



SMart news

**Autumn term 2011
Issue 1**

St Matthew Academy – best ever results!

This year's GCSE results confirm that the Academy has transformed education in Lewisham. In just two years the number of students achieving 5A*-Cs with English and Maths at GCSE has more than doubled from 23% to 59%, with 97% of this year's cohort achieving 5A*-Cs overall - 10% more than any school. The academy's success was featured on BBC and ITV news on GCSE results day.

Senior Vice-Principal Michael Barry said, "These results make St Matthew Academy one of the most improved schools in the country. Our students were inspired by the staff who instilled in them a belief that they could and would do justice to their ability."

Many of the successful GCSE students have also benefited from the Academy's Enterprise specialism, which provides opportunities to develop skills that help them learn and prepare them for life in a fast-changing world. Some were engaged by the opportunities in outdoor education, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and the Academy's own Army Cadet Force. Student Tariq Hemmings, who rose to the rank of corporal during his time in the ACF, said, "At St Matthew Academy I have had the opportunity to sleep under the stars and now I also have A* in some of my GCSEs."



Class of 2011 celebrate their results

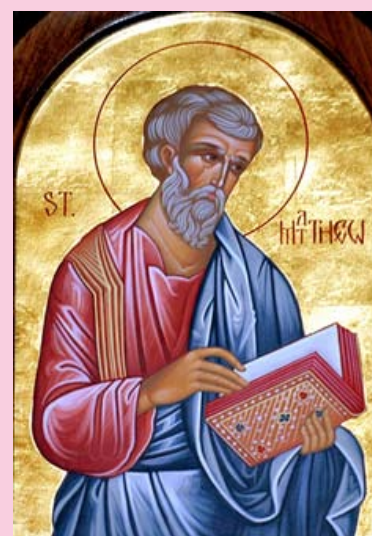
Mass at the Cathedral

A group of our students attended the Concelebrated Mass at Westminster Cathedral to officially end the year of Catholic education and launch the Olympic truce agenda. Head of RE Jodie Wallace said: "student behaviour was exceptional and the mass was especially meaningful for us because the Gospel reading was Matthew 5:V1-16:"

In the same way your light must shine in the light of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your father in heaven."

A prayer by Jarius Manu-Barrett, Year 8

Baptised, accepted by God
Part of a congregation
Taken out of sin into the light
Making a new start, making a commitment
Accepting the worst
Accepting responsibilities.
Refusing bad temptations
Inventing a new future
Appreciating each other
Everlasting love.



Contact information :

St Matthew Academy, St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX
t: 0208 853 6250 or e: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk

Yes WE can!!

SMA celebrated Black History Month with an evening entitled Yes WE Can, inspired by the words of Barack Obama.

Influential speakers inspired our students with their personal stories of success. Our guests included Hollywood actress Naomie Harris; Gary Lee, the head chef at The Ivy; 'Secret Millionaire,' Caroline Marsh and Jeanette Arnold OBE. The event was co-hosted by TV news presenter Charlene White and students Taylor-Dior Rumble and Tolu Oyeniran.

Jessica Huie of Colorblind Cards and JHPR commented: "Once again St Matthew leads the way in illustrating exactly how you inspire and excite school-aged children on their journey into adulthood about all the possibilities of life and a career. This insight into the worlds of these key figures is priceless."

The evening included a presentation of the Colorblind Cards Enterprise Award to Year 9 students Armani Quarrington-Gray and Maria Conroy in recognition of starting and developing a jewellery business at the age of 13! Taylor said: "The 'Yes We can' evening was so inspirational and made me realise that when entering the world of business I can break the mould and achieve success."

Our thanks to the Department of Business and Innovation and PRECIOUS Media for supporting the Yes WE can evening.



Students welcome Naomie Harris to the Academy



Maria and Armani receive their award

Urban music star supports anti-violence campaign

Some of our students recently had the opportunity to meet British music star Wretch 32 when he visited the Academy to help promote a national anti-violence campaign.

Adam Fouracre started Stand Against Violence, a violence prevention and reduction charity working with young people, in memory of his younger brother Lloyd. Six years ago Lloyd was attacked and beaten to death in the street for no reason. Adam told our students "My brother's death was so pointless. I started the campaign because I didn't want his death to be in vain and to keep his memory alive". Adam showed a group of our secondary students a film about his brother.

Wretch 32 told our students: "I was so touched by Adam's film that I really wanted to help support the campaign."

Year 11 student Jaynesha was very moved by Adam's story about his brother." I felt heartbroken really that he was so young and didn't get to live his life, and the way he died. It was very emotional for me."

The film and associated teaching materials are available free to schools.

For more information see www.sav-ed.co.uk



Hola, Ola, Bonjour, Ciao!!

The Academy celebrated European Languages Day with a variety of events. One of the most popular was the Flamenco workshop. All our Year 7 students studying Spanish took part, which was a fun way to introduce them to this exciting area of Spanish culture.



Dance news

Girls from the secondary phase are working alongside the Royal Academy of Dance as part of the Jack Petchey Step into Dance Programme. The programme is aimed at 11-16 year olds and provides weekly extra-curricular dance classes for a full academic year. The girls are looking forward to their performance at London's Southbank Centre in the Spring term.



Open day success

Our open days this year were the most popular ever, with nearly 250 families, with children at primary schools in Lewisham, Greenwich, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Bromley, coming to look at St Matthew Academy.

We received many positive comments such as this from one parent: 'Having visited the school three years ago, it was fascinating to see how many of those early goals and aspirations have become reality.' Another said: 'The kids were excellent and the classes seemed very controlled. It is an excellent building and great environment. I also like hearing that the education is all round not just academic.'

Our student tour guides who took parents round also got lots of compliments, so many thanks to all of them for their help during the open events.

Animate Orchestra

Musicians from Trinity Laban and a cellist from the London Philharmonic Orchestra visited the Academy to launch a new type of orchestra for the 21st Century for budding instrumentalists across Greenwich and Lewisham. The musicians worked with 18 Year 7 students who are starting to learn or continuing instrumental tuition at SMA. As part of the workshop our students created their own group composition from scratch, "Mysteriousness", within two hours!! The students now have the option to continue with the project for two days in the October half term.

Trevor James
Head of Music

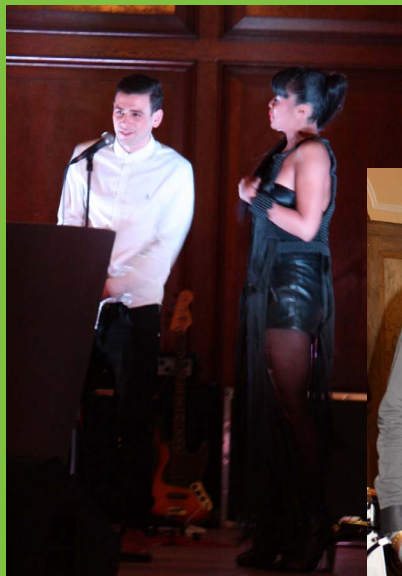


An invitation to the UMA Awards

In recognition of St Matthew Academy again being recognised as the leading school in the country for Enterprise, serial entrepreneur Jordan Kensington invited four of our students to attend the Urban Music Awards in the west end of London.

The lucky students chosen were Elizabeth Ariyibi, Chiedza Ruzenza, Janelle Fagan and Taslimah Abdul-Salem. Stars at the awards ceremony included Tinie Tempah, Rizzle Kicks, Levi Roots and cast members from Waterloo Road and Made in Chelsea. The girls were also very excited to discover that Janelle's older brother Nathan was performing at the awards.

Elizabeth said: "We all had an amazing evening and would like to say a big thank you to Jordan Kensington for our invitations."



Lewisham heads visit the Academy

The Academy recently hosted a meeting for over 60 primary and secondary school headteachers from the borough of Lewisham, together with Lewisham Director of Education Frankie Sulke and other educationalists.

For many of the heads it was their first visit to the Academy and we were pleased to receive very positive feedback from them. Comments included "what a fabulous school", "very purposeful", "the children are delightful". One primary head commented: "Four years ago, SMA was often a fourth choice school, for many it's now the number 1 choice".

can you help us get free books for our library?

If your family eats **Nestle** cereals then you could help us to get free books for our school library just by collecting the Box Tops Book tokens found on the tops of cereal boxes! Our school is participating in the Box Tops for Books scheme so the more tokens we can collect, the more free books we can order!

Please put your tokens in the special box on the counter in the library.

Thank you for your help!

Jenny Bache
School Librarian

