagher

## Music

This term at St Matthias has seen music really take off! With the help of the music service, we now have around 30 children having instrumental lessons ranging from the violin to keyboard. During lessons, students are busy learning to create music using GarageBand, play music from different parts of the world as well as popular music styles on keyboard and ukulele. With covid restrictions lifted, we have been able to reintroduce singing meaning all students sing within their lessons and we also have a choir! Choir has been moved to Thursday lunch times and we are always looking for new members to join. Next term will also see the introduction of some other new clubs so watch this space! Mrs S Walls



St Matthias School vocal group

## The BBC visit St Matthias

the BBC came to school with their share your story tour and a focus on careers in the creative industries. We had some very special guests who came to present their show. BBC favourite Lucas presented the show alongside a panel that included Lizzie Hartree BBC Assistant Producer, Marc Silk a very famous voice actor and Tayyib Mahmood a cinematographer and studio unit manager. The panel shared their journey into the creative industries and the role of the BFI (British Film Institute) in their success today. They encouraged our students to try something out of their comfort zone in order to discover what they were capable of. It was a fantastic opportunity for our school!



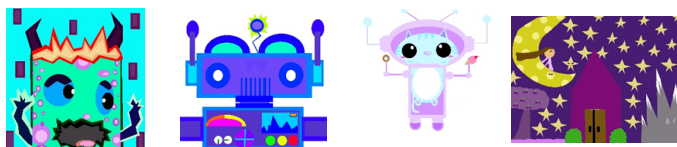


# Art, Graphics, History



## Graphics

Year 7 Graphics students have been learning how to use new skills and techniques in Photoshop to create Monsters, landscapes and robots.



Year 8 have been recalling and refining their illustrative skills looking at the work of Charley Harper and themes of Mexican Day of the dead, Patterned Fish wallpaper, food and mythical creatures.



## History

Students have worked extra hard in History this term! From acting out the Battle of Hastings, to creating Native Indian Totem Poles and Dreamcatchers, and exploring how medicine has evolved over time in year 7. Year 11's have worked extremely hard preparing for mock exams, and year 10 have worked equally as hard continuing their studies in GCSE American West. We are very excited about our Belgium trip in 2023, more to come...

Year 9 have been creating Photoshop work on the theme of iconic characters and Typography.

Year 10 have been working on GCSE coursework and producing some stunning independent pieces of complex design work on the theme of fantastic and strange. Year 11 Are working independently on GCSE coursework and getting ready for their exam prep from January



# MFL and Health and Social Care



KS3

This half term in MFL students have learnt all about Day of the Dead in Mexico. We ran two competitions for students which had a high uptake with students looking around the building for *calaveras* (skulls). In Spanish club Miss Simms and Miss Cooper guided students to make an *ofrenda* which is a traditional altar that people make in their homes to celebrate the lives of relatives that have passed. In the last week of term students in KS3 have also been learning about Christmas traditions in Spain and Latin America.

KS4

Y10 students have also been learning about different countries in Latin America and their traditions as well as listening to some songs from those countries. Y11 students have been busy preparing for their mock exams with some fantastic results!



## Health and Social Care

In Health and Social Care we have had a busy term, with the introduction of a new course for the current year 10's, who have been completing their first internally assessed piece of work. A big well done to them all for all their hard work and commitment. A well deserved Christmas break to recharge batteries for the new term and a new assessment piece. Year 11 have been best preparing for their external exam in January, well done to them for their determination and effort to structure their learning within the classroom and their independent study.





# Maths superstars

## Maths success

At St Matthias, one of our fundamental principles is that effort matters and that the determined student will always succeed.

The following students have been recognised by their Maths teachers for displaying excellent effort and determination. They will receive maths certificates for their fantastic attitude to the subject. Well done all.

### Year 7

Liam  
Darcy  
Tiya



### Year 8

Ashaz  
Shimmer  
CJ



### Year 9

Caio  
Harry  
Josh  
Javarn  
Brooklyn  
Jordin  
Alisha  
Charlie  
Krish  
Harry  
Nissi



### Year 10

Daniel  
Jaydan  
Tyler  
Junior  
Beny  
Dev  
Harpriya  
Sonali  
Lilly  
Emma  
Daniel  
Mason  
Manraj



### Year 11

Elvis  
Alexander  
Cody  
Josh  
Bradley  
Nela  
Domantas  
Michael  
Luke  
Komalpreet



# Food, Cookery, Hospitality and Catering



Year 10 students work

## Food and Cookery

It has been a busy term especially with our new KS3 rotations, but the longer lessons have allowed students to build upon their practical preparation and cooking skills.

Year 7&8 students have been focusing on healthy eating and mainly savoury dishes that use relatively cheap and readily available ingredients that they may be able to replicate at home for their friends and family.

Year 9 students have produced a range of baked goods from crumbles using season ingredients, to rock cakes, making short crust pastry for mini quiche and empanadas then moving onto bread and cinnamon buns. They even had an opportunity for our very own Bake-Off competition focusing on sweet and savoury scones.

## Here is a Christmas biscuit recipe that you might like to try at home:

**Speculaas Biscuits**

A biscuit from Europe, in particular Belgium, Holland and Germany. They were baked in moulds with different designs on them. They have been known as Dutch Windmills cookies.

**Ingredients:**

- 100g plain flour
- 2 teaspoon mixed spice
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking powder
- 50g soft brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 75g butter/margarine

**Optional**

- 2 tablespoon candied peel, finely chopped
- flaked almonds, to garnish (optional)

## Hospitality and Catering

Year 10 students had an opportunity to work with a local chef as part of Black History month, Caron from the popular De Wright Flava, made another visit to St Matthias to share her skills and expertise with students where they prepared and cooked a tasty Jamaican curry. They continue to move from strength to strength producing some beautiful Bakewell tarts and Scotch eggs! Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students have been working on high skilled dishes in preparation for their mock exam such as Baked Alaska, home-made ravioli, and chocolate orange brownie tart.



A selection of cakes made by students in KS3