



SMArT news Spring 2011

Visit our new website and win a prize

Everyone who visits our new website can enter our easy competition to win either an adult's prize of shopping vouchers, or a student's prize of an iPod - just by answering a few simple questions about the Academy. All the answers can be found on the website itself.

On the new, purpose-built site you will find everything you need to know about life at St Matthew Academy including:

- All the upcoming outings and events
- term times
- latest news about students' activities
- SMArT news and primary news
- photographs of trips
- students' films and videos about the Academy - and much, much more

The website will be updated every week so become a regular visitor - and keep up to date with everything that's happening at St Matthew Academy.



www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk

Ciao tutti!

That's 'Hello all' in Italian, I learnt that on Wednesday 9 February along with some other students as we were giving a tour of the school to some special guests all the way from Italy! All together there were about 30 Italian students, ages 16-19, who came to our school with their teachers to see what a British school was like, and judging by their reactions, they were very impressed by the facilities that we had; not to mention the opportunities! I must admit though, at first it was slightly awkward talking to them in a way they could understand, but soon we found that we had many things in common and we all got along very well, so well that we're now in contact with them via Facebook. It was surprisingly a great, funny day which gave us students an opportunity not only to test out our social skills, but to network as well! I can't wait to do something like that again. Arrivederci! (That's 'goodbye' in Italian) **Taylor-Dior Rumble Y10**



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Something special this way comes

Double, double, toil and trouble...Year 7 students have been brewing up a treat in class as they study Shakespeare's Macbeth for a new Arts Award course.

They are all aiming to earn their Bronze Awards at the end of the course, which is run through Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England. The awards are nationally recognised qualifications and the Year 7 English students will be the first to achieve them at SMA.

The students will be creating their own portfolios for the course, exploring Shakespeare's plays, his life and times and how his works are staged. They will also be doing linked work in Textiles and Food Technology to create Shakespearean costumes and dishes.

English and Media teacher Ms Margaret Barrett kicked off the course in style by getting her students to act out the famous witches' scene in Macbeth, complete with a flaming cauldron and spooky masks they made themselves.

Ms Barrett said: 'The Arts Award is an exciting prospect for our students, allowing them to access Shakespearean texts through creative endeavours – an excellent combination.'



Enterprise Centre of Excellence

The Young Enterprise organisation has recognised St Matthew Academy as a national Centre of Excellence. This month the award was presented to our Principal, Monica Cross, in a ceremony at the Guildhall. Mrs Cross spoke to the audience of leaders in enterprise education about the wide variety of opportunities that our students are given. This award is only given to a few schools which show outstanding commitment to the promotion of enterprise and entrepreneurship to young people. SMA is the only all-through specialist Enterprise school in the UK engaging children aged from 3 to 16 in Enterprise activities.



Mr Nirsimloo, Head of Enterprise at the Academy said: 'Thank you to all our students for their hard work putting SMA on the national map.'

Enterprise Week at the end of last term culminated in a "Dragons Den" event, attended by many leading entrepreneurs and VIPs. The evening was a huge success. One of the "Dragons", founder of Precious magazine Foluke Akinlose said, 'The event was very inspirational and the children excelled.'

Winning team Icis receive the Enterprise Cup from the MD of Pricoa

Lewisham Dance showcase

St Matthew students knock them dead

Two groups of students represented the Academy at the Lewisham Dance Showcase. Both performance groups enjoyed the opportunity to show their work in front of several hundred people at Catford Broadway Theatre, along with many of Lewisham's most accomplished dance acts.

The boys performed an exciting piece of contemporary dance, fused with flips, free running and breakdancing in a high energy piece. The group evolved last year and has grown into a tightly knit ensemble. The audience reaction was great, as they cheered on the boys who performed with stamina, poise and amazing moments of athleticism. The group has already been booked to perform for outside agencies, so could have a very interesting future ahead! Watch this space.

The girls worked alongside Laban and the PE department to fuse a piece of hip hop and contemporary dance to create 'so you think you're cooler than me'. They used masks to add mystery and depth to their performance. The group from Year 10 with one student from Year 7 worked exceptionally well together. The quality of their performance was outstanding considering they have only been dancing for a few weeks. In the girls words 'bring on next year!'

Catherine Smith, dance teacher



Students show they care

Caring students at St Matthew Academy raised cash for charity and boosted their exam grades at a spectacular show. Year 10 students have been studying social issues as part of their Citizenship GCSE coursework, in partnership with the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). This organisation worked with groups of students as they selected a charity to champion.

Our St Matthew Academy young dance team was selected to join professionals on stage in a huge celebration, which saw groups of students give presentations about their chosen charities. The teams were competing to win £3,000 for their good cause.

The students' presentations were judged by a panel which included Lewisham councillor Michael Harris, Barry Mizen of the Jimmy Mizen Foundation, Kay Oldroyd of the Black Youth Achievement organisation and SMA Vice-Principal Michael Barry.

The St Matthew Academy winning students were Christopher Shine, Natasha Malik, Preeti Chuttoo, Ruby Wright and Tyler Wilson. Their chosen charity, the Young Carers project in Lewisham, received £3,000 courtesy of the YPI. Their representative Sarah Miller was among the VIP guests at the event.

Citizenship teacher Marie Smith, who organised the evening event, said: 'I was extremely proud to see the students engage and co-operate in a team effort to make a change to their community and raise awareness'.'



Students Ruby Wright, Christopher Shine, Natasha Malik and Tyler Wilson, with Citizenship teacher Marie Smith

Book fortnight 2011

'Got to keep reading' is coming!

From 28 February to 11 March, we will be holding a special Book Fortnight to celebrate books and reading. Planned to tie in with World Book Day on 3 March, events across the fortnight will include special dressing up days and author and storyteller visits. There will also be book-related competitions to enter, including one where students will be asked to turn a potato into a book character – something for them to work on at home perhaps! Renaissance Learning, the company who supply Accelerated Reader, the reading software programme which the primary and key stage 3 children use in school, have kindly donated a Kindle – this will be the wonderful first prize for the student who takes and passes the most AR quizzes during the fortnight. Happy reading!



Jenny Bache, Librarian

Meridian 10K



A group of St Matthew Academy staff have signed up to run as a team in the Meridian 10K. The

keen runners started their after work training sessions in the cold, dark January evenings! Students can come and cheer them on in Greenwich Park at 9.30am on Sunday 6th March. Parents can also sign up to run alongside the staff. Students can enter a 2K fun run starting at 11.30am. If you are interested you must enter online www.cambridgeharriers.org.uk

Introducing the 'Press Gang'...

The Press Gang is a club for students from Years 5 and 6 who enjoy writing. Members contribute articles to the fortnightly Primary News, so many school families will already be familiar with their brilliant journalism. The Press Gang meets every Thursday lunchtime with Miss Chick and Mrs Hever. They are very creative and imaginative and full of good ideas. This is what they think about Press Gang:



Candice: "I love Press Gang. It is great fun coming up with heaps of exciting ideas and squeezing them all into Primary News".

Aspen: "I think Press Gang is a fantastic opportunity to express my opinions about the school and it makes my mum proud that I have written a fantastic article".

Taylor: "Press Gang is educational and we get to use ambitious vocabulary"

Shaconia: "Press Gang is a great opportunity for extra learning and it's GREAT FUN!!!"