



2021-2022 Term 3 Newsletter

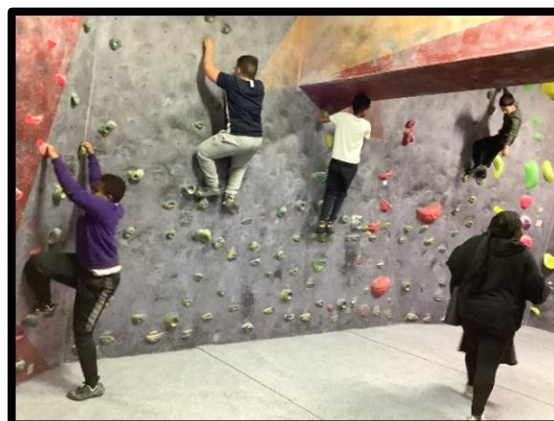
2022 has not been any easier in terms of covid and its impact on education and I want to thank all parents, carers and staff for their continued support through these challenges. In this newsletter, among other things, we celebrate the positive work that pupils have been doing during Children's Mental Health setting goals and thinking about what they can do that supports their well-being. I hope you all have a wonderful half term.

Ms Morrison



Another term has almost gone by at *The Leap* – and it has been a busy one! Our team has grown with the addition of Simone and Destiny, and three new pupils have inaugurated our new Butterfly class. Our students have shown great empathy and emotional resilience by welcoming each other, nurturing existing relationships and cultivating new ones. We have seen our students collaborating with one another and showing each other the right way in many occasions, and we could not be prouder.

For our PE lessons we have introduced Climbing and Swimming, and they have been a massive hit with our students. In bouldering, we have seen them challenge themselves by choosing harder tracks and going higher up on the walls every time they hit the course. And, at the same time, they have coached each other and helped one another getting over their fears and reach new heights – both literally and figuratively. In swimming, we were reminded just how fun splashing about in the water can be.



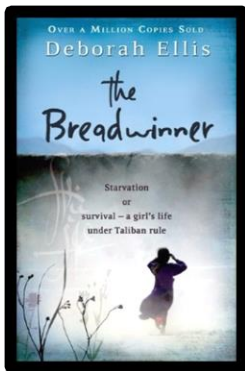
We have also focused on social activities where students have to cooperate to achieve certain goals. Our new music teacher has been working at getting pupils to listen well and Our pupils have teamed up in Nintendo Wii games, volleyball matches and playground games, often helping each other overcome obstacles, cheering each other up and working as a team.

Fishponds News

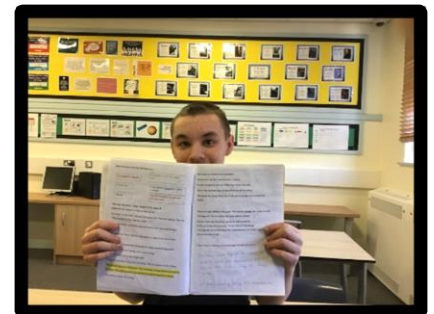
Wednesday 9th February was Parents' Evening at our Fishponds site. It was really nice to see so many parents and pupils attend and to be able to convey lots of positive news from the classrooms. Feedback from families who attended was positive and one mum said: "I've seen such a change in xxx since she's been with you. You're doing an amazing job." It is also an opportunity for parents to suggest ways we can improve and if you have any ideas, please contact Ms Morrison or Mr Quinn.



Our GCSE students sat their mock exams this term and did really well to cope with exams in all their subjects. On the first day of the exams Mr Quinn, Exams Officer, commented that it was the best group he had ever seen at St Matthias. Although not every candidate completed every exam, they all tried their hardest throughout. Teachers understand that exams can be stressful and if any pupils are struggling, they just need to speak to their tutor or Mr Quinn for support.



In English this term students have been exploring current affairs through the novel *The Breadwinner*. Set in Afghanistan, this novel helps pupils develop a deeper understanding of the challenges facing refugees and helps nurture the British Values of respect and tolerance. RH has written an excellent piece of work on how the writer created tension when the Taliban were coming to the main character's house in *The Breadwinner*.



Don't forget it's World Book Day on 3rd March.

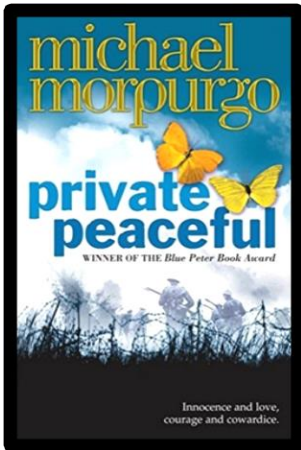
GCSE pupils have continued to work hard towards their exams in June and are honing their skills through plenty of practice. It is reassuring to see pupils' work improve over time and to see them gain confidence week on week.



During Children's mental health week, staff and pupils worked together to create this amazing display that celebrates mental health and well-being. We are talking all week about our goals, how to manage our emotions and what practical things we can do to help us stay well. Posters and information around the school signpost pupils to websites and organisations that they can contact if they need support. This links well with the focus for safer internet day which explored healthy online relationships.



Brentry Bulletin



In English we've been working our way through this term's novel *Private Peaceful*. It's been fantastic to see pupils grow in confidence and become more comfortable reading in class. This classic story has also allowed our pupils to explore the rich history of WW1 and produce their own pieces of fiction. Over the past week Brentry has been gearing up for world book day next term with a host of new competitions and opportunities to get stuck into a good book.



This term in Art students have been focussing on celebrations and festivals in different cultures. We have enjoyed learning about African masks, there were some worried faces when we learnt that real human hair is sometimes used in them! Everyone has got really stuck in working with clay to produce an African styled mask of their design.



The DT room is nearing completion and we are waiting on tools and materials so that we can get to doing some hands-on practical projects which will really suit students at Brentry. Who knows - maybe we'll find the next James Dyson.



Rumours of a MAT tournament later in the year has sparked an interesting in football and playing as a team with break and lunch times hosting some tense matches.

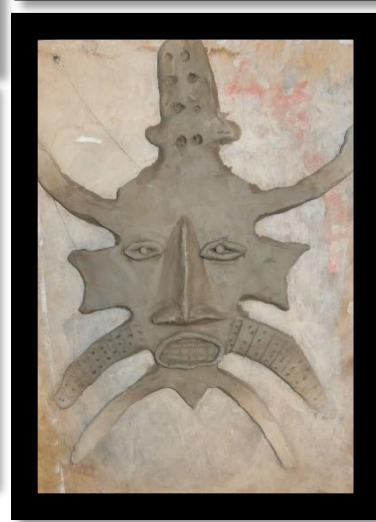
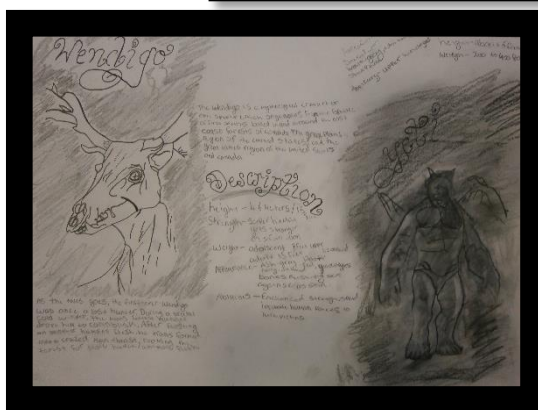
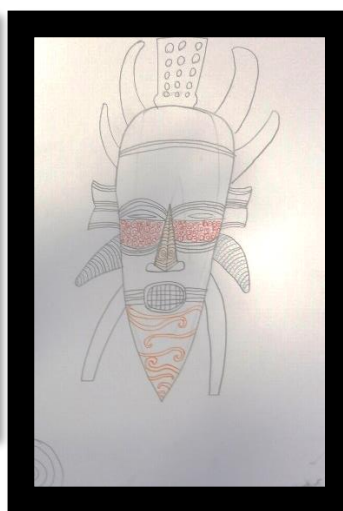


As things slowly get back to normal, we've been able to organise off site rewards trips and over the past few weeks pupils have also been working towards a go karting trip and we've also broadened our selection of WOW options to include a new on-site music programme.

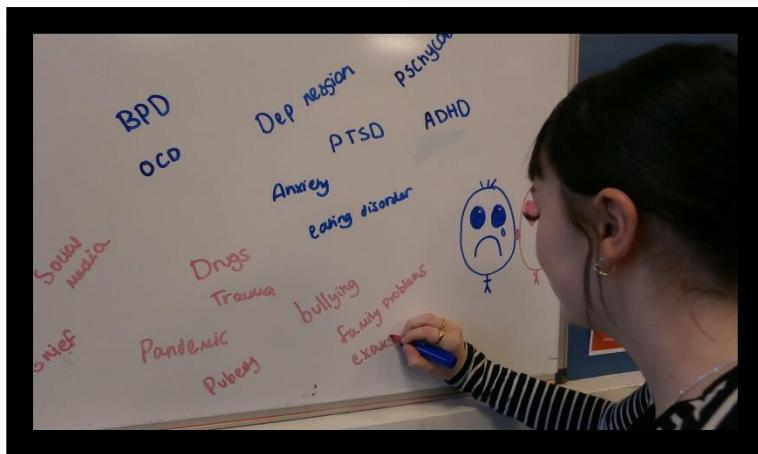
And finally, a huge THANK YOU to Mrs Price and the team who have worked tirelessly to keep the site open this term.

Art Gallery

Pupils have been developing work based on the topic of ceremonies, celebrations, and festivals this term. The focus is developing a range of art-based skills as well as learning how masks are used in different cultures. Inspired by African masks pupils are designing and making 3D responses.



Year 11 pupils have completed their Life and Death project and are now beginning a second project based on Fairy tales. Pupils are completing work towards assessment objectives one and 2, researching and recording ideas. We are very excited to see how they develop their work through applying their skills and knowledge learnt throughout the course.



The focus of art therapy this week was Children's Mental Health week. Pupils engaged in discussions and produced powerful artwork in response. A great way to openly talk about the topic which affects so many of our young people today.

