



*“ Effectiveness of leadership and management - **Good** ”*

*“ Personal development, behaviour and welfare - **Good** ”*

*“ Early years provision - **Good** ”*

**Ofsted 2017**





## WELCOME TO ST MATTHEW ACADEMY

Being an all through Academy, with our pupils located on one site creates many opportunities and advantages for our pupils. For example, we have created a shared educational ethos that supports children from 3-16 and provides high expectations and consistent pastoral care for all. Having the Academy phases (Early Years and Key Stages 1 to 4) working together, enables us to track every pupil's progress throughout their time with us. This allows us to address the 'dips' in learning, usually associated with transitions between key stages and transfers between schools. Our primary pupils have access to the specialisms, resources and facilities in our secondary phase more easily and in turn our secondary pupils benefit from taking on mentoring and leadership roles with our younger pupils. Our all through setting also offers our staff greater possibilities for professional development and learning, this ultimately benefits our pupils positively.

We are a school that welcomes pupils of all abilities; those who are academically gifted and those with talents in other areas. We ensure that all pupils can learn, achieve and flourish regardless of their starting point. We believe a great education is not just about what is taught, nor simply about the excellent exam results that pupils will achieve – it also involves first class pastoral care, an introduction to a wide range of experiences and instilling a belief in what is possible in every student.

**M Baldwin**  
Head of School



*“ Provision in the early years has improved. Leadership and teaching are good, resulting in children’s good progress ”*

*- Ofsted 2017*



*“ Pupils behave well. They enjoy coming to school and feel safe ”*

*- Ofsted 2017*





# OUR ACADEMY

At the heart of our Academy ethos is our belief in promoting an 'inclusive, caring, Catholic community.' This means we welcome pupils and staff from every faith and none; we encourage everyone to take responsibility for their actions and words; we develop our students respect for other faiths and we learn together within the Gospel Values.

Pupils in our school are given a range of opportunities to become 'successful, confident learners' both within the classroom and beyond. We also believe that every pupil deserves the chance to develop a range of skills in preparation for their futures. Extra-curricular and enrichment activities alongside targeted academic intervention, pastoral support and challenge are all important strands in this provision.

'High expectations, outstanding achievements' in all aspects of academy life are striven for daily

by our staff and pupils. We expect our pupils to display exemplary behaviour; our learning environment to be well ordered and pupils to thrive on the challenges presented to them. This enables every child to achieve pastorally, spiritually and academically.

Our staff and children see themselves as active learners, being part of a learning community that seeks to inspire and motivate each other to be the best that they can be. Working in partnership with parents and carers our staff believe they have a crucial role to play in 'nurturing talent, cultivating ambition.'

As a result we promote 'excellence for all' in every aspect of Academy life. Our pupils are challenged to exceed academic expectations through hard work and dedication and are guided by our five characteristics of learning: aspiration; collaboration; independence; persistence and versatility.



*" Pupils in Years 6 and 11 receive extensive extra booster sessions before and after school as well as during school holidays "*

*- Ofsted 2017*



## • ASPIRATION

When pupils are encouraged to aim high, they rarely fail to live up to expectations and we never limit our children by limiting our belief in them.

## • COLLABORATION

The ability to share our thoughts, talents and ideas is what we want to instil in all of our pupils so that they can go out into the world as successful, collaborative, young people.

## • INDEPENDENCE

We want all our pupils to grow into confident, independent learners and so we encourage an independent attitude from a very early age.

*" Teaching is improving because of decisive action taken by school leaders "* - Ofsted 2017

## • PERSISTENCE

The ability to keep going even when you find the going tough, is a difficult but vital skill to accomplish if our pupils are to grow into successful young men and women. We have therefore developed a challenge based curriculum that develops and rewards persistence.

## • VERSATILITY

The talent to adapt to the challenges of the world is a vital life skill and so we develop this throughout the Academy.





*“ Leaders make sure that they hold teachers to account for their pupils’ progress. As a result, the quality of teaching is improving at a good rate, with some that is very strong ”*  
- Ofsted 2017



# CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is wide ranging, designed to meet the needs of everyone’s abilities, interests and aspirations for the future. Our pupils learn to think for themselves and we encourage them to become independent learners who ask good questions, think creatively, and solve problems with confidence. By the time our pupils leave school, we want them to be self-disciplined and focused young people who are totally determined to succeed in whatever career they choose to pursue.

We review annually and update our curriculum in order to maintain the highest possible academic standards and to prevent our pupils from being disadvantaged, thus ensuring that every pupil reaches their full potential. We ensure pupils are equipped to become active participants in society and responsible contributors to it, capable of achieving as

much independence as possible. We also ensure that the education we offer ensures progression to Sixth Form Colleges and into Higher Education and employment.

We set our pupils challenging targets for continual improvement and we make sure that they make the most of their opportunities in each year. We expect total support and commitment from parents, and work in close partnership with them to ensure that all our young people find the success they deserve.

Our teachers work hard to find new ways to make their subjects more exciting while relevant field trips and study visits take lessons out of the classroom at every opportunity across the whole curriculum. Wide ranging extra-curricular activities also provide new ways to learn and have fun.

*“ In a number of subjects and year groups, teaching has improved rapidly, leading to pupils making strong progress ”*  
- Ofsted 2017





*“ As pupils progress through the school, they grow in self-confidence and ambition ”  
- Ofsted 2017*



# PASTORAL

*“ Leaders keep a close eye on both pupils’ pastoral care and their academic achievement ” - Ofsted 2017*

St Matthew Academy strives to be a Catholic community in which principles of care and respect are valued, with emphasis on the development of the child or young person through academic achievement and personal development. We aim to give every pupil the best and most appropriate opportunities to learn and develop. We take our ethos from Gospel principles and work to draw out the potential in every child and young person.

The most important influences on a child’s values, attitudes and standards are those of family, home and community. We aim therefore, to work in close partnership with parents to encourage all our pupils to have good manners, be kind and develop a sense of responsibility, self-discipline, respect for themselves, for others and for their environment.

We recognise that education is a collaborative and cooperative enterprise and that although we emphasise our role in meeting individual needs, those needs must be met within the shared community life of the Academy and within an atmosphere which is positive, supportive and conducive to learning.

## CLASS TEACHERS AND FORM TUTORS

*“ Teachers and other adults plan a raft of exciting activities. Children, therefore, engage enthusiastically and enjoy school ”  
- Ofsted 2017*

Our pastoral structure at St Matthew Academy is based around the class teacher in the primary phase and the form tutor in the secondary phase who is always a pupil’s first point of call to offer support in school.



# A CATHOLIC ACADEMY

*“ Pupils welcome the daily sessions of ‘gospel reflection equals action time’ ”*  
- Ofsted 2017

At St Matthew Academy, the Catholic faith of pupils is developed through the Chaplaincy Team and RE Department; demonstrated within the curriculum, prayer and focus events which help facilitate the development of spirituality and faith within our Academy. The Academy’s ethos stresses the unique value of each individual and develops in our pupils respect for all faiths.



## CHAPLAINCY AT ST MATTHEW ACADEMY

The inclusive, caring, Catholic Christian ethos of the Academy is owned by all its members; the role of the Chaplaincy Team is to support, nurture and facilitate the Academy’s distinctive Christian nature and assist the whole school community to grow in its relationship with God. The Chaplaincy Team provides spiritual support and leadership for all members of the Academy community through pastoral care, prayer and worship.

The Chaplaincy Team makes provision for liturgical celebration and offers ‘open door’ pastoral support to pupils and staff across the Academy.

The Chaplaincy Team also provide a listening ear and a presence outside the normal constraints of timetables and schedules. Chaplaincy exists to help guide St Matthew Academy towards reaching its fullest potential as a Catholic school; this includes not only providing a presence but also bearing witness to the place of Christ in a modern education system.

St Matthew Academy endeavours to live out its Christian values by serving others. The academy is committed to supporting the University College Lewisham Hospital’s Children’s ward. Our love and support also extends to other local, national and global causes.







## ST MATTHEW ACADEMY

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