

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

It has been an excellent 4 weeks at St Matthew Academy with so many fantastic events taking place across the school. This term we are endeavouring to ensure that all our children receive a really rich provision of after school enrichment clubs, trips and visits, something we were sadly unable to offer last year due to the restrictions. Here at St Matthew Academy we truly recognise that education and experiences extend well beyond the classroom. We are looking forward to be able to continue to grow our school community by inviting parents in to participate in events and play a full role in their child's educational journey.

We have welcomed our new reception children into the Primary Phase and they have settled in extremely well. The Gruffalo Hunt which took place was a valuable opportunity for the reception parents to spend time with their children in the classroom and enjoy a trip to the Forest School. Our Sports Day and MacMillan Coffee Morning that took place last Friday were a huge success and it was lovely to see so many parents and children involved in not only all the sporting competitions, but eating the cakes as well. This weekend we have our Year 8 pupils setting off to Norfolk for 2 days of outward bounds activities, their excitement is almost palpable! These events are just some of the highlights, so please read on to find out what else took place.

We would encourage you to regularly view our Latest News on our website and follow us on Twitter, so that you do not miss out on what I can only describe as a first class offer for our children. It also highlights the dedication of our staff and how committed they are to providing great opportunities for our children to remember forever.

If you are interested in supporting us in continuing to build a really strong SMA community, please join us to find out how you can become part of our PTA. Further information regarding the first meeting on Friday 15th October will be sent out nearer the time by myself and Mr Gunningham. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Ms Chick - Head of the Primary Phase

Prayer and Reflection

This Family Fast Day on Friday 1 October, CAFOD are asking us to support people around the world who are dedicating their lives to protecting God's creation

*Walk beside us, Lord,
in the cool of the day,
in the garden you have created
as our common home.*

*Walk beside us, Lord,
as the cries of the forest
pierce the dawn,
and flames rip through
our common home.*

*Grant us courage, Lord,
as we walk beside all those
who struggle to protect
our common home.*

*Grant us hope, Lord,
and the vision to walk dark paths
in the light of a single sunbeam.*

*Grant us grace, Lord,
to put the flourishing of all people
and the wonder of your creation
at the heart of all we do,
as we strive to be guardians
of our common home.*

St Francis, pray for us.

CAFODs Family Fast Day Prayer



Primary News

Primary Sports Day

Having postponed our sports day from the end of the Summer term, we assembled on the school Astro turf and playing fields on Friday 24th September to finally hold the event.

Bathed in fantastic sunshine, the day got underway with the Key stage 2 long distance and sprint races while Key stage 1 competed in their field events: Basketball throw, Tennis ball throw, long jump and Javelin. The standard of the sport on show was superb with many races in the sprint categories being decided with photo finishes.



At the conclusion of the morning session, parent and teacher races also featured some hugely competitive racing which was greatly enjoyed by children and adults alike. The afternoon session saw a reversal, with Key stage 2 children competing in field events while Key stage 1 took to the track! Again, the level of competition was exceptional and the effort that our youngest children put in to their relay races in particular, was extremely impressive. Parents, carers and teachers took part in their own races again in the afternoon to the delight of the children.



Throughout the whole day, children were enthusiastic and committed and parents supported with exuberance and in the correct spirit from the first moment to the last.

The day concluded with a trophy presentation to Teresa house, who finished with the most points overall with 159 to Mandela's 129 and Romero's 109.

Roll on the summer edition!



Feast of St Matthew



Primary Events

Gruffalo Open Morning

We were delighted to welcome our new reception parents into school for the Gruffalo Hunt. Children and parents spent the morning together making finger puppets, Gruffalo masks and a delicious Gruffalo Crumble. The highlight of the session was a trip into the Forest School to hunt for the Gruffalo and all the animals in the story. Our children thoroughly enjoy their weekly lessons in the Forest School and loved sharing the experience with their parents. We look forward to continuing to build our SMA community and inviting our parents into school for many more events in the future. Please look at our [website](#) to see the full video and listen to our parents' views.



Breakfast Around the World

Twice a half term our Breakfast Club celebrates the cuisine from different countries by providing a breakfast from around the world. The children are able to experience different cultures by sampling the food, listening to traditional music and learning key phrases. On Friday, France was the country that we started the new academic term with. Staff and children enjoyed a breakfast of croissants, pain au chocolat and French cheeses which were particularly popular with staff.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

SMA supported MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 24th September. We were overwhelmed by an extremely generous donation from Tesco in Lewisham organised by Kyla in year 1's mum. It was great to see the effort that some of the pupils had gone to in making their own cakes to sell. The event was run by our fabulous year 1 parents (Evie and Maddie's mum, Ella's mum, Kaivon's mum, Ponyo's mum and Amelia's mum) assisted by Beulah and Zion's mum. A fantastic array of cakes were on offer and greatly appreciated by our primary and secondary pupils who all donated to such a worthwhile cause. We were over the moon to find out that we had raised over £300.00 for MacMillan!



Friday Family Film Night

After an exhausting day of sports and eating cakes, our EYFS/KS1 families took the opportunity to relax in the Drama Studio and enjoy watching 'Luca'. The pupils sat eating their popcorn mesmerised by the film, whilst the parents had the chance to take a well-deserved rest. We are looking forward to seeing more families for the KS2 Friday Family Film Night in October.



Secondary News

Good News from Year 7

It's been a very happy and successful term so far. Getting back to "normal" proved to be both challenging and exciting.

Year 8 pupils have matured a lot over the summer and now are proudly representing SMA during Open Evenings and Open Mornings.

Louis has delivered a lovely speech during one of those events and made us all proud.

One of the visiting parents commented on how well versed Talihia Whyte Bishop is in our curriculum, after school clubs and behaviour policies. "She needs to be praised and recognised" said the visiting mum.

Please congratulate both pupils when you see them.

Thank you all for your hard work and setting high expectations. Or wouldn't be possible without you.

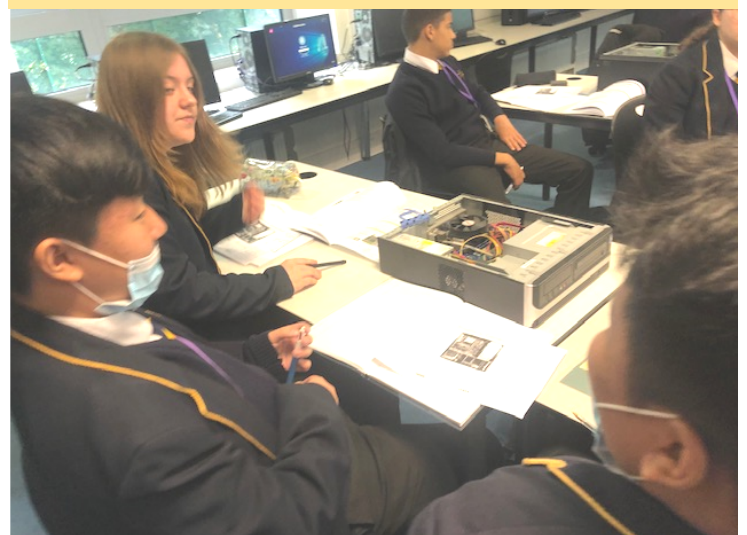
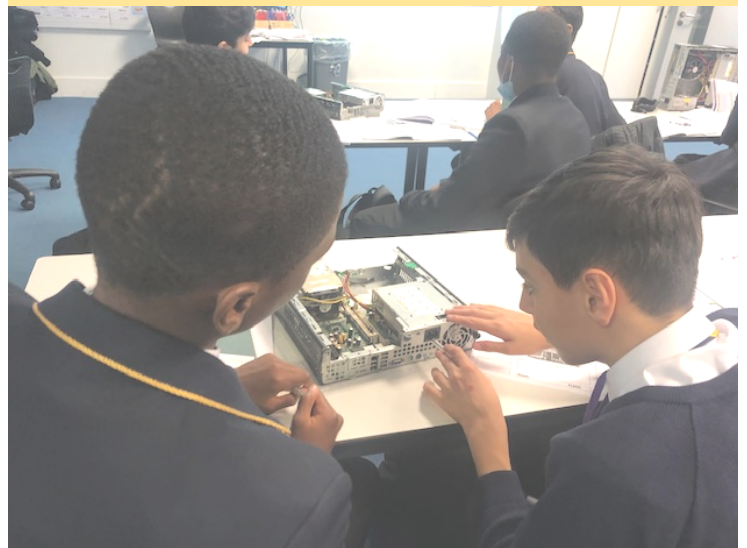


Good News from Year 9

Year 9 have had a fantastic start to the year and are enjoying the return to normality. They are thriving in their optional subjects and really enjoying getting a feel for their GCSE courses. A special mention to 9R2 and 9M2 who have had 100% attendance at points during this half term. The Y9's have also been busy helping out with open days and evenings, documenting the media for our Feast of St Mathew liturgy. The Y9 Media scholars are working brilliantly with Mr Blakemore and their unofficial project manager Bess! Their first trip of many is next week to the Royal Institute. I am very proud and excited to continue to see them mature and thrive!

Computer Science

Year 9 pupils have been enjoying bringing their learning to life through the practical experience of seeing some of the internal parts of a computer. They have been able to take apart broken processors so that they can have a better understanding of how a computer functions. The pupils were amazed to see some of the parts they do not normally get to see as they are hidden away in the computer casing - such as the heat sink, motherboard, the CPU and the power supply. Next job to put it all back in perfect order so that the computer works beautifully again!



Dance

Despite a very turbulent year, St Matthew Academy's talented young dancers have worked extremely hard to raise the profile of dance both in and beyond school. Undeterred by the many Covid restrictions in place between 2020 and 2021, they enjoyed many enriching experiences to support their development as choreographers and performers.

In October last year, Year 7 and 8 pupils benefitted from participating in a series of exciting dance workshops led by Samantha Felton, a dynamic and inspiring young dancer studying for her BA in Dance at Trinity Laban, a globally renowned dance Conservatoire in Deptford. The workshops were designed to engage and broaden the experiences of young dancers with aptitude in a fun and creative learning environment.

Later in the term, Year 8 Gifted and Talented dancers worked hard to produce a thought-provoking dance film, which was aired as part of the 2021 Lewisham Live festival, an annual celebration bringing together artistic talent from across the borough. The piece was based on Alvin Ailey's "We Dance" choreography, which draws attention to the importance of the Black Lives Matter campaign, focusing on how the power of the Arts, including Dance, can empower people of colour.

In January, Year 8 pupils from across Dance and Music began working alongside professional dancers and musicians from Trinity Laban as part of the 2021 Live at Trinity Laban festival. This highly funded project began online and culminated in an original piece of dance accompanied by exciting musical composition. In addition, the creation process has become the subject of an insightful documentary, produced by Trinity Laban, due to be aired during the Autumn term. The work showcases the immense talents within the school and gave the pupils a chance to develop and grow in confidence both personally and within the art form.

Last year's Innovation Days were a highlight of the school's calendar and provided our young dancers with the chance to experience working alongside professionals from the Royal Academy of Dance.

In spring, pupils enjoyed uplifting street dance workshops and had the opportunity to focus their brains and bodies in an enjoyable, but very physically demanding afternoon of Capoeira with Anetta Zwierzynska. More recently, the Summer Innovation Day enabled pupils from across the Primary and Secondary phase to learn how to apply their creative talents to new disciplines through partaking in a fun-packed day of body percussion workshops with Fernando De Moraes Machado, a member of the educational group 'Beat Goes On.'

This year, our work with the Royal Academy of Dance is continuing alongside dance practitioner Zoe Elliot, who is currently running weekly creative dance sessions for St Matthew Academy pupils interested in developing their range of creative skills. This opportunity will continue to be available for pupils in the years ahead.

Over the years, many pupils have experienced the benefits of working creatively with the Learning and Participation team at Trinity Laban. Last year was no exception and despite the lockdowns and various restrictions, both our Gifted and Talented Primary pupils and Year 8 dancers were put through their paces through in high energy Contemporary Creative dance workshops led by artists Vicki Bursford and Natalie Dodd, aiming to provide a gateway into the Launch and Centre for Advanced Training schemes at Trinity Laban.



Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase: September

Top 5 pupils with the most achievement

Year 7	Maria FRIMU 7R2	Year 8	Matthews DE SOUSA 8T1
	Phoebe MAURER-SMALLEY 7T2		Sophia MINNOCH 8M2
	Ashaye ADUTWIM 7T1		Jordan JAMES 8R3
	Jess CARROLL 7R2		Demilade FOLASIRE 8M1
	Ademide OYELEYE 7M3		Jemimah AIKOROJE 8R2
Year 9	Rapolas VENCKUS 9T3	Year 10	Kyson THOMAS 10M2
	Shameemah TANAGIDAH 9T1		Nayely BURGA MALES 10M1
	Abiola Iyiola HUGHES 9T1		Dominic JASTAK 10T1
	Mark KOUTCHEDI 9M1		Lara LOPES TAVARES 10M2
	Bess HUXTON 9T1		Michael UMUNNAKWE 10T1
Year 11	Matteo FRATTINI 11EN2	Aziz ALI-OBALOKUN 11EN2	
	Tesleem SUBAIR BELLO 11SCI	Rohanna-Lee SANKER 11MA2	
	Samuel ATUAHENE 11EN2		

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

House Update



Overall House Points	
Mandela:	56
Teresa:	52
Romero:	47
Achievement Points	
Mandela:	1329
Teresa:	1474
Romero:	1308
Attendance	
Mandela:	94.9% (15 Points)
Teresa:	94.9% (15 Points)
Romero:	94.9% (15 Points)

What a great start to a brand new year!

With Mandela in the lead, followed closely behind with Teresa. We still have the languages quiz and harvest festival collection to give Romero a chance to catch up before half term!

Keep an eye out for a re-election of new house ambassadors and the house prayer competition.

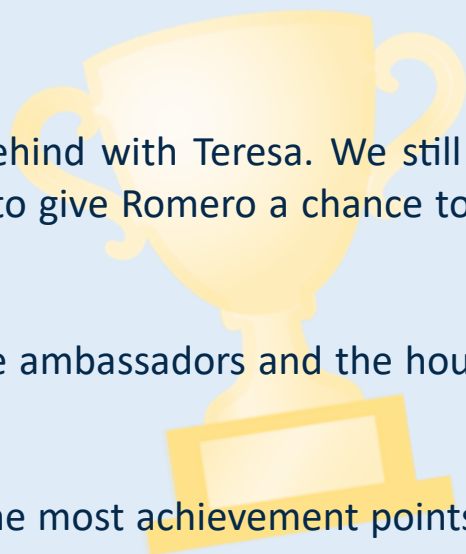
Well done to the following forms for earning the most achievement points for their house:



9M1 – 150

7T1 – 267

7R2 – 176



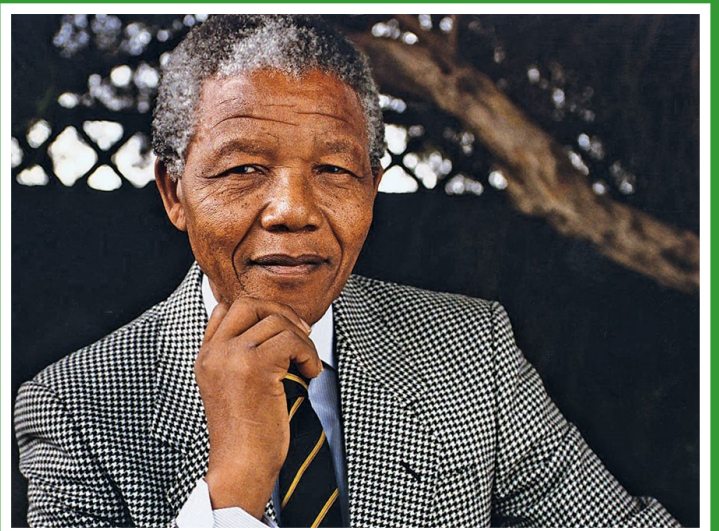
Mandela Page

Mandela had their first house assembly this week, introducing the new Mandela House Leader Miss Barallon and the Year 11 Mandela Leadership Pupils. Chioma, Tanitoluwa, Daron, Parfaite, Mekeda, Rohanna, Omeyi and Leihani all spoke with fantastic confidence and took their opportunity to let their light shine and inspire the pupils looking up to them in Year 7 – Year 10.

This week the MFL team put together a languages quiz for pupils to take part in as an opportunity to celebrate European Day of Languages. T thoroughly enjoyed the first chance to win house points for Mandela!

Coming up we have Harvest Festival collection for Lewisham Food Bank. As a Catholic Academy we are mindful of our calling to support those in need. This is an opportunity for us to share with others who are less fortunate and live out our Christian values. Each year the pupils of St Matthew Academy let their light shine in the local community by donating items to give to the Lewisham Food Bank. The Year 11 Mandela Pupil Leadership team will be coming to forms this week to inform pupils of what items the food bank will be collecting! We have made this a house competition, where pupils can earn house points for the most amount donated.

Keep up the good work Mandela House!



Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars chosen by their colleagues...



Ms Adjei



Mr Vyas



Mr Solomon



The Admin Team



Ms Holding



The Facilities Team

Extracurricular Clubs Autumn 2021



Breakfast or Lunch

After School

M O N			Table Tennis Y7/8 3-4:30 Sports Hall NCO	Girls Fitness All Years 3-4:30 Fitness suite MMC	DOE Y9/10 3.00-4.30 Silver/Bronze LSA, NBA, TSK	Guitar Club All years 3:00:4:00 DKE	Football Y9 3-4:30 Astro AKG/THA					
T U E	Maths Club Y7/8/9 12-12:45 KNG											
W E D	BREAKFAST MFL HW drop Y10/11 8.00 - 8.30 S103 FDE		Madagascar rehearsals 3.00-4.30 Drama Studio AMB, JEC, CSM	EAL HW Club 3.00-4.00 MGI	Latin American Dance All years 3.20- 4.00 S100 AMI	Girls Football All Years 3.00-4.30 Fitness suite SKE/TSK	Sporting Brilliance Y7/8 3.00-4.30 Sports Hall LSA	MFL Culture + KS3 HW drop in 3.20-4.00 S102 AMA	Fitness & Rowing Y7/8 3.00-4.30 Fitness suite LSI	Step into Dance Year 7/8 3.00-4.30 Dance Studio Zoe Elliot	Debate Mate Yr 7/8 3-4:30 E108 KPU/MEN	Gospel Choir All years 3.00-4.00 Music Room AOM
T H U R	WEEK A ONLY The Art of Appraisal Year 9/10 12.00-12.45 S111 MPI	KS4 Journey to grade 9 Year 10/11 (Art/Tex/Ph) 12.00-12.25 LWR/EGR	Week A ONLY Light Bearer Prayer 12.05-12.25 Led by Y8/9	Netball Club All years 3.00-4:30 Sports Hall MMC	Football Y7/8 3.00-4.30 Astro BSA	Fitness & Rowing Y9,10 & 11 3.00-4:30 Fitness suite LSI	Dance Performance Group 3.00-4.30 Dance Studio CSM	Science Y7/8 3.20-4.00 N024 LSO	KS3 Creative Y7/8 3.20-4.00 LWR N1.18			
F R I	Week B ONLY Light Bearer Prayer 12.05-12.25 Led by Y10		Madagascar rehearsals 3.00-4.30 Drama Studio AMB, JEC, CSM	Football Y10/11 3-4:30 Astro - LSA								

STAFF MEETING

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Young supported by Mrs Wickliffe (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), and our Child Protection Officer is Mrs Laker. 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

Autumn Term 21/22

Friday 3 September 2020 to Friday 22 October 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October 2020 to Friday 29 October 2021

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 21/22

Tuesday 4 January 2022 to Friday 11 February 2022

Half Term: Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 1 April 2022

Summer Term 21/22

Tuesday 19 April 2022 to Friday 27 May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Monday 6 June 2022 to Thursday 21 July 2022

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

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk