



Look Up

ST MATTHIAS NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term

October 2018

Message from the Headteacher

Not everyone likes this time of year but I do. Falling leaves, pumpkins, fireworks and then Santa not far around the corner.



One of the things I like most is sitting by my fire and looking into the flames. It is a simple pleasure.

I suppose watching a fire could be the oldest pastime. Our ancestors did not have Netflix. They did have fires to sit around keeping them warm, cooking their food and protecting them from lions, tigers and bears. It was also where stories were told and knowledge passed on.

This winter we are going to have a focus upon



telling stories. That means reading books as well as talking to each other.

We will be encouraging all our children to talk to us and you about the stories they are reading and the things they are learning.

It is a simple thing but it could help everyone improve how they read and communicate. Important things.

I hope you can join in by asking your son or daughter what they are reading and by sharing stories with your children.



Name:

Form Group:

NEWS FROM PE

Year 8 Football

Our first league game of the season was against Kings School. Saint Matthias produced a fantastic performance to record a resounding 8-2 victory. Attacking wise we looked like Barcelona, but I have never seen so many people moan about defending! Well done to all involved.

A friendly fixture saw us take on a good St Peter's side who play in Division 1 of the Wolverhampton school completion. It was a tough challenge for the lads who trailed 1-0 at half-time but sadly the game finished in a 6-0 defeat. A good learning experience that can develop a resilience that will be needed over the course of a season.

In the cup our boys lost 4-0 to Division 2 top end side Coppice After losing 3-0 at half time the boys fought hard and should have been level with the amount of chances missed. Sadly, it wasn't to be with the final result being a 4- 0 defeat. Hopefully they can bounce back for the league in which they are currently undefeated.

Mr Turner
Saint Matthias, PE Department.

Year 9 Football

The boys beat Colton Hills 3-0 away in the league opener. They dominated the game from start to finish. A commanding performance from Temple Ojinnaka saw him grab a first half hat-trick and some acrobatics from man of the match Lewis Talbot in goal ensured the clean sheet. Special mentions to Samran the super sub and Captain Kaylem Stacey who led his troops brilliantly.

The boys progressed to round 3 of the National Cup with a 4-3 victory against Summerhill, a close game throughout was sealed late on by Kyle Davies. Man of the match went to Kaiden Kennedy for a commanding performance in midfield.

Our latest league fixture ended in a 5-3 defeat to St Chads. A closely fought contest but some slack defending late on and missed chances cost the boys. Man of the match went to Temple Ojinaka who was evidently the best player on the pitch. Some standout performances throughout the talented squad has left me feeling super proud and hopeful of a National Cup.

Mr Humphreys
St Matthias PE Department

Results Round Up

- 27/09 - Year 9 League Football V Colton Hills (away) 0-3 win
- 01/10 - Year 10 Rugby Tournament (Hosted) - Won
- 8/10 - Year 9 Rugby Tournament @ Aldersley - Lost
- 11/10 - Year 9 League Football V Wednesfield @ Home - 0-3 Lost
- 12/10 - Year 8 Rugby Festival @ Willenhall Rugby Club
- 15/10 - Year 8 Rugby Tournament @ Highfields
- 16/10 - Year 9 Football National Cup @ Home 4-3- Won
- 18/10 - Year 9 League Football V St Chads @ home 5-3- Lost
- 22/10 - Year 7 Rugby Tournament @ Highfields.

Year 10 Rugby

Saint Matthias hosted the annual year 10 rugby tournament consisting of Highfields, The Royal and ourselves. Notoriously difficult opposition. We got the tournament underway against Highfields and beat them emphatically with an 8 try to 2 score. Captain Callum Bradley scoring at almost every opportunity.

A weakened Highfield side asked to borrow some of our players for their encounter with The Royal, without hesitation our boys showed great sportsmanship and offered a helping hand. Unfortunately they couldn't help prevent a dominant Royal side winning.

Next, our turn to play the silky, skilful Royal side. The message was clear don't play "rugby" you will lose, instead release aggression and be physical. Bully The Royal. The boys looked at me as if I had gone mad but duly obliged and took my advice on board. The boys got a 2 try early lead but quickly conceded 4 without reply. Another reminder at half time that I was allowing them to be aggressive saw them score another two tries and the game ended with 4 tries a piece.

The overall result? We won the tournament based on the head to head games.

I am super proud of the Year 10s who have shown fantastic sportsmanship and controlled aggression throughout the tournament. Another fixture where the kids shone and done themselves and the school proud. There was genuinely fantastic performances all round but captain Callum Bradley was immense and he was my player of the tournament.

Mr Humphreys
St Matthias PE Department



Year 8 Rugby

12/10 at Willenhall 15/10 at Highfields

Year 8 boys have had the pleasures of playing two tournaments in quick succession. It hasn't been great on the result side of things grabbing only one victory and a draw out of 12 games. That being said before Friday, most had hardly ever touched a rugby ball and at the start of the tournament on Friday I was asked "what is a scrum?" And "where are the goals?" Taking the boys home after the game I can report they now know how to scrum and that there are no goals as such in rugby!

The boys have battled against some really tough rugby schools and not quit or turned on each other once. This combined with the adverse weather has for sure built up some resilience in them. Some of the lads notably Kahmar and Jonas have been continually praised by other schools for their rugby ability. The boys have been that well behaved we have been invited to Wolverhampton Grammar to train and play with them on a regular basis. Well done!

Mr Humphreys, St Matthias PE Department



Year 9 Rugby

The Year 9 rugby team travelled to Aldersley to take part in the rugby tournament.

A tough day at the office for the boys who's inexperience at rugby was exploited by The Royal, Wolverhampton Grammar, Aldersley and Highfields.

Captain Daniel Hartill popped up with the only try for St Matthias.

Contrary to the results, the boys showed good team spirit and are currently laughing and joking with each other on the bus home.

Back to the drawing board.

Mr Humphreys
St Matthias PE Department



SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

School Equipment

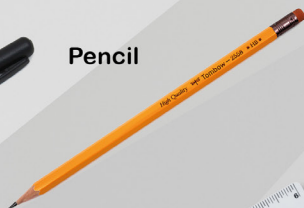
Every student is expected to bring a school bag each day and provide the following basic items of equipment for every lesson:

Essentials

Black or blue ball point pen (and a spare)



Pencil



Green pen



PE Kit



Student Planner



Eraser



Ruler 6"



Glue Stick



Casio FX - 83GTPLUS



iPad



Orange & Yellow Highlighters



Bonus

Coloured pencils/ fine fibre tips



Have You Read?

The Importance of Reading

What a busy few months I've had- first off there was a thrilling and frightening journey across the arctic ice on a Victorian whaling ship- then a fascinating encounter with a 900 year old man who told me about his own life story that included being part of William Shakespeare's drama company- and finally learning more about the Black Lives Matter Campaign from a young woman called Starr who witnessed the fatal shooting of her best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer.

How did I manage all of this whilst teaching at Saint Matthias?
The answer: reading.

What I'm trying to stress is that reading allows us to enter a world of wonder and imagination. Of course I haven't been to all the places that I mentioned above- however I know all the details of these places because through reading I can experience them from the descriptions and scenes that are created. Reading develops and feeds our imagination. Not only that, reading gives you a drive. The drive to know what happens next, to want to turn the page, the need to keep going, even if it's hard, because someone's in trouble and you have to know how it's all going to end...that's a very real drive.

So, what else can reading do? Well, we know from research that children who read more widely and more often do better at school and in exams. The image at the bottom of the page really emphasises this point. Kids who read well, read well across the curriculum and are in a more advantageous position to succeed in school and life outside of school. That's what reading can do.

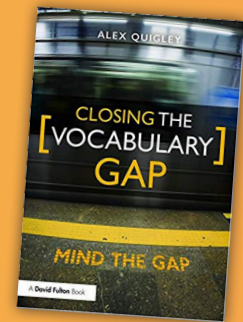
At St Matthias every student in year 7-9 has a reading book and read for 10 minutes at the start of every English lesson- students are reading in form time and our reading room too. The reading room is a place where students can read in a relaxed environment and is open in the morning before the start of school, break times, lunch times and after school too. To help develop a reading culture, rewards and incentives are given for reading. For example we have visited Harry Potter World, Old Trafford, taken students bowling and eaten at McDonalds. In the summer we visited Cadbury World, West Midlands Safari Park and Black Country Museum. As well as these visits, every term we hold a reward party for the students who are reading regularly.

There has been a significant rise in the number of students who are not only enthusiastic about reading but also making progress with their reading too.

However, a big challenge is to get all students to read more at home. Students take their reading book home and are expected to read at home for between 10-20 minutes each day (although if they want to read more they can). We need you support to develop regular reading habits at home by encouraging students to read and by talking to them about what they are reading. You can also match their interests- help them find the right book for a subject or topic they are interested in. It doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books, graphic novels, leaflets or non-fiction- as long as they are reading. It's important to remember that all reading is good. Reading can change lives. This is the importance of reading.

John Paterson
Assistant Head Teacher

Currently reading
'Closing the Vocabulary Gap'
by Alex Quigley



The stories that I referred to in the opening paragraph are from three fantastic books that I would recommend for adults:
The North Water by Ian McGuire
How To Stop Time by Matt Haig
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



HALLOWEEN



The time to get those fancy dress costumes on and stock up on sweets and chocolate is fast approaching. But do you know how Halloween got its name and why we celebrate it? Halloween falls every year on October 31, which is a Wednesday this year. Modern day celebrations generally involve groups of children dressed in scary costumes roaming from house to house, demanding “trick-or-treat”. Fearing the worst, intimidated householders normally hand over large amounts of treats in the form of chocolates and sweets to avoid whatever ‘tricks’ may have been dreamt up by these ‘trick or treaters’ ! The origins of these celebrations however date back thousands of years, to pagan times in Ireland and the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain.

Samhain was a celebration of the end of the harvest season, and means “summer’s end.” People at this time thought the walls between worlds were thin and spirits could pass through into our world, and many feared that the spirits would damage crops for the next season. Many people would light bonfires and wear costumes to scare off the ghosts. Ok, so bonfires and costumes, both part of the traditions around Halloween- but where did the name Halloween come from? Again, this originated from many, many years ago.

In the eighth century, Pope Gregory the third declared that November the first would be a time to honour all saints which is why the first of November is known as All Saints Day. In fact, many of the traditions of the Samhain festival were celebrated on All Saints Day too. But why Halloween? Well, the evening before All Saints Day was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Hallowe’en. The word Halloween comes from Hallowe’en, meaning “hallowed evening” or holy evening.

Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities that we are all familiar with- like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, wearing fancy dress costumes and eating lots of sweets!

Throughout Britain, Halloween has traditionally been celebrated by children’s games such as bobbing for apples in containers full of water, telling ghost stories and the carving of faces into hollowed-out vegetables such as swedes and turnips. These faces would usually be illuminated from within by a candle, the lanterns displayed on window sills to ward off any evil spirits. However, the current use of pumpkins is a relatively modern custom imported from the United States, and we can also extend our thanks to our friends in America for that other potentially annoying feature of Halloween- the “trick-or-treat” tradition!

America makes a big deal out of Halloween – it is one of the most popular times of the year- second only to Christmas. The amount of money that Americans spend on Halloween supports this with a frightening (see what I did there?) 9.1 billion dollars spent on costumes and sweet treats!

So, how will you be celebrating Halloween? Will it be bobbing for apples, carving pumpkins, trick or treating or dressing up in fancy dress at a party? Whatever you’re doing have fun, but be sensible. Have a spooktacular time!

John Paterson
Assistant Head Teacher



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month takes place every year in October and provides us all with a chance to remember and reflect upon the important contributions that black people have made to the world throughout history and also what they continue to contribute today.

To help launch this month three students in year 11 made a video for pupils to watch depicting some of the key events that have happened throughout History. The video featured people such as Rosa Parks, Serena Williams and Nelson Mandela. The students showed their video during year group assemblies setting an excellent example to our younger students.



TOWERS

The Towers Outdoor Education Centre in Snowdonia has hosted and inspired our younger Year 7 students over many years with its outdoor and team building activities.

However, a new collaborative initiative between Saint Matthias and Towers saw sixty of our Year 11 Geography students visit the centre in the first week of October to study river and coastal features as part of their GCSE course. The trip provided an invaluable link between classroom theory and real world experience of river and coastal features, as well as the processes that shape them.

After being appropriately suited and booted for the weather conditions, our intrepid students spent the first day measuring features of the local streams and rivers to see first-hand the differences between the upper and middle courses of a river. Linking this to processes and classroom theory was a particularly successful outcome of the trip.

On the second day, after the previous night's forest walk, a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast, we headed through mountain valleys (with river tributaries and waterfalls on view) to the North Wales coast to study coastal features of erosion and deposition, as well as coastal defences. We also visited the Conwy river estuary, completing the key components of river features from source to mouth. This proved to be invaluable preparation for their forthcoming GCSE exams in the summer.

The weather wasn't particularly kind but our valiant students conducted themselves admirably throughout (even surviving a night without the internet). They were a credit to our school and I'm proud of each and every one of them.

Mr Rees
Head of Geography



READING REWARDS

Reading Rewards - visits to Cadbury World, Safari Park and Black Country Living Museum. Well done to you all!



UNIFORM GUIDELINES

1. SMART TAILORED BLACK TROUSERS

All trousers need to be full length and tailored. No jeans, canvas or legging type material allowed. No tight fitting/skinny trousers



2. PLAIN BLACK SKIRT

All Skirts MUST be knee length and worn with black tights only. No inappropriate or front splits, zips or decoration allowed.



3. WHITE SHIRT

(Tucked in at ALL times)



4. SCHOOL TIE - BOYS SCHOOL SCARF - GIRLS

Tie - £5.50 Scarf - £5.50



5. FOOTWEAR

Black leather type shoes - No large heels, boots, trainers/trainer type or canvas shoes

Examples that are ACCEPTABLE



Examples that are NOT ACCEPTABLE



School uniform must be worn with pride at all times. This includes wearing the correct footwear, blazer or coat to and from school. Students might not be allowed into school if not appropriately dressed, alternatively they will be isolated until the uniform is rectified. Please contact school if any of the guidance needs further clarification before making any purchases.

6. BLACK SOCKS

Socks worn under trousers need to be completely black.



7. BLAZER

£33.00



8. JUMPER / CARDIGAN

Black woollen V neck jumper or cardigan. Optional.



9. COATS

Coats must be plain black with no large logos. No hoodies or similar to be worn on school premises.

Examples that are **ACCEPTABLE**



Examples that are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**



Different colours/patterns are **NOT** acceptable.



10. CAPS

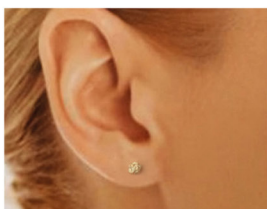
No caps to be worn on school premises.

11. HAIR

Only plain black hair accessories

12. JEWELLERY

Stud earrings only.
No facial piercings.



13. NAILS

Not Allowed

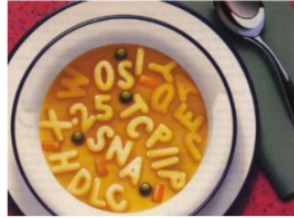


Allowed



MATHS PUZZLE

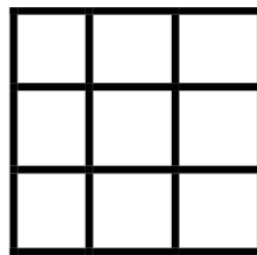
All entries to be handed in to Mrs Hastings - The deadline is Friday 9th November. All correct entries will be put in a prize draw!



I spilled some alphabet soup onto a 3x3 grid (yeah, really). E is to the right of C. A is to the right of G which is

above B, which is to the left of F. I is above D which is to the left of G.

Complete the grid to show where it landed!



HEAD BOY & GIRL

After our Year 11 had settled into the challenges of their final year we made the decision to elect Head Boy and Head Girl. Their roles will be to represent their year group, their school and our local community.

The roles were promoted in assembly and students were invited to express their interest in writing, detailing the skills they could bring to the positions. The letters were all of an exceptional standard clearly listing the positive qualities of a St Matthias students. Students were also involved in an interview process. The students also interviewed excellently, articulating their ideas clearly and making the decision very difficult for the staff of the school. Following a staff and student election, I'm proud to introduce our Head Boy Ashraf Mohammed and Head Girl Brianna Currie. I'm looking forward to working alongside these students to develop new ideas during the remainder of this academic year.

Miss K Groves, Year 11 Leader

A message from our Head Boy

Hi, my name is Ashraf and I am so grateful for this amazing position as the Head Boy at St Matthias! I appreciate how I was nominated for this role by my teachers and fellow peers. I would also like to congratulate Brianna on her role as Head Girl and to congratulate the students who were elected prefects. I feel that we can make a change and ultimately make the school a better place.

A message from our Head Girl

Hi, my name is Brianna. On Tuesday the 9th of October I was gifted with the opportunity to become the Head Girl of Saint Matthias. I am so grateful to have this privilege. I am so proud of all that I have achieved in the small time that I have been in year 11. If you were to look at me in year 8, you would never have thought I'd be Head Girl. But here I am doing everything in my power to not only improve our school but also show the greatness of Saint Matthias.

This is also a way for me to thank all of the amazing students and teachers who voted for me. I also want to say to my peers that it is an honour to represent you and our school. Finally, a huge thanks to Mrs Groves and Miss Lockley for trusting me with the title of Saint Matthias Head Girl!



Head Girl
Brianna Currie



Head Boy
Ashraf Mohammed

A MESSAGE FROM MISS LOCKLEY

Year 11 is an exciting time for students as they fast approach the exam period. As part of their timetable, students will be expected to attend after school intervention in order to further support their studies in specific subjects. Sessions will run from 3.30 - 4.15pm and each student will receive a letter and timetable to share with parents. This is an extension of their usual timetable and all students will be expected to attend. Staff are looking forward to be able to work closely with Year 11 to further support them, and we are incredibly

grateful to receive the support from you as parents too.

I would personally like to congratulate Year 11 on a successful first half term in their final Year at St Matthias. I am confident that with continued dedication and commitment we will see many happy faces on results day next year.

Miss Lockley
KS4 Director of Learning

ST MATTHIAS FUN DAY

At the end of the summer term we celebrated another busy and fantastic year with our very own 'St Matthias Fun Day'. As you can see by the photographs everyone had a brilliant time and the weather was fantastic too! A big thanks to all involved especially Miss Adams and Mrs Cooper for organising and putting it all together!



HEALTHY EATING

PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

All students are encouraged to eat a healthy balanced diet. Students are therefore not allowed to bring in items such as: large bars of chocolate, family sized packets of crisps, packets of biscuits or any sugar / energy drinks. Chewing gum is not allowed in school.



No chewing gum

Drinking in lessons

Clear, unflavoured mineral water can be drunk in lessons. This must be in a clear bottle. This is healthy and stops any learning time being wasted discussing what type of drink it is.



All students are encouraged to eat a healthy balanced diet. Students are therefore not allowed to bring in any sugary/ energy drinks, family sized packets of crisps, sweets or large bars of chocolate. Small snack sized items are allowed as an accompaniment to a lunch. Random 'Snack Attacks' will be introduced to check that none of these items have been brought to school. If any are found they will be confiscated and families will be notified.

Change



Students are increasingly asking for change. This can be very time consuming to facilitate and we frequently run out as all cash is banked daily. We have concluded that some parents are giving their children notes assuming that they bring them into school to put onto their accounts. A lot of these students aren't doing this – they appear to want to keep the cash, spend it at the shop and put the minimum amount of money on their account. After the half term holiday we will no longer be giving students change.



Communicating with School

Where possible if you need our support can you please call and arrange an appointment. It's easier to support you if we know about it in advance. This enables us to have the correct information and staff available.



Every Day Counts!

St Matthias expects students to attend 100% of the time! A student not in school is missing valuable learning. Please do everything you can to ensure your child is in school every day learning!

Important Dates

Half term Holiday

Monday 29th October -
Friday 2nd November

Term starts as normal on Monday
5th November

On time (9.00am)
smart uniform and fully
equipped!