



ST MATTHEW ACADEMY

Let your light shine

SECONDARY PHASE PROSPECTUS





OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide a safe, positive and inclusive Catholic environment for learning and growth which promotes excellence and inspires each individual to discover, develop and fulfil their spiritual, intellectual and personal potential and to become lifetime learners

WELCOME

St Matthew Academy is a warm and caring Roman Catholic school for girls and boys aged 3 to 16. Ours is a Christian ethos that emphasises developing enterprise skills so that young people are well-prepared for life in the 21st century.

We offer an inspiring and innovative education that prepares our young people for life in the globally connected, rapidly changing world they will live and work in.

We firmly believe a great education is not just about what is taught in lessons, nor simply about the excellent exam results students achieve – it also involves excellent pastoral care, introduction to a wide range of experiences and instilling a belief in what is possible in every student.

We believe that each individual is unique and look at them as a whole person – at their spiritual, intellectual and personal development. We help children to discover their individual talents and support them to invest in them.

Through first-rate teaching, our Enterprise and Business specialism, our strong Christian ethos, a focus on outdoor education, personal challenge and new experiences, we engage every child and help them develop to their full potential.

At St Matthew Academy we make sure every child can **let their light shine**.

“I am so happy I came to St Matthew Academy. There are so many doors open to me through Enterprise that students in other schools do not get.”

Taylor, Year 11

“St Matthew Academy has given me the confidence to get up and say what I think.”

Natasha, Year 10

Natasha has won a national public speaking award

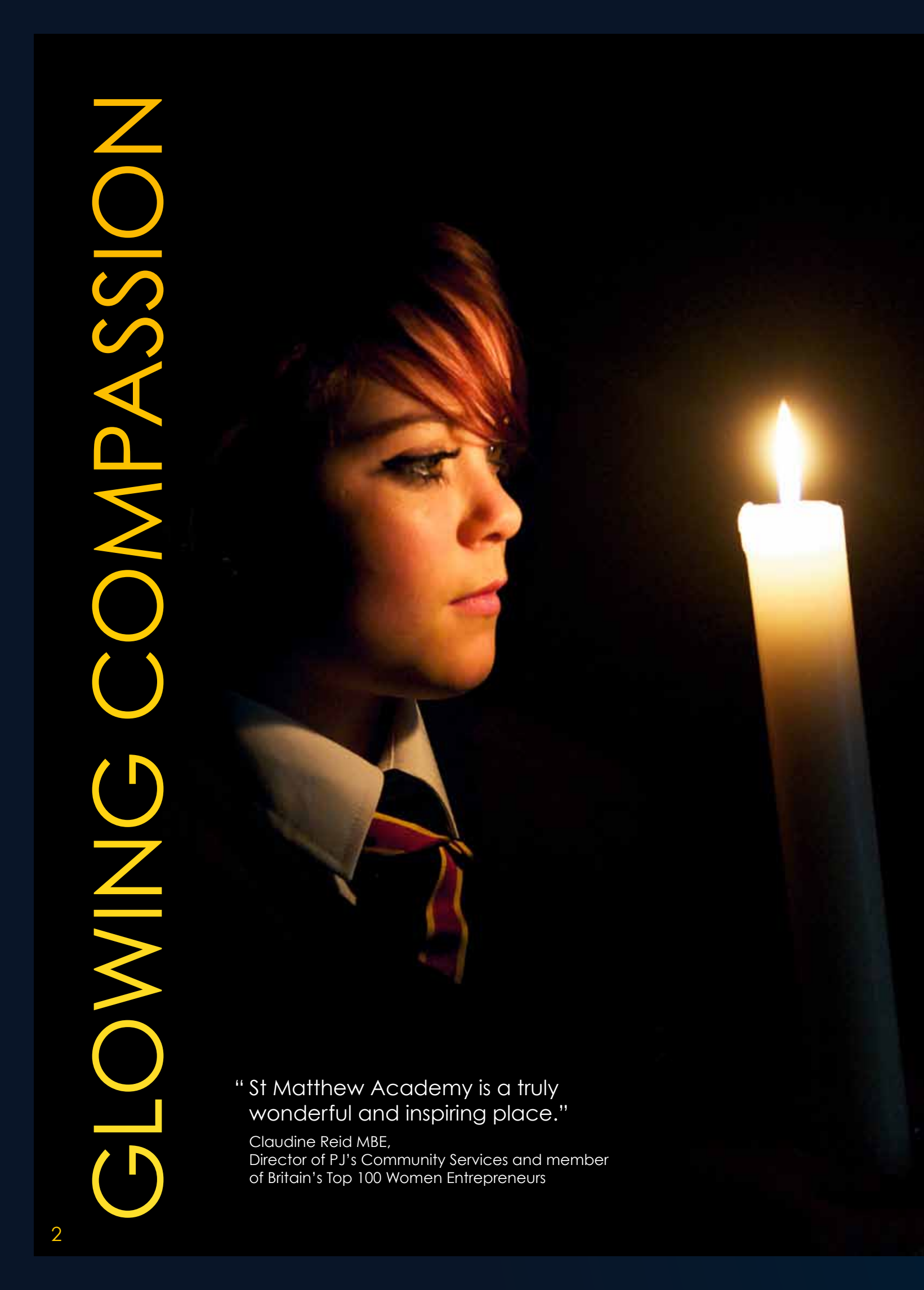
“The Academy has given me the skills to develop my unique vision.”

Jeremy, Year 10

Jeremy is our in house student cameraman



GLOWING COMPASSION

A woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored collared shirt and a striped tie, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is looking towards the right. To her right is a single lit candle, which is the primary light source in the scene, casting a warm glow on her face and the surrounding area. The background is dark.

“ St Matthew Academy is a truly wonderful and inspiring place.”

Claudine Reid MBE,
Director of PJ's Community Services and member
of Britain's Top 100 Women Entrepreneurs

A CARING CATHOLIC ETHOS

We pay particular attention to supporting and developing the spiritual life of our children. We believe all our students, who come from all faiths and none, benefit from our Catholic vision of education that emphasises the unique value of each individual.

Children are given many opportunities to develop their spiritual life. Our religious education curriculum teaches them the tenets of the Roman Catholic religion as well as knowledge of the other main world religions. We teach students to have respect for each other's religious and ethnic backgrounds, and for each other's languages, customs and beliefs.

There are regular opportunities for collective worship, and through the work of our active Chaplaincy team, we give time for spiritual reflection and discussion of moral and ethical principles. The chaplains also provide individual counselling for students.

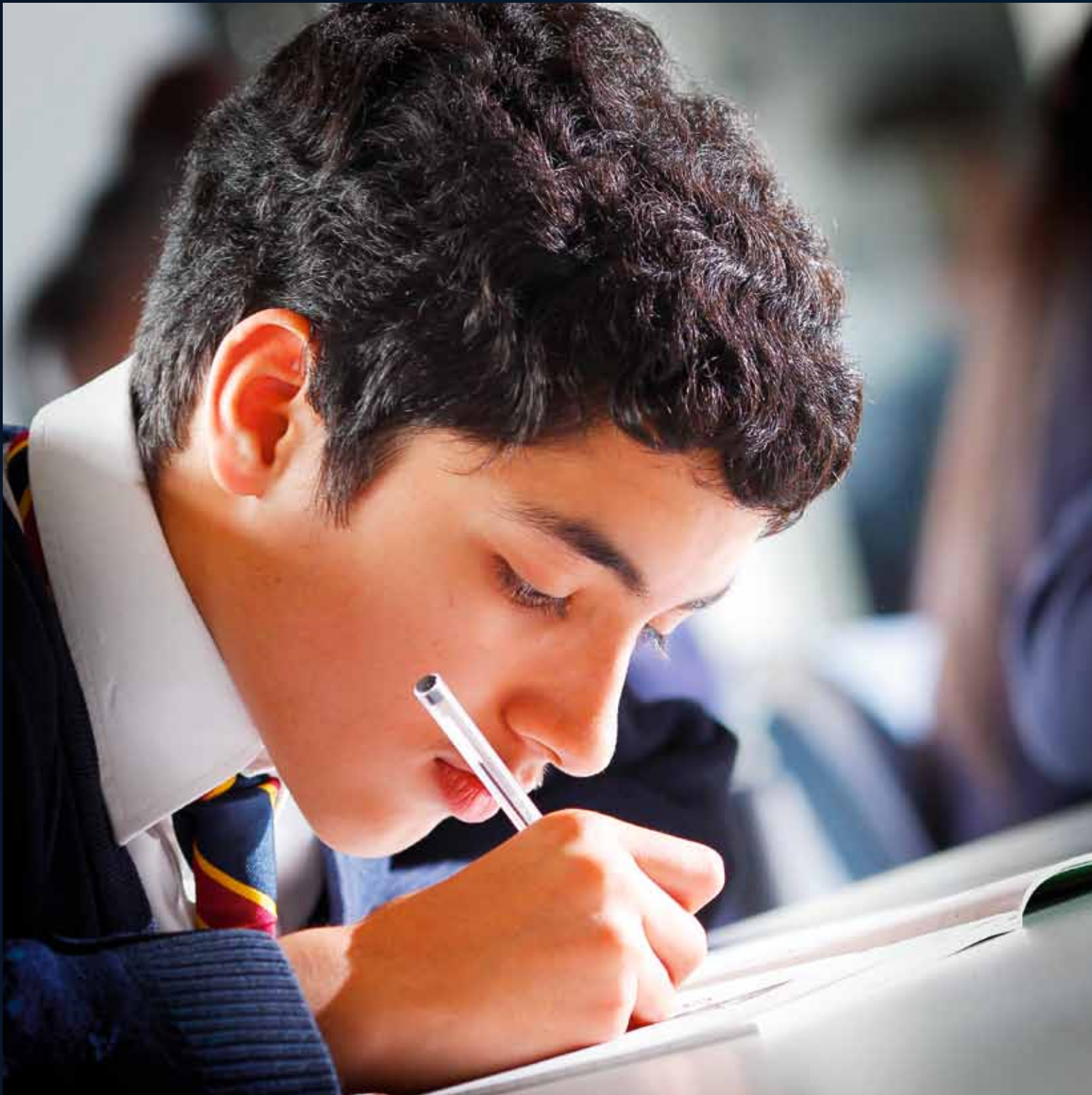
Our beliefs are lived out in the daily life of our school. We provide a happy, caring and secure Christian environment where we expect students and staff to put the gospel values into practice in their relationships, fostering respect and self-esteem in a culture of good manners and interactive learning.

“The Academy has helped me
finetune my talent.”

Preety, Year 10

Preety is an accomplished musician and a high-achieving student





ILLUMINATING MINDS

“ The level of commitment shown to enterprise at St Matthew Academy by teachers and students alike is a joy to behold.”

Sir Jim Rose, government education advisor

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

We start from day one helping our students to let their academic light shine by building a positive attitude to learning, with high-quality teaching, consistency of expectations and high standards of work and behaviour for every single student.

We challenge high achievers and we support those who are struggling. We do this by offering a range of strategies and learning styles to provide learning opportunities so that no one is left behind.

We are constantly looking at new ways to inspire and stretch our students – if it works, we do it:

- Students come off timetable for a week each term to work in mixed groups with other students from years 3 to 11. This helps them acquire skills such as risk-taking, communication, teamwork and problem-solving – skills that will help them whatever they do in the future.
- Our Key Stage 3 course is completed in two years and gives a solid foundation for the three-year Key Stage 4 GCSE phase. This flexible schedule increases student achievement and motivation. It gives those students who need it time to get it right and enables early achievers to follow their aspirations by taking extra courses.
- We are pioneering the innovative Modern Baccalaureate. This new qualification includes the five subjects of the English Baccalaureate as well as a wider range of achievements and credits students for a range of important study and life skills.

It is no wonder that St Matthew Academy is in the top 10% of schools in the UK for student achievement. From the most able to those who find academic work difficult we offer a personalised and stimulating education.

“The Academy is an ace school – it pushes me to my limits.”

Samantha, Year 10

Samantha excels in sports

“St Matthew Academy helped me achieve 8A*s and 10As in my GCSEs.”

Sankaran, former student

“The Academy has given me a firm grasp of business and taught me how to be enterprising.”

Hao, Year 9

Hao is setting up his own ice cream business



PERSONAL POTENTIAL

We want our students to develop a wide range of skills and abilities, so that they have the best possible opportunities in life.

We have outstanding facilities for IT and e-learning, with a state-of-the-art media suite – where all students are encouraged to become fluent with the use of broadcast technology that will equip them for work in many different occupations from business to TV, radio and film.

Our flexible curriculum allows students to get involved in many activities. We offer an exciting and wide-ranging personal challenge programme including sporting, cultural, scientific and arts activities, with an emphasis on outdoor education, an aspect of life often lacking for urban children.

Students can take advantage of our own beavers, cubs and scout troops, the forest school, participation in St Dunstan's independent school Combined Cadet Force and our own Army Cadet Force contingent and military band. We also run the popular Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.



“The Academy gives enterprising children – the leaders of the future – what they need and deserve.”

Jennette Arnold OBE, London Assembly member



“We've benefited from a disciplined approach.”

Ana and Elizabeth, Year 8

Ana and Elizabeth both play in the Army Cadet Force's military band

We also expect each student to take on their own self-development by committing to at least three 'Enterprise Challenge' activities each year, which allows them to stretch themselves by achieving personal bests.

Time in the school year is also set aside for cross-curricular projects and opportunities to work in teams, where children from across the school come together to complete enterprise challenges that often see primary and secondary pupils working together.

There are numerous educational and curriculum-related trips and visits, from drama performances to visits to businesses, retreats and residential trips to foreign countries.

SHINING EXAMPLES



“Enterprise weeks enable students to develop their entrepreneurial skills and encourage them to aim high.”

Ofsted, 2011



IGNITING IMAGINATIONS

“ Without all these opportunities I can assure you that I would not be the person I know that I’ll soon become.”

Jade, Year 10



SUPPORT AND RESPONSIBILITY

We want our students to develop as happy, self-confident individuals with a strong sense of themselves and their value.

From the time students arrive at St Matthew Academy we encourage them to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves, others and their environment and steer them to conduct their relationships and their lives by Gospel values.

We place great emphasis on positive encouragement and praise, consistent boundaries, safe and responsible behaviour, trust and co-operation. We insist on fairness and politeness and we will not tolerate bullying or misbehaviour that obstructs the learning and well-being of the individual concerned or that of others. We operate a system of restorative justice.

We support all our students with a system of pastoral care that is second to none: our house system – in which all students are placed in one of three houses, supported by a dedicated house team – creates a school 'family' for them to belong to. Each child is also a member of a single-sex, mixed-age form and has a form teacher they see every day. Our Matron provides a safe place for their physical ills, and our chaplains offer an open door to any student who has a problem in or out of school.

We also have strong home-school links where parents are seen as partners, encouraged to be involved in their children's education. We welcome parents into the school and ensure the relationship between staff and parents is open and friendly.



“ You give students the key to be enterprising and it is unbelievable and moving to see what they can achieve.”

Barbara Lindsay MBE, government advisor

SPARKLING POTENTIAL

PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIFE

Beyond their immediate educational development, the kind of adults our students turn out to be, and the opportunities open to them when they leave the Academy, are very important to us.

We develop in our students a strong sense of social responsibility; our nationally acclaimed Enterprise specialism aims to show our students that entrepreneurship, business acumen and success go hand in hand with philanthropy, community involvement and the gospel values emphasised by the school ethos.

Enterprise education runs as a thread through the Academy's activities in and out of the classroom. In partnership with many external business partners we teach students the basics of ethical business practice and personal finance and involve them in collaborative projects where they learn from business people the importance of enterprise and thinking skills such as initiative, interpersonal and team membership skills, leadership, ingenuity, adaptability, flexibility of approach and problem-solving strategies.

These skills prepare students for the real world and they are able to put them into practice through our strong business links with organisations like Thomas Reuters, Deutsche Bank, Chelsea Football Club and Pricoa International, to name just a few. Last year our students made over 400 workplace visits to these and other businesses. These connections ensure that our careers education and opportunities to understand the future workplace are unmatched anywhere in the country.



“I’m looking forward to a glittering career.”

Armani, Year 9

Armani and her partner Maria run a successful jewellery business



RADIANT INDIVIDUALS

FIND OUT MORE

You can find out more about what makes our school so special at our website: www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk

Or come and see our school for yourself. You can find out about our open events on the website or call us on 0208 853 6250 to arrange a personal tour.



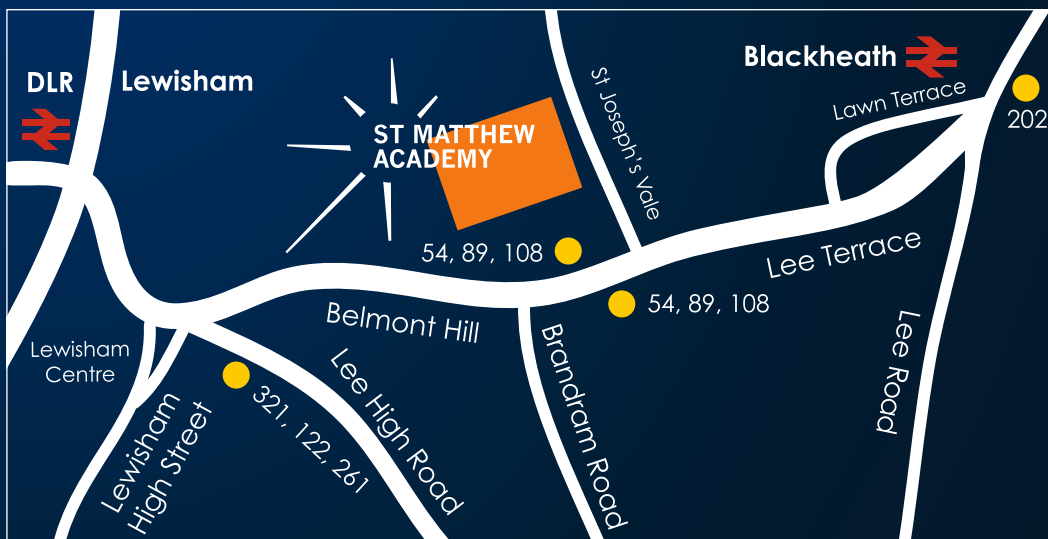
“ I don't think I could have achieved all that I have without the opportunities to challenge myself through Enterprise. I now know I am worthwhile and have gone from being bottom set in maths to top set.”

Ruby, Year 11



“The most inspiring school
in the country, end of story.”

Foluke Akinlose MBE, Entrepreneur
Founder and editor of Precious Magazine



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