



2021-2022 Term 4 Newsletter

Welcome to St Matthias Newsletter for Term 4. It's full of great stories about the amazing things that have happened in our Academy sites.



One of the big events this term was our visit from Ofsted inspectors. They came to our sites to find out what we do, how our pupils learn and how we make sure everyone is safe in school. We were able to show them some amazing learning and introduce them to some eloquent and polite pupils. Dylan, Harvey, Tyrell, Baseem, Ellie, Markus and Kurtis were really good ambassadors for our school and spoke honestly about their experiences in St Matts.

The report will not be published for about a month but we already know that we have done well in some areas of the framework and less well in others. But we also know that the inspectors only see us for 2 days and although they heard from staff and pupils, saw some lessons and visited all three sites, they can't see the full story.

The inspection framework is a blunt tool that misses out so much of the magic that goes on in our academy. Please read on and celebrate the fantastic achievements of staff and pupils.

The first event that needs a mention is non-uniform day in our secondary academies to raise money for the humanitarian effort in Ukraine. St Matthias North decorated the front of the school and we learned about the conflict in assembly.



And finally, I would like to wish Ms Grant, science teacher and sendco, all the best for her maternity leave. We can't wait to see her and her baby girl when she pops in to visit soon.



At **The Leap**, this term started on a very good note with Pancake Day. Our pupils got to decorate their pancakes and waffles with a variety of delicious toppings - which made everyone's day that

much sweeter. Be it strawberries, kiwis, bananas or just huge amounts of whipped cream, everyone found their favourite flavour. YUM!



For Mother's Day, our students made clay flower pots to gift to their loved ones. Everyone made their pots from scratch, first moulding the clay and later painting them using their favourite colours. It was a lovely activity that allowed our pupils to display their artistic skills and make something special for a special someone.

In Turtle Class, we have been studying the life cycles of plants in our Science Lessons. First, we dissected daffodils to learn about the various parts of a plant and how they reproduce. Later, we learned about how some plants reproduce by pollination and how others reproduce by making clones of themselves. In order to see these changes, we planted some garlic and will now watch them grow.



Our Coding lessons have been a massive hit! Our pupils have shown outstanding engagement every time and they have really enjoyed the process. They have been using logic and ingenuity to solve problems, play and learn – what more could we ask for?



It's been a fun term at [St Matthias North, Brentry](#)! We've had The Royal Navy come to work with students where they did activities involving team building skills, communication skills and co-operative working. The students had tasks to build structures out of the materials given; they were super impressed that 2 of our students had made a bike (which they have not seen before). They then went out into the outdoor court where they made paper rockets to shoot into the sky. The students really enjoyed the session and asked questions about what their job involved.



At the end of last term, students were treated to a Go Karting trip. Students worked towards earning their points, being on time and looking after the school building to be able to go. We were impressed with students' courage and speed going around the track, even beating the adults!



On the 1ST of April we are holding a fundraiser to support Ukraine – this will involve a non-uniform day where students are encouraged to wear yellow and blue, and a cake fundraising sale. In the last few weeks, Miss Z delivered supplies from staff and students to a Ukrainian church in Gloucester. She saw the incredible efforts of the people at the church to raise funds and gather supplies to help those fleeing their home country.



Finally Fishponds!

Term 4 at **St Matthias Fishponds** started with World Book day.

Reading was encouraged and celebrated in the run up to World Book Day with a reading competition, in which students could earn tokens for time spent reading. The winner, Ryleigh, had earned 109 tokens. The runners up, Efehan, Kurtis and Makayla had each earned over 90. We also had the bookcase competition where students had to



guess the staff member from looking at their bookcases, comparing it to the staffs' favourite books display. Some were easy to spot, Miss Caswell's art books gave it away, others posed more of a challenge. Students and staff also dressed up as their favourite characters on the day.

It's been an exciting term here with loads of different enrichment and Friday afternoon reward trips and activities taking place. Nerf battle has



proven to be a popular choice amongst students and staff.

However, some preferred the Ice Cream parlour trip and it's easy to see why!!!



In the Navy!



Fishponds also had a visit from some Jolly Jack Tars. Two of Her Majesty's finest came to do some team building sessions with our students. The challenge involved working together to build scooters, which they managed in what was apparently record time.

Well done Harvey and Jayana and all the others that took part. However, nobody wanted to try the scooters out as they didn't look like the safest form of transport. Thanks too, to our ex Royal Marine, Mr McConville who enjoyed the opportunity to whistle 'A life on the ocean waves' again!

