

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Executive Head: Mr Serge Cefai

Head of School: Miranda Baldwin



28 January 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

Please find attached a letter from Pat Barber, Chair of Governors, regarding the leadership of the Academy.

At SMA, we are currently doing a lot of work to put in place a Careers Programme for pupils throughout the Academy. As part of this programme, I would like to invite parents to volunteer to come into the Academy and talk to pupils about their employment, in order to help give our young people an insight into the wide variety of jobs they may wish to consider when they leave education. If you would like to volunteer please contact Mr Gunningham (Assistant Head Assistant Head and Engagement and Enrichment Lead) at the following email address igu@stmatthewacademy.co.uk and he will get back to you to arrange a time for you to come in and speak to pupils in Primary, Secondary or both. We look forward to hearing from you.

Listed below are the term dates for 2019/20.

SMA Term days 2019/20	
Monday 2 September 2019	INSET day
Tuesday 3 September	Term starts for all pupils
Monday 21 October	Half term holiday begins
Monday 28 October	Term starts for all pupils
Friday 22 November	INSET day
Friday 20 December	Term ends
Monday 6 January 2020	INSET day
Tuesday 7 January	Term starts for all pupils
Monday 17 February	Half term holiday begins
Monday 24 February	School starts for all pupils
Friday 3 April	Term ends
Tuesday 5 May	Term starts for all pupils
Monday 25 May	Half term holiday begins
Monday 1 June	Term starts for all pupils
Friday 17 July	Last day of term for all pupils

Please note that pupils are not entitled to leave from school during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 specifies that Headteacher's may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Where there are exceptional circumstances, permission must be requested from the Academy Headteacher in writing in advance. A Request for Leave of Absence form can be collected from the Academy reception for completion, it is also available to download on the Academy website. It is important to always include evidence supporting the reason for an application. Authorisation of leave, and the length of authorised leave, is at the Academy Headteacher's discretion.

Tel: 0208 853 6250 Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk Web: www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk

The St Matthew Academy Limited. A company limited by guarantee whose registered office is situated at St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London, SE3 0XX

Registered in England no 5144640 Vat registration no 117 5465 13

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Executive Head: Mr Serge Cefai

Head of School: Miranda Baldwin



If leave is taken without authorisation, or if leave is taken without submitting a requested, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and the matter will be referred to the Local Authority who may issue a Penalty Notice.

We have had a busy start to the New Year at SMA with once again much to celebrate. Yesterday evening a group of our girls performed at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford in the South East finals of the Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge. Their performance was fantastic and a testament to all of the many hours of hard work they have put into their rehearsals supported by Mr Charlery, Head of Music. They narrowly missed out on reaching the national finals by just one point but all should be very proud of their performance.

Those of you that follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/stmattacad>) will know that one of our pupils was lucky enough to meet the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton last week, when she visited a local Lewisham charity. He was selected to represent the young people that are involved with the charity, Family Action, and had an amazing experience chatting to her about his involvement. This week we have a visit from the Lewisham Mayor, Damien Egan, planned. I look forward to taking him on a tour of the academy to see our pupils and staff at work and he will also be meeting a group of year 8 and 9 pupils that I am sure will have plenty of questions for him!

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Executive Head: Mr Serge Cefai

Head of School: Miranda Baldwin



28 January 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

As you are aware the Academy has been lead and managed over the last two years in partnership with Serge Cefai, Headteacher at Sacred Heart School, acting as the Executive Headteacher and supported by an Interim Management Board. Last year the Regional Schools Commissioner acknowledged the impact of the work, and progress that has been made at St Matthew and requested that we move to a regular governing board. This happened in September and the board membership was extended to include elected parents and staff governor representation as well as additional foundation governors.

Mr Cefai then agreed that the end of the autumn term was an appropriate time to step back from the Executive Headship role. He was confident that the school was in a much stronger position than in 2016 with strong leadership in place from Ms Baldwin and her appointed senior leadership team.

It is with some sadness that we now say a fond farewell to Mr Cefai. Thank you will never seem enough to say for the relentless support and dedication he gave to St Matthew Academy to help improve the outcomes for all students. I am sure many will agree with me when I say we will miss his unique charm and particularly his ability to talk for England!

In the Catholic schools community there is a strong bond between schools and their leadership teams, working relationships between Sacred Heart, St Thomas the Apostle and St Matthew Academy will continue and I am sure we will be seeing Mr Cefai at St Matthew in the future.

This development in the leadership structure is another accolade for the school acknowledging the improvements made. We are all very proud of the outstanding success achieved at GCSE last summer giving St Matthew the highest Progress 8 score across Lewisham secondary schools. Progress in the primary phase was also strong with 68% of pupils achieving the combined expected standard at KS2, 4% above the national average. The achievements are very much a team effort and I thank you, the staff and pupils for your continued support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Barber
Chair of Governors

Tel: 0208 853 6250 Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk Web: www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk

The St Matthew Academy Limited. A company limited by guarantee whose registered office is situated at St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London, SE3 0XX

Registered in England no 5144640 Vat registration no 117 5465 13