

## **Matthew** **Workshop Presenter** **South East**

Matthew is a young man with an engaging sense of humour and an unrivalled passion for opera.



### **What makes Matthew different?**

Matthew was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy isn't a particular disease or illness. The term means a physical condition that affects movement as a result of an injury to the brain. Every person with cerebral palsy is affected in a different way. Matthew uses a wheelchair to get around, lives in his own home and employs a full time support assistant to help him with his everyday needs.

Other than that, he does what everyone else does.

### **Interests and achievements**

His main interests are:

- Opera
- Music and singing
- Boccia (similar game to bowls)
- Football and cricket

Matthew was introduced to opera when he was 5 years old. His father took him to see the Football Association (FA) World Cup in 1990, where he saw the Three Tenors perform and from that day he had an avid interest in music. Such is his interest in opera he once entered a talent contest as his hero Pavarotti. A member of the school choir he also took singing lessons.

An active person, Matthew travels the UK playing a bowls like game called Boccia, which is played by people with disabilities. He currently plays for the England Squad and is working hard towards competing for a place in the GB Boccia Team at the 2012 Paralympics Games.

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