

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX
Head of School: Ms Miranda Baldwin



2nd April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start my end of term letter by sharing with you the exciting news about the Primary Head recruitment process. After a rigorous selection and interview procedure I am delighted to announce that Ms Chick has accepted the role of Primary Head at SMA. As you are aware Ms Chick is currently the acting Head in Mrs Beckley's absence. She has already had a significant impact and I am really looking forward to working closely with her and her team as we continue our journey to ensuring an outstanding education for all at SMA. Ms Chick will be writing to all primary parents and carers so please look out for her welcome letter at the start of next term.

This week is charity week at SMA. There is an edge of competition to this year's charity week as each House will be awarded 10 House points for each successful 'charity stall' set up on their designated day. Today there were a range of stalls set up in the hall by pupils – as usual the cake stalls all managed to do a roaring trade. We will finish the end of term with Easter services for all pupils in the hall and our youth Chaplaincy Team 'The Light Bearers' will play a noteworthy role. On Saturday 15th June 2019 we hope that the SMA community participates in the SMA 'Three Parks of Lewisham Challenge'. Essentially, all members of our SMA community will walk to three parks across Lewisham in the quickest time possible to raise money for Lewisham Hospital Children's Ward, CAFOD and the Southwark Crisis Fund. This will be the second year of the charity walk and it is intended that this charity walk will grow each year. We pray for lots of sunshine and an ice cream van at the park on completion of the walk!

Once again we have had much to celebrate this term. Yesterday one of our debating teams took part in the final round of the Debate Cup. The team won, beating Sydenham Girls in the final (last year Sydenham managed to just beat SMA in the final). The Academy first team are now officially Regional Champions 2019 and they will join 6 other teams for the national finals at the Houses of Parliament in June. As usual we have had a range of sporting successes in all manner of sports. They include a successful year 7 & 8 cross country team with a number of boys selected to represent Lewisham in the London Championships, semi-final places in the Blackheath cup for year 9 and year 11 boys football, show-stopping primary and secondary dancers at Lewisham Live! and a silver medal in the National Indoor Rowing event. We are also very proud of our published writers and poets – we have pupils from all phases of the Academy that can now read their work in recently published books. Needless to say there are several copies in the school library if you wish to take a look.

Another round of parent's evenings have taken place for all primary pupils and year 9 and 10 pupils with an additional evening for year 8 parents focused on Options. Once again the evenings have been extremely well attended and many parents and carers have taken the time to complete a short questionnaire. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has done this. A summary of the feedback collected over the whole year is detailed in the table overleaf.

Statement	% of responses 'agree' or 'strongly agree'	
	Secondary phase (180 responses)	Primary phase (45 responses)
My child is happy at this school	91	93
My child feels safe at this school	90	95
My child is making good progress at this school	93	93
My child is well looked after at this school	95	95
My child is taught well at this school	94	93
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	92	98
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	84	88
This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying)	75	65
This school is well led and managed	87	90
This school responds well to any concerns received	84	88
I receive valuable information from the school about my child progress	92	91
I would recommend this school to another parent	88% stated yes	91% stated yes

I am proud that the feedback remains very positive with similar responses across both phases of the school. The data indicates we need to better inform parents about our anti-bullying work as a number of respondents answered 'not sure' to this question. Consequently we will be holding a parent workshop in the summer term to share with you the work we do at the academy and also offer advice to parents and carers about how to ensure your child stays safe online.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about expectations we have regarding positive relationships. We recognise that parents and carers are the single biggest influence on their children and their achievements. Therefore, we are committed to building positive and responsive relationships with parents and carers, based on shared responsibility for our children, to ensure that they have the best possible experience at school. We all recognise that the success of the Academy and therefore our children's education is dependent on a strong partnership between all members of the school community: pupils, parents, staff and governors. This partnership must be based on a polite, positive and respectful relationship. We are very fortunate to have a parent body which is supportive and friendly. We ask that all members of the community to follow these principles:

- We all respect the inclusive, caring, catholic ethos of our school
- Both staff and parents need to work together for the benefit of the pupils.
- All members of the school community should be treated with respect and, therefore, we must all set a good example in our own speech and behaviour.

Important Dates for the Summer Term.

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 23 rd April	First day of summer term	8.37am
Tuesday 23 rd April	Year 8 ranking week begins	All week
Friday 26 th April	GCSE Drama performance	All day
Monday 7 th May	Year 7 ranking week begins	All week
Friday 10 th May	Year 6 and 11 Exam Mass	Afternoon
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATS week & first week of GCSE exams	All week
Thursday 16 th May	Year 8 Parent evening	4.00pm-6.30pm
Monday 20 th May	Year 9 Ranking week begins	All week
Half term Monday 27 th May- Friday 31 st May		
Monday 3 rd June	Year 10 ranking week begins	All week
Thursday 20 th June	Year 11 Prom	Evening
Thursday 20 th June	Year 10 Parents Information Evening	4.00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 27 th June	KS4 Art exhibition	5.00pm – 7.00pm
Wednesday 3 rd July	New Reception Stay and Play	9.00am – 10.30am
Thursday 4 th July	PSHCE day	All day
Thursday 4 th July	KS3 Art and Design Exhibition & KS3 Awards Evening	from 4.30pm
Friday 5 th July	Secondary Sports Day	All day
Mon 8 th & Tues 9 th July	Yr 6 Production	2.00pm – 3.00pm
Wednesday 10 th July	Primary Sports Day	All day
Wed 10 th & Thur 11 th July	Secondary Production	Evening TBC
Wednesday 17 th July	Primary Phase Meet your new teacher morning	Morning
Friday 19 th July	Last day of term	All pupils leave at 12pm

We say goodbye to a couple of members of staff at the end of this term – as primary parents know Mrs Lorna Beckley, Primary Head will be leaving at the end of the Spring Term. She will be taking up a new position in a catholic primary school much closer to home. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work at the Academy over many years - she was an original St Matthew academy staff member having previously worked at Our lady of Lourdes primary school before it became SMA all through school. Mrs Katie Mejias, Primary Assistant Head who is currently on maternity leave has made the difficult decision not to return – she will be spending more time with her two young children. We also say farewell to Mrs Szwejkowski – ladybird class teacher and Mr McInnis, RE Teacher. We wish them all luck for the future and know they will be missed by pupils and staff alike.

As we reach the end of term I am sure parents, carers and pupils will join me in thanking all the staff for their commitment and hard work, enabling St Matthew Academy students to ‘let their light shine’ in a wide range of endeavours. Can I also take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support and partnership work with the Academy. This support is crucial as we continue our journey to ‘excellence for all’.

We return to the academy for learning at 8.37am on Tuesday 23rd April. As usual we expect to see all pupils on time, wearing their full uniform smartly and correctly equipped for learning. Next term is a very important one for all pupils across the Academy with external exams to be sat by many year groups; internal exams and assessments for others; year 8 pupils will be making important decisions about future GCSE pathways and year 6 students beginning their transition to the secondary phase.

Very best wishes to you all for a restful Easter break.



Miranda Baldwin
Head Teacher

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