

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

In life, we often encounter situations where we must make sacrifices, whether it's giving up something we desire for the greater good or putting others' needs before our own, sacrifice is a concept deeply ingrained in many cultures and religions. In Christianity, the idea of sacrifice holds significant importance, teaching valuable lessons that resonate with people of all ages, including secondary school students. One of the fundamental teachings of Christianity is the concept of sacrificial love, exemplified by Jesus Christ himself whose ultimate sacrifice of his life for the salvation of humanity serves as a powerful example of selflessness and love. His words, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13), encapsulate the essence of sacrifice in its purest form.

Our pupils may not be faced with decisions as monumental as giving our lives, but we encounter opportunities to make sacrifices in our daily lives. It could be as simple as sacrificing our free time to help a friend in need, giving up personal desires to support our family, or making compromises for the betterment of our community. The story of the widow's offering, as told in Mark 12:41-44, is another inspiring example from Christianity. Despite having very little, the widow gave all she had – two small coins – as an offering to God. Her act of sacrificial giving, though seemingly insignificant to others, was praised by Jesus as an example of true generosity. It teaches us that the value of our sacrifice is not measured by its size but by the sincerity and selflessness behind it.

In conclusion, the concept of sacrifice in Christianity teaches us invaluable lessons that are applicable to our lives as secondary school students. By embracing sacrificial love and selflessness, we can make a positive impact on our surroundings and grow into compassionate and resilient individuals ready to face life's challenges with grace and courage.

Mr D Quigg
Associate Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

The season of Lent has begun. It is the forty days and nights where we focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. The number forty occurs quite a lot in the Bible.

For example the rains which caused the great flood in the days of Noah lasted for forty days, God's people endured forty days and nights of taunting by Goliath before David was sent to the battlefield, the Israelites spent forty years in bondage by the Egyptians and then another forty years in the desert before they reached the Promised Land. In all of these circumstances we see that this time was a period of trial and testing by God of his people. Jesus himself spent forty days and nights in the wilderness praying and fasting before he entered into his ministry. He denied himself and rejected the devil's temptations choosing instead to depend on God the Father to satisfy his every need. "The temptation in the desert shows Jesus, the humble Messiah, who triumphs over Satan by his total adherence to the plan of salvation willed by the Father" (CCC) We can look at this time of Lent as a time of trial and testing but we can also look on it as an invitation by God for us to set aside time to be with Him, to trust in Him completely so we can be strengthened in the spirit and see that he is all we need.

Almighty and Everlasting God, You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man and giving His life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to You By following His example of suffering and make us worthy to share in His resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen.



Primary News

Year 4

The children have started 2024 as they ended last year, on a high. In maths we have moved onto multiplying and dividing larger numbers by 1-digit numbers, thankfully we have been practising the multiplication tables ready for the MTC later in the year. Through our written work, we have been working on internal monologues – it has been very revealing to hear some of the inner voices in our class!



Our science topic has been animals including humans, where we have been focusing on the transfer of energy in food chains. We have studied human digestion in detail, including recreating the digestive system! Our topic this term has been Fair Trade. We have enjoyed learning about how trade works and what supply chains are – they were shocked to find out about the unfairness of the banana trade. Most are very keen to buy fair trade and we are in the process of writing persuasive letter to Ms Chick to encourage the school to buy fair trade products. In DT this term, we have been researching, designing and making biscuits; our favourite part of this was definitely the sampling of the finished product!



Tri Golf Tournament

Children from year 3 & 4 were excited to take part in Tri Golf tournament, competing against seven other local Primary schools. Secondary Sporting Brilliance pupils were on hand to help and support all the children competing.

The children had to go to eight different stations which were set up around the sports hall and attempt different shots to score from 1 to 10 points .

The Tee Shot proved to be the hardest, as the children had swing with enough power to lift the ball into the air. The easiest shot was the Putt, as the children only needed to gently hit the ball into the cup.

The Year 3's came fifth overall and really enjoyed taking part, the Year 4's came third overall & couldn't wait to go up to receive their medals.



Secondary News

Year 7

As we reach the midpoint of the academic year, the Year 7 pupils have truly found their stride and are showcasing their talents. Up to this point they have collectively earned an impressive 24,529 achievement points, marking the highest achievement in the Academy. Many among them have also received recognition in the form of bronze and silver stars for their outstanding achievements. I'd like to give a special acknowledgment to the following pupils who have maintained an exemplary record of zero behaviour points since the

BABUJEE, Thanurekaa	MURIUKI, Anya	ZALDIVAR, Yumiko
CHARLES, Simyah	NEWTON OSAGIE, Praise	ZOLBOO, Enkhlen
DE SOUZA MOURA, Alice	WANG, Yaqing	APAU DANSO, Giovanni
GILKES, Louise	WELCH, Holly	FILHO, Wesley
WEST, Ruby	WILLIAMS, Naomilee	HINDS, Arturo
LAISSAOUI, Ania		



Lewisham Young Mayor

St Matthew Academy held our annual polling station in support of the Lewisham Young Mayor campaign. Aayush was St Matthew Academy's sole candidate, after campaigning against his peers this year. Aayush worked extremely hard and was very pro-active with his approach to campaigning. Well done to Aayush and commiserations, as he was not successful with his quest for parliamentary status. Congratulations to the new Young Mayor Bilvilyn Asamoah and Paul Frimpong the new Deputy Young Mayor.

Year 10 Pupils are invited to start applying for positions within the Pupil Leadership team for the next academic year, who will be the House Leaders?



Sports & Trip News

Paris Trip

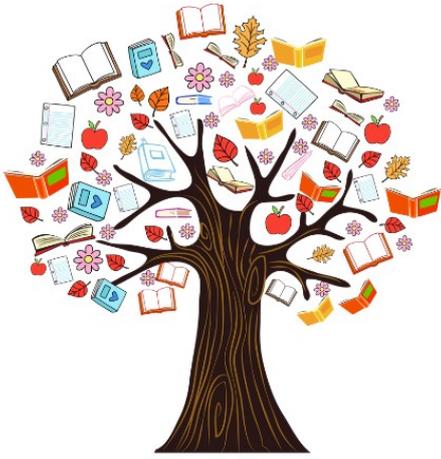
Thirty-nine pupils were given an authentic taste of French life on a four-day trip to Paris this month. Whether it was a crash course in crucial GCSE vocabulary on the long journey out ("embouteillage" and "bouchon" turn out to be synonyms for traffic jam), a hands-on lesson in crêpe-making, or trying to barter at a French market on the third day, the pupils demonstrated their enthusiasm and perseverance throughout. Their reward was an amazing experience, including a steep climb to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower and a boat trip along the River Seine, taking in the history and culture of the city. The only lingering regret for some will be the taste of snails on the last evening!



Sports Fixtures

Year 7 and 8 Football Netball teams had a successful end to the term by winning their netball games against Eltham Hill, 3-2 and 8-3. Players of the match for Y7; Praise & Bethany. Players of the match for Y8; Nevaeh, Arilda & Angel





LITERACY CORNER

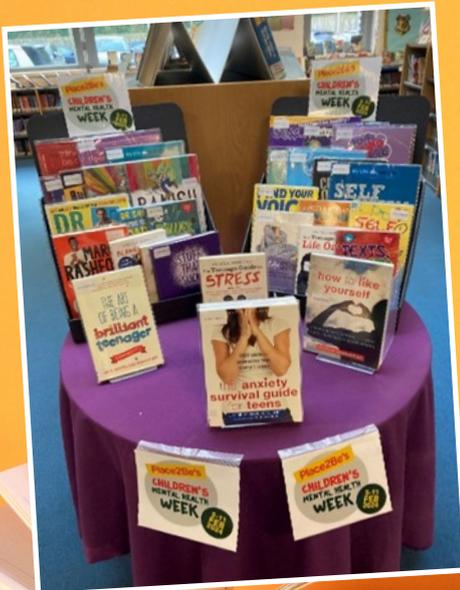
LEWISHAM BOOK AWARDS 2024
FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 7 & 8
READ ALL SIX BOOKS AND
WRITE SIX BOOK REVIEWS TO
TAKE PART.

SPEAK TO MRS FIELDS IN THE LRC FOR
MORE INFORMATION

If you are in years 7 or 8 and would like to take part in the Lewisham Book Awards, please speak to Mrs Fields in the LRC:



Lots of new books have arrived in the LRC:



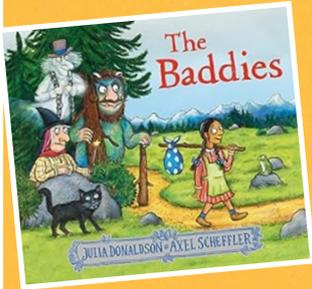


BOOK REVIEWS

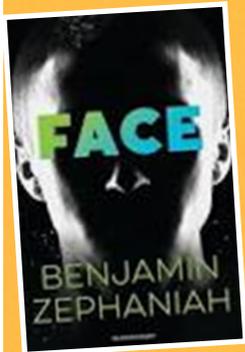


Matia in year 6 read and reviewed 'The Snow Girl' by Sophie Anderson.

You'll notice that in this book the plot twist is amazing. You'll never see it coming! I highly recommend this book to the people who love fantasy fiction. This book is an outstanding piece of work. This book is also from the same author who wrote 'The girl who speaks bear' and many others which I think you should read.



Theo in year 6 read and reviewed 'The Baddies' by Julia Donaldson. A young girl moves into a cottage then three bad monsters try and scare her but they all failed and nobody scares her! My favourite part of the story was when a troll tries to scare her in a stream but she wasn't scared and the troll fell in the stream and it was so funny. The girl was so brave in the story and wasn't scared by anyone and she was calm and tranquil. 5 stars



Enkhlen in year 7 reviewed 'Face' by Benjamin Zephaniah.

Martin Turner is a 15 year old boy who lives in South East London and gets into a car accident that changes his family's lives. Martin wakes up in a hospital due to the car accident. When he recovers and get out of hospital, some people stand by him, some people bully him and some even patronise him and no longer want Martin around. After some time, Martin realises that his life is up to him and that he is a winner.

I really like this book because it reminds me of the saying 'Don't judge a book by it's cover'. Also the blurb got me hooked.

My rating 9 out of 10.



Malo reviewed 'The boy who sailed the ocean in an armchair' by Lara Williamson.

I really loved reading this book because it is an amazing story, one with hardship, despair and many other examples that make up a good story.

Becket Rumsey and his brother, Billy, must figure out why their dad took them away from their almost Mum, Pearl, in the middle of the night, and why they are now living far away and starting a new school.

The boys want to go back to Pearl which means hugs, paint on the carpet and a whole family. They start investigating and their travels lead them to find out that there are strangers living in their old house! Where have Pearl and all her things gone? And why won't their father let them see her?

I would recommend this book to readers who like a slightly scandalous but adventurous story because this book is all of that. Even if I could, I wouldn't change anything about this wonderful story. 10 out of 10.



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during the month of January & February

Reception - Ladybirds

Jerely AGUILERA RAMÍREZ

Noah IGBOKWE

Qadhijah WHYTE

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Amya DAVIS-ROCHESTER

Unique MANSARAY

Marielis DONE PEREZ

Year 2 - Butterfly

Maya MARGAI

Fahima ADEBOWALE

Korede CALFOS

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Tigerlily LEIGHTON

Anaiya ADUTWIM

Amaya WATSON-KHAN

Year 4 - Tigers

Seryah ROCHESTER

Deborah OMASOMBO

Yasmin GRIFFITH-WILLIAMS

Year 5 - Lions

Daniel KANGA

Kesha CHURAKOV

Yolanda FERRANTINI

Year 6 - Leopards

Bella CODREA

Helena GIANNONE

Tyler ONOBRAUCHE

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Ms Roostan



"For being an excellent team player."

Ms Crammond



"For always going the extra mile."

Ms Mitcham



"For all of her hard work and dedication."

Ms Creary



"For always being professional, calm and pleasant."

Ms Nguyen-Quan



"For being supportive, calm and gracious."

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Chick supported by Mr Gunningham, Mr Magar, Ms Dunne and our Child Protection Officer is Ms Dryden. Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child?

You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

- Lewisham MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) **020 8314 6660**
- Or call **999** or **101** if you believe a child is in immediate danger
- Childline **0800 11 11** www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk

Term Dates 2023/2024

Spring Term Dates

Tuesday 9 January 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February

Monday 19 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024

Easter Holiday: Friday 29 March 2024 to Friday 12 April 2024

Summer Term Dates

Monday 15 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May

Monday 3 June 2024 to Tuesday 23 July 2024

Autumn Term Dates 2024/2025

Tuesday 3 September - Year 7 pupils only

Wednesday 4 September to Friday 25 October

Half Term: Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November

Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 21 December to Monday 6 January

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk