

Guest speakers motivate pupils to aim high



'INSPIRING': St Matthew Academy student Michael Maquieira, left, and Dominic Grieve

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ATTORNEY General Dominic Grieve MP and former Olympic sprinter Stephanie Douglas were among the guest speakers at a school's motivational evening.

They were at St Matthew Academy in St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, on Wednesday evening.

During the event the students also heard from American media guru Bob Schukai, businesswoman Ronke Lawal and entrepreneur Nathaniel Peat.

Mr Peat left school with four GCSEs, but went on to get a masters degree in systems engineering before becoming a pilot and now runs a successful business.

The panel spoke about how they had achieved their successes, as a way of encouraging the pupils' own aspirations.

Michael Maquieira, a Year 11 student, said: "The speakers were all inspiring, but it was amazing meeting Mr Grieve.

"I want to be lawyer in the future and he really encouraged me to follow my dreams and work hard."

St Matthew's deputy principal Martin Nirsimloo said: "Events like this have helped to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship and desire to achieve among our students.

"We want to create a new generation of enterprising citizens."