



ART

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Exhibit above average ability in perceptual/cognitive processes of internally manipulating perceptions with expression.
- Above perceptual discrimination: i.e., the ability to perceive and differentiate through the senses with acute awareness.
- Display a high degree of complexity and elaboration, whereby, intellectual development is connected to the ability to relate information and observations about objects. Sensitivity to detail and the use of memory are directly related to complexity and elaboration.
- Show a passionate interest in the world of art and design, they are often interested in a specific culture (possibly relating to their own cultural background or sense of identity), particular art forms, contemporary culture or youth culture.
- Have an excellent calculating capacity, in that they have a superior ability to utilize past information in new contexts.
- Take creative risks without knowing what the outcome will be.
- Think and express themselves in creative, original ways, they want to follow a different plan to other pupils.
- Challenge the tasks given or extend the brief in seemingly unrelated or fantastic directions.
- Have a strong desire to create in a visual form, use materials, tools and techniques intuitively and skilfully and will learn new approaches easily.
- Driven by ideas, imagination and flights of fancy, humanitarian concerns, humour or deep personal/psychological experiences.
- Persevere until they have completed a task successfully, with little or no intervention from the teacher.
- Explore ways to depict ideas, emotions, feelings and meanings in a visual form, willingly changing ideas to consider new influences or outcomes.
- Keen to extend their technical abilities and sometimes get frustrated when other skills do not develop at the same time, initiating ideas and defining problems.
- Can critically evaluate visual work and other information. Making unusual connections between their own and others' work.
- Apply ideas to their own work in innovative ways, exploiting the characteristics of materials and processes they use materials and processes in creative, practical and inventive ways.

Activities for MAT learners

- Have access to their own equipment for regular use
- Attend external art classes, e.g. life-drawing classes, Bluecoat Gallery print-making union
- Join an art society or club
- Take part in extra-curricular art activities
- Use a wide range of media, styles and genres in their art work
- Attend art exhibitions
- Engage in conversations about art
- Have their own 'Pinterest' or blog pages
- Collect materials and/ or inspirational objects when outside for future use
- Devote time each day work on art
- Attend external art organizations e.g. Tate Gallery summer schools and Family days
- Go to art galleries on a regular basis
- Be in the Art department at break, lunch and after school to improve work
- Learn about Artists, the history and theory of Art from all external sources e.g. TV and radio internet.

How parents can support MAT learners

- Support when students are completing their homework, providing them with the space, time and resources where necessary.
- Visit local galleries, the Tate taster days, the Bluecoat, etc.
- Watch documentaries
- Try to meet local artists



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Logical reasoning - can verify, justify and prove.
- Ability to problem solve using a variety of problem-solving approaches
- Inquisitive thinker - “What if.....then.....”
- Can be creative and strategic in their approach to solving problems
- Persistence
- Be self-motivated to learn new concepts and languages
- Ability to work independently when solving problems and creating solutions
- Attention to detail when analysing problems or creating solutions
- Demonstrates curiosity and enthusiasm for problem solving
- Demonstrates a curiosity for how things work
- Makes connections between concepts they have learnt

Activities for MAT learners

- Encourage the use of tutorial coding websites at home
- Model curiosity by asking questions
- Encourage the use of problem-solving games to develop thinking skills
- Encourage their children to research and discuss current technology news stories
- Show an interest by asking about what they are studying in their Computer Science lessons

How parents can support MAT learners

- Talk to students about current news stories which are relevant to technology
- Ensure students have access to online resources which will help them to investigate the subject area further (for example BBC News Technology website)
- Take students on day trips to science museums to widen their experiences of the subject area



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Excellent awareness of how to create, develop and produce a 3D outcome
- Excellent mathematical skills
- Excellent understanding of materials and tools needed for a process
- Excellent awareness of social and moral issues around material selection.
- Excellent understanding of the end users' needs for a product
- Excellent ability to plan
- Excellent ability to disassemble products and evaluate their use
- Excellent presentation skills
- Excellent communicational skills

Activities for MAT learners

- Look at the assembly of a product (how it is put together) and think about the steps to create this, i.e. the disassembly of a product.
- Use google sketch up (free software)

How parents can support MAT learners

- Discuss the assembly/construction of everyday products such as chairs, tables, light switches, etc.
- Provide access to IT so that they can access google sketch up (free software)



DRAMA

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Can communicate the elements of drama verbally and through active participation in performance
- Willing to work hard and self-motivate in drama rehearsals to achieve success in performance
- Exhibit the attributes required to collaborate creatively in a confident manner
- Ability to see the bigger picture and set long term goals in drama (challenging choice of texts)
- Communicate through use of vocal and physical skills, showing sensitivity and empathy
- Interested in how technical and design elements of theatre work in tandem with texts
- Can show versatility in performance demonstrating a range of skills
- Prefers to respond practically but can analyse and evaluate coherently through written communication
- A natural performer who understands how to engage an audience
- Watches a variety of plays for pleasure
- Can learn lines effectively
- Can use directing skills
- Has an interest in theatrical history
- Often takes a leading role in group work due to high confidence levels
- Will probably participate in drama outside of school

Activities for MAT learners

- Participate in productions in school and outside
- Consider taking LAMDA Acting grades
- Join a Youth Theatre
- Take part in extra-curricular drama activities
- Read a wide variety of texts of different styles and genres
- Visit the theatre
- Engage in conversations about drama
- Develop skills in improvisation and devising
- Help run a school drama club
- Read reviews of major theatrical productions
- Attend external drama clubs/ amateur theatre societies
- Explore technical/design elements of theatres
- Use the theatre when it is free to have extra rehearsals
- Learn about playwrights, the history of theatre and dramatic theory

How parents can support MAT learners

- Encourage son/daughter to participate in drama activities
- Take students to the theatre to experience live performances
- Be actively involved in the whole school production and other extra-curricular opportunities



ENGLISH

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Delights in the meaning of words.
- Reads widely, fluently and independently (fiction and non-fiction).
- Reads with meaning, drawing on inference and deduction.
- Shows a perceptive critical faculty which enables connections and judgments to be made within and beyond texts.
- Can draw parallels between plot, theme and characterisation of texts from different contexts.
- Asks questions to challenge and develop thought and recognises and accepts ambiguity.
- Are sensitive to the nuance of language, and can use language precisely, with technical accuracy.
- Shows pleasure and involvement in experimenting / 'playing' with language and manipulating language to effect.
- Writes or talks in imaginative, lucid and cogent ways showing flair and creativity.
- Can express ideas succinctly and elegantly but may feel that detail is so obvious that it is unnecessary.
- Grasps the essence of particular styles and adapts them to their own purposes.
- Can display a sophisticated sense and appreciation of humour, this humour can be 'quirky', understands irony etc.
- Contributes with incisive, critical responses.
- Can critically analyse and evaluate own work.
- Can produce written work that is substantial and the product of sustained, well directed effort.
- Can engage seriously and creatively with moral and social themes expressed in literature and non-fiction texts and can elaborate on content that is exceptional for their age.
- Develops an interest in the context of literary texts.
- Identifies main issues in debates and devises strategies quickly to deal with them, in many roles, perhaps in unorthodox ways.
- Can justify opinions convincingly and can challenge other viewpoints.
- Articulate and confident speaker with strong communicative skills.
- Listens with sensitivity and reflection.

Activities for MAT learners

- Regularly read comment articles from broadsheet newspapers or political magazines to access certificated language and structures.
- Log onto the British Library archive to learn more about the life and times of authors which feature on the curriculum.

How parents can support MAT learners

- Take them to see plays, book launches, poetry readings and libraries.
- Support reading habits by linking texts together by theme or character, increasing in challenge.
- Access magazine subscriptions, either online or in print, that add depth and detail to both the curriculum and areas of interest.
- Engage in discussion.



GEOGRAPHY

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- The ability to think like a Geographer, whereby students can make synoptic links between topics
- Can locate major human and physical features on local, national and international scales
- Understands concepts clearly so that they can apply this understanding to new situations in order to make interpretations, develop hypotheses, reach conclusions and explore solutions
- Understands geographical ideas and theories, and applies them to real situations
- Communicates effectively using both the written and spoken word and in ways that are appropriate to task and audience
- Learns subject specific vocabulary and uses it accurately
- Reasons, argues and thinks logically, shows an ability to manipulate abstract symbols and recognise patterns and sequences
- Uses and applies mathematical principles and formulae to solve geographical tasks and problems
- Identifies their own geographical questions and sequence investigations
- Understands, and is able to explain complex processes and interrelationships
- Enjoys using graphs, charts, maps, diagrams and other visual methods to present information
- Competent and confident in using the wide range of visual resources required
- Has well-considered opinions on issues such as the environment and the life in different places
- Has a wide-ranging general knowledge about the world and topical issues
- Is able to transfer knowledge from one subject to another
- Is creative and original in their thinking, frequently going beyond the obvious solutions

Activities for MAT learners

- Follow current affairs by downloading news apps like BBC
- Read the news regularly and link to a geographical issue
- Ask pertinent questions about the world around us

How parents can support MAT learners

- Encourage them to read/read together or watch the news together
- Encourage them to use maps/atlas when following directions
- Encourage them to listen to Podcasts about current affairs, global issues.
- Watch documentaries about sustainability, climate change and different areas of the world e.g. Blue Planet
- Model curiosity e.g. ask them where they think products have come from
- Encourage pupils to conduct research around the topic they are studying
- Provide pupils with sufficient time to ensure homework is completed to a high standard
- Provide pupils with an adequate space/area to be able to work independently



BUSINESS STUDIES

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Students can make synoptic links between topics
- Understands concepts clearly so that they can apply this understanding to new situations in order to make interpretations, develop hypotheses, reach conclusions and explore solutions
- Understands Business ideas and theories, and applies them to real situations
- Communicates effectively using both the written and spoken word and in ways that are appropriate to task and audience
- Learns subject specific vocabulary and uses it accurately
- Reasons, argues and thinks logically, shows an ability to manipulate abstract symbols and recognise patterns and sequences
- Uses and applies mathematical principles and formulae to solve tasks and problems
- Identifies their own questions and sequence investigations
- Understands, and can explain, complex processes and interrelationships enjoys using graphs, charts, diagrams and other visual methods to present information
- Competent and confident in using the wide range of visual resources required
- Has a wide-ranging general knowledge about the world and topical issues
- Is able to transfer knowledge from one subject to another
- Is creative and original in their thinking, frequently going beyond the obvious solutions

Activities for MAT learners

- Follow current affairs
- Read the news regularly and link to a business or economics issue
- Ask pertinent questions about the world around us

How parents can support MAT learners

- Encourage them to read/read together
- Engage in debates/discussions – linked to current affairs
- Discuss current affairs/news
- Model curiosity
- Encourage pupils to conduct research around the topic they are studying
- Provide pupils with sufficient time to ensure homework is completed to a high standard
- Provide pupils with an adequate space/area to be able to work independently



MATHS

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

Resilience

- Willing to try and willing to fail
- Sees the value in mistakes and errors
- Not only corrects mistakes but learns from them

Inquisitive

- Shows a desire to understand the reasons behind a solution rather than just knowing how to get the answer
- Willing to take risks in order to solve a problem
- Looks to advance their learning outside the classroom
- Enjoys mathematical problems/puzzles/investigations/open ended tasks

Restless

- Eager to advance their learning
- Persistent in their learning when faced with difficulties
- Always looking to progress to the next step/extension/problem solving questions

Logical

- Is able to apply logic to a problem and set answers out in a systematic order
- Understands that the answer may not be straight forward and prior work may be needed
- Able to reverse a mathematical process to solve a problem

Fluent/converses

- Able to discuss mathematical concepts in order to develop learning both with classroom teacher and peers
- Ability to solve the same problem using varied strategies
- Able to create their own questions/problems to solve

Problem solver

- Able to apply learnt knowledge to novel problems/situations
- Able to visualise/generalise problems in order to understand complex mathematical concepts/questions
- Able to recall mathematical facts easily

Activities for MAT learners

- Register on <https://brilliant.org/s/math/> to explore Maths puzzles and sharpen their mind.
- Exploring topics on www.mathsgenie.co.uk to independently revise and explore topics.
- Use of www.onmaths.com online past and predicted exam papers that are marked and graded instantly (KS4 only)
- <https://corbettmaths.com/more/corbetts-conundrums/> 365 difficult maths problems
- Analyse and critique the numbers they see every day
- Shopping – best value/budgets
- News paper reports – data representation/percentages/misleading statistics
- Follow maths relevant feeds on Snapchat/Instagram etc.
- Puzzles – crosswords/Sudoku/code breakers/fermi problems

How parents can support MAT learners

- Talk to children about the maths they have learnt that day
- Can they describe it/teach it to you?
- Can they explain their homework?
- Involve them in everyday mathematics
- Shopping budgets
- Monthly bills – gas meters, water usage etc.
- Timetables/scheduling
- Find out your child's log in details and see for yourself how they have done



LANGUAGES

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- An early awareness of the second language as a separate system
- Curiosity in how language works
- The ability to extrapolate general rules from samples
- The ability to pick up new language and structures quickly
- The ability to make connections and classify words and structures e.g. to help them learn more efficiently
- The ability to identify, memorise and reproduce new sounds
- A strong desire to put language together by themselves
- Creativity and imagination when using language
- A desire to seek ask further questions and seek solutions
- Awareness and use of a range of strategies for learning
- An intense interest in the cultural features of the language studied
- The ability to transfer skills across and to other languages
- The ability to manipulate vocabulary to express something new
- Inquisitive – asks the ‘right’ questions to understand information
- Able to apply knowledge to unfamiliar content
- Creative in their written work
- Well-organised

Activities for MAT learners

- Listen to the podcasts, the news, films in a foreign language
- Take opportunities to read about the countries where their foreign language is spoken
- Read comics, short articles, etc. in a foreign language
- Challenge yourself on DuoLingo

How parents can support MAT learners

- Encourage pupils to conduct research around the topic they are studying
- Encourage them to read
- Encourage the use of puzzle games/word games/card games etc. to improve thinking and developmental skills
- Visit foreign countries where possible
- Engage in discussions regarding the importance of foreign language learning
- Discuss current affairs



MUSIC

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Can communicate the elements of music verbally and through musical demonstrations
- Willing to work hard and self-motivate in music practice to achieve success
- Ability to see the bigger picture and set long term goals in music (grades/specific pieces)
- Communicate through music performing with musical expression and confidence
- Interested in sound and in particular its creation
- Have a preferred instrument that appeals to them and they may be unwilling to relinquish the instrument
- Prefers to respond to music physically rather than through written communication
- Performs music with a natural awareness of phrasing and pulse
- Captivated by sound and engages fully with music
- Memorises music quickly and recognises patterns in music
- Able to repeat more complex rhythms and melodic phrases (even after one hearing)
- Ability to understand the theory of music in the creation of music
- Able to use correct instrumental technique
- Finds it difficult not to respond to music

Activities for MAT learners

- Learn a musical instrument
- Take peripatetic music lessons
- Join a music ensemble (in school or in the community)
- Take part in extra-curricular musical activities e.g. musical theatre
- Listen to a wide range of music styles and genres
- Attend concerts and live performances
- Engage in conversations about music
- Devote time each day to music practice
- Go to music festivals
- Be in the Music department at break, lunch and after school practicing music
- Learn about musicians, the history of music and music theory

How parents can support MAT learners

- Get students to attend music lessons where possible
- Attend live concerts to increase cultural awareness



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE

- Use the body with confidence in differentiated, expressive and imaginative ways.
- Good sense of shape, space direction and timing.
- Movement is fluent and can be elegant.
- High degree of control of their body - good control of gross and fine body movements and can handle objects skilfully.
- Specific strengths in particular areas.
- Able to perform advanced skills and techniques and transfer skills between activities.
- Takes risks with ideas and approaches.

FIT FOR LIFE

- Shows a high level of understanding of principles of health-related exercise and their application in a variety of activities.
- Particularly high levels of fitness for their age.
- Have a good understanding of the benefits of exercise on the body.
- Know how to improve elements of strength, speed, stamina and flexibility in both their own and others.

COACHING

- Able to use technical terms effectively, accurately and fluently.
- Able to analyse and evaluate their own and others' work, using results for self-improvement.
- Good decision makers and able to take the initiative demonstrating autonomy, leadership and independence of thought.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTITUDE

- Show a high degree of motivation and commitment to practice and performance.
- Show perseverance and resilience.
- Involvement with a range of related extra-curricular activities.

Activities for MAT learners

- Extra-curricular sports activities outside of school
- Engage in the understanding of how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle

How parents can support MAT learners

- Parents can support this by encouraging pupils to lead active healthy lifestyles.
- Encouraging them to read articles on health and fitness.
- Encouraging them to take up opportunities in school when available students re coaching roles and leadership.
- Encouraging them to engage in a sporting activity outside school.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Can make comparisons between religious beliefs and practises.
- Able to evaluate moral questions, giving reasons for and against.
- Can reach justified conclusions with reasons on religious issues.
- Understand religious ideas and theories and applies them to real life situations.
- Perform at levels of literacy that are advanced for their age
- Ability to communicate effectively in different forms
- Use subject specific vocabulary with confidence
- Has a good understanding of cause and effect
- Broad range of religious knowledge
- Can discuss the significance of events, people and changes
- Maturity in their ability to analyse religious concepts
- Able to demonstrate and use a wide and growing knowledge base
- Able to question, challenge and develop own lines of enquiry
- Good grasp and understanding of religious interpretation
- Can make imaginative links between the topics studied with other subjects in the curriculum
- Ability to hypothesise, can make judgements and justify them
- Can take on broad concepts
- Offers unexpected insights
- Willingness to search for new information and ideas
- Has an enquiring mind
- Can cope with tentative conclusions
- Developed sense of empathy and imagination
- Uses subject specific vocabulary and terminology with accuracy and confidence

Activities for MAT learners

- Keep up to date with current affairs by watching the news or reading the news online (e.g. headlines and articles from The Guardian, The Telegraph and BBC news app)
- Explore issues arising in current affairs linked to your religious education studies

How parents can support MAT learners

- Encourage them to read/read together
- Engage in debates/discussions – linked to current affairs
- Discuss current affairs/news using a range of balanced sources
- Model curiosity
- Encourage pupils to conduct research around the topic they are studying
- Provide pupils with sufficient time to ensure homework is completed to a high standard
- Provide pupils with an adequate space/area to be able to work independently



MEDIA STUDIES

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Use subject specific vocabulary with confidence and accuracy
- Can discuss the significance of events, people and changes
- Maturity in their ability to analyse theoretical and academic concepts
- Able to demonstrate and use a wide and growing knowledge base
- Able to question, challenge and develop own lines of enquiry
- The ability to manipulate vocabulary to express something new
- Inquisitive – asks the ‘right’ questions to understand information
- Able to apply knowledge to unfamiliar content
- Creative in their written work
- Well-organised
- Can frame their own questions about media products and interpret products independently
- Are sensitive to the nuance of media language
- Uses terminology precisely and with technical accuracy

Activities for MAT learners

- Practice source utility skills by researching sources to then analyse
- Use the Knowledge Organisers to prepare for lessons and read in advance of the topics
- Read newspapers and suitable magazines.
- Apply media language skills to products of their own choice.

How parents can support MAT learners

- Support students with revision and ask questions using the revision guides.
- Encourage the students to discuss the products they are studying and ask questions.
- Read newspapers and/or online news, looking at different perspectives where possible.
- Encourage them to think critically about any media they consume, this could be Films, TV, Radio etc.



SCIENCE

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Good mathematical skills – able to manipulate equations and data
- Inquisitive – asks extended questions
- Be able to apply knowledge to unfamiliar content
- Can recall factual information
- Good problem-solving skills
- Has a thirst to understand information
- Competitive
- Eloquent written communication
- Self-evaluative
- Logical
- Organised
- Aspirational
- Good observational skills
- Good practical skills

Activities for MAT learners

- Pay attention to any current affairs surrounding Science. For example; plastic usage and global warming.
- Focus on increasing maths in science skills due to the increased maths content in all 3 science subjects.

How parents can support MAT learners

- Encourage them to read/read together
- Encourage the use of puzzle games/word games/card games etc. to improve thinking and developmental skills
- Visit science exhibitions/museums to encourage engagement
- Engage in debates/discussions
- Discuss current affairs/news
- Model curiosity
- Encourage pupils to conduct research around the topic they are studying
- Provide pupils with sufficient time to ensure homework is completed to a high standard



SOCIAL SCIENCES

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Can make comparisons between perspectives and ideas about society and human behaviour.
- Able to evaluate the effectiveness of perspectives and ideological thought in modern society
- Can reach justified conclusions with reasons on sociological and psychological issues.
- Understand sociological and psychological ideas and theories and applies them to real life situations.
- Ability to communicate effectively using academic and tier 3 vocabulary consistently
- Use subject specific vocabulary with confidence and accuracy
- Can discuss the significance of events, people and changes
- Maturity in their ability to analyse sociological and psychological concepts
- Able to demonstrate and use a wide and growing knowledge base
- Able to question, challenge and develop own lines of enquiry
- Can make imaginative links between the topics studied with other subjects in the curriculum and make synoptic links to other areas of sociology and psychology.
- Willingness to search for new information and ideas
- Can cope with tentative conclusions
- Will do independent research away from lesson time and use them in their extended writing as examples of application..
- Will attend revision sessions in search of further knowledge and understanding
- Will utilise the structures given for effective assessment
- Is able to effectively understand, digest and work on feedback given from assessment to ensure an upward trajectory in assessment.

Activities for MAT learners

- Use social media, BBC/Sky websites to keep an eye out on current events that can be used as examples for family, education, crime & beliefs in sociology and topic areas in psychology.
- Use Sociology and Psychology Review magazines on the bookshelf outside of SS1 and SS2 to read relevant academic articles
- Use extensive examples of exam papers to practice using the correct structures and to ensure knowledge is being applied
- Attendance of Aim Higher sessions at Friday lunchtime where we work on exam skills, high level skills such as evaluation and we tailor to any common issues MAT learners are having.
- Complete exam questions away from lesson
- Complete UpLearn in Psychology and Seneca in Sociology to enhance learning.

How parents can support MAT learners

- Support with knowledge retention through quizzing the learners using their own created resources
- Purchasing of further revision booklets (Tutor2U are recommended)
- Encourage attendance of aim higher on Friday lunch time
- Encourage reading of the newspapers – discuss current affairs and news
- Discuss and engage in Sociological and Psychological discussions



HISTORY

Characteristics of a MAT Learner

- Uses subject specific vocabulary and terminology with accuracy and confidence
- Write analytically about historical debates
- Able to make judgements on source utility applying valid criteria with developed reasoning
- Can take into account how the provenance affects the usefulness of source content.
- Able to use contextual knowledge in the process of interpreting the sources and applying criteria for judgements on their utility.
- Produces answers showing a line of reasoning that is coherent, sustained and logically structured directly
- Has wide-ranging knowledge and understanding of features or characteristics of the period studied.
- Spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy and use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning, along with a wide range of specialist terms.
- Shows particular skills of inference
- Able to set information in a chronological framework
- Able to question, challenge and develop own lines of enquiry
- Good understanding of historical interpretation
- Analyses interpretations indicating how the differences of view are conveyed.
- Reads widely around topics and has good general knowledge
- Has a genuine interest in History
- Contributes to class discussions

Activities for MAT learners

- Practice source utility skills by researching sources to then analyse
- Use the Knowledge Organisers to prepare for lessons and read in advance of the topics

How parents can support MAT learners

- Discuss history together
- Visit museums
- Watch history documentaries together
- Encourage going to History Club / reading history books or magazines from the library