



SMART news

Spring term 2011
Issue 2

Building plans get the go-ahead

Students and parents will be aware that a miscalculation in classroom space during the original construction of our wonderful new building resulted in us having too few ordinary classrooms now that we are approaching our full size. After considerable deliberation and consideration of the range of options to solve the problem, we settled on the conversion of our existing Sports Hall into classrooms. These will be accessed straight from the existing corridors in the South Block. We then plan to build a new Sports Hall on the grass area at the rear on which the temporary classrooms now sit. Our plans to convert the Sports Hall have now been given the green light by Lewisham Council.



When the conversion is finished in August, we will have eight brand-new humanities classrooms on the new first floor; two Business & ICT rooms, a specialist Construction area and a new, larger Prayer Room and Chaplaincy office on the ground floor. In August, the temporary classrooms will disappear so that building work on the new Sports Hall can start, with a planned completion by Easter 2012.

Unfortunately the conversion work will cause a little disruption over the next few months. The PE staff will lose the use of the Sports Hall but will continue using the external pitches and courts – which would always have been their preferred teaching spaces during the summer term. To give the contractors their own entrance, away from students, we have given them the sole use of the current secondary student entrance so after this week, secondary students will have to use the first pedestrian gate.

Easter Prayer



The staff and students at St Matthew Academy wish you every blessing during your Lenten journey and pray that your celebration of Holy Week and Easter mark a profound renewal of your faith and love, bringing fresh light to all that you do.

How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled to God!

May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts, he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

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The Academy celebrates International Women's Day

Leading female entrepreneurs and media figures joined girls from Years 7-10 to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March 2011 at a grand evening gala of inspiration.

Nine successful businesswomen and journalists related their own motivational life stories and gave the girls advice based on their own experience. The speakers included ITV presenter Charlene White, social entrepreneur Claudine Reid MBE and Foluke Akinlose MBE, CEO of Precious Magazine and Precious Online.

One of the evening's hosts, Rebecca Iheanacho, Y10, said, "I felt so inspired. Most of the women started out like me. I have my insecurities and it's inspiring to know that I could become someone like them in future."

Nicolette Raymundo Y10, right, was presented with the first Precious Award in recognition of her talents in Enterprise. Nicolette said: "I thought oh my gosh they didn't just call my name out! It's surreal, I can't believe it! I guess my hard work has paid off and thank you so much to Precious for this award."

The special guests enjoyed meeting our girls. Octavia Goredema, founder of the Twenty Ten Club commented: "The event was brilliant and it was a pleasure to meet so many smart, articulate and welcoming young ladies from St Matthew Academy." Foluke Akinlose said: "The most inspiring school in the country, end of story."



Girls from years 5 and 6 joined women from all over the country at the Millennium Bridge to celebrate Women's Day



Design Technology - Textiles

Rosemary Abidoph, Y9, has written a 'Carrie Bradshaw' type account of her experience in Textiles this term:

Textiles opens new doors and really helps you to understand your strengths and weaknesses. I've been doing Textiles for quite a while now and not only have I learnt new skills, I've developed a skill I never thought I had. We recently finished a project in which we designed and created a dress. At first we learnt the techniques needed to add to our dress. I found this experience so valuable and I've learnt so much. Secondly I learnt the "basic" techniques to help me make my dress. I am so proud of the finished product and I have learnt so many new skills that I'll keep for life. We've learnt decorative techniques such as applique, embroidery (hand and machine) and printing. I'm looking forward to progressing much more when it comes to Textiles.



Book fortnight 2011

Visits from a performance poet, authors and storytellers, competitions – including one to decorate a potato as a book character, dress-up as a book character and fun quizzes – all this and more can mean only one thing – Book Fortnight at St Matthew Academy!

Wednesday 9 March, author Phil Earle visited the academy and I was privileged to take part in one of the sessions.

He spoke to Year 10s about books and why we need to read them. He started off by telling us a little bit about himself and how he used to work in a care home in Yorkshire which inspired the writing of the book Being Billy.

The session was incredible. He read the first chapter to give us an idea of what the book was about, and asked us whether we thought Billy was a hero or not? This made me curious. Subsequently, I read the book and I thought it was exceptional. I couldn't stop reading and I was absolutely gripped. I would recommend everyone to read this book because it's incredible.

By **Eseoghene Olivia Owho** Year 10

Adisa – Performance poet

Adisa, author of "Lip Hopping with the Fundi-Fu", visited St Matthew Academy during Book Fortnight and gave a performance for Year 7 and 8 students.

My name is Ayomide and I am delighted to say that I was absolutely amazed when Adisa visited St Matthew Academy. His poems really inspired me and his words really touched me. Adisa's performance was brilliant and then at lunchtime we were able to meet him in the Library. I was amazed to find out that my all-time favourite poet Brian Moses inspired Adisa to write poems. Adisa was interested in what we are writing and he even asked to hear some of my own poems!

Ayomide Aremu Y7



Book quiz success!

Two teams of students from Years 7 and 8 represented St Matthew Academy at the Lewisham Schools Book Quiz which was held at Forest Hill School. In a very closely fought contest our Team A came 2nd out of 19 teams, losing by only half a point to a team from Sydenham School! Congratulations on a fantastic achievement to Thomas Laver (Y7), Katie Lee-Kearns, Wiktoria Urbanska and Danilo Chicaiza-Chalacan (Y8).

Well done to our Team B: Djorn Robinson, Jamel Harris, Adrian Olajedi and Tolu Oyeniran for a very good effort.



Legal advice for Year 10!

On the 11 March, I and four other students from St Matthew Academy went to the headquarters of the Government Legal Service. It was an amazing experience, one that I will never forget. The day began with a welcome and then a talk by Paul Jenkins, head of the Government Legal Service. Paul Jenkins' speech inspired all the budding lawyers who were there to believe that no matter what, if they want it enough then they can achieve it. This was a truly inspirational message for me. There was also a talk by Lee John-Charles, head of the Employment and Commercial Division at the Treasury Solicitors Department (TSol). We then went on to play the Bill of Rights game. The game involved us being split into two teams and coming up with points for our argument. My team's argument was that people should not have to disclose their previous convictions on their application for a job. In the end, the two teams came to the conclusion that a modified bill would be best, with people having to disclose their previous convictions if they are considered particularly serious. We finished the day by interviewing the volunteer lawyers about their careers and lives. It was an amazing experience and a day that has inspired me for the future.

Michael Maquieira Y10

Dance news

The Y9 boys dance company DynaMIGHT have enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside a professional dance artist from the Laban Centre for Advance Training and with Bim Malcolmson, a freelance dance artist from the Royal Ballet. The boys enjoyed being put through their paces and succeeded in producing some very inspiring creative work. DynaMIGHT have been working hard preparing for Laban's Co-Motion danced platform to be performed later this month.

The Year 7 and 8 girls have been enjoying weekly workshops with a professional dance artist from Laban. They have created a high energy and physically demanding dance piece based on free running.



Website competition winners

Congratulations to Lesley Siaw-Barfi of 8MSE who has won an iPod shuffle for getting all the answers right in the recent website competition. The winner of the adult competition was Martin Gough, father of Cian and Colm Gough in primary. The correct answers were:

1. C – blue and yellow
2. A - 5 September 2011
3. C – Student council
4. B – School matron
5. B – St Vincent's

Celebrating Spain at SMA

In April and May the Spanish department will be celebrating two months of Spanish-themed activities. To start it all off there was Spanish-themed food and a quiz for staff and students. There will be fundraising activities such as cake sales to raise money for the Barcelona trip. In early May there is a flamenco workshop and a presentation in the dance studio for staff and students. Ever wanted to practise your Spanish? We will be promoting Spanish speaking in all classrooms for the next two months with everyday phrases and posters.

Geography news

In Geography with Ms De Souza our task was to make a model of a drainage basin. To do this we used playdough for each section eg mountain, river etc we used different colours. After we had finished the construction of the model, we labelled each part; the confluence, tributary, source, watershed, mouth and estuary. Finally as a way of testing our knowledge we had to present to the class about the six different sections of a drainage basin.

Eflatun Yilmaz and Jonathan Phillips Y10

