

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

We extend our warmest congratulations to our diligent Year 11 pupils who have triumphed over challenges to complete their GCSE exams. Their hard work, determination, and unwavering dedication have brought them one-step closer to their dreams.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Windrush generation, we pay tribute to the pioneers who arrived on the SS Empire Windrush, contributing immeasurably to the fabric of British society. Let us remember their courage, perseverance, and invaluable contributions to the cultural diversity that enriches our school and community. It is crucial that we honour their legacy and work together to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

Our primary pupils have celebrated through Windrush-themed assemblies and special activities during lesson time giving them the chance to reflect upon the challenges, triumphs, and contributions of the Windrush generation.

In the secondary phase, a group of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils attended a remarkable equality day held at Lewisham's Town Hall. This event served as a platform for open dialogue, encouraging pupils to express their thoughts, share experiences, and deepen their understanding of the Windrush experience. It was truly inspiring to witness their active participation and eagerness to learn. Pupils also met and spoke to Janet Daby MP and the Deputy Mayor for Lewisham, Brenda Dacres.

June is also Pride month, a time when we recognize and support the LGBTQ+ community. We stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ pupils, staff, and families, celebrating their identities and advocating for equality and acceptance.

As I reflect on the celebrations and achievements of our pupils and wider community, I am reminded of Jesus' powerful words: "love your neighbour as you love yourself" (Matthew 22:39). This timeless message calls us to extend the same care, compassion, and understanding to others as we do to ourselves. It challenges us to embrace empathy and seek the well-being of those around us, fostering a more harmonious and loving community in which we can all let our light shine!

Ms V Bryan
Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

In his noon day Angelus with pilgrims gathered at St Peter's Square, Pope Francis reflected on both saints. The Pope likened Peter to a rock, strong steady and dependable. He also likened him to a stone, someone who offered support to help build up the Church. Lastly he likened him to a pebble, weak and afraid to stand under the foot of the cross. Paul who was originally called Saul, was a persecutor of Jesus' disciples until he had a vision of the risen Jesus. From then on he travelled many miles to share Jesus' message. Saints Peter and Paul were real people, with their own faults, strengths, and weaknesses. Let us think about our lives and pray that we can imitate Saints Peter and Paul's strength, generosity and humility.

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that we may be sustained by the intercession of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, that, as through them you gave your Church the foundations of her heavenly office, so through them you may help her to eternal salvation.

Amen



Primary News

Year 6 Residential

On 14th June Year 6 travelled to Bentley Copse in Guildford to kick off their residential! Everyone was excited and could not wait to get there. When we arrived, we sat straight down for lunch and then began our first activity! On the agenda for the first day were team building activities and all of the children worked so well together to complete a variety of tasks and they were so proud of themselves when they were able to complete them! After, we made our way to the pedal go karting track and things got very competitive – resulting in a tournament!



Over the three days, Year 6 took part in lots of activities and many children faced their fears. The zip wire proved to be a scary yet thrilling activity and after the initial nerves, most people wanted to go back for another go! The children worked extremely well when they were crate stacking. This involved one member of the team being strapped into a harness whilst the rest of the children worked together to build a huge stack of crates for them to climb – we all loved it when the crates came tumbling down!

The staff who led the activities really enjoyed working with Leopard Class and were surprised that they were only in Year 6 as they were so mature. Everyone created many memories that they can look back on fondly and it was the perfect opportunity to celebrate the children's successful journeys in the primary phase!



Primary News

Year 5 had the great honour of going to Aylesford Priory in Maidstone, Kent. The journey was eventful as they had the chance to travel via coach. As soon as we arrived, the children were amazed by the lovely green scenery and warm welcome from the staff. The children attended the 'We are the body in Christ event' which was held by the Southwark diocese organised by our school Chaplain. We began the day with mass, where we discussed donating to others who are less fortunate around the world and ways we can contribute towards things they may need. After mass was over the children had lunch and were given the opportunity to speak to other children from different schools who are also a part of our diocese. Our children 'Let their light shine' as they shared several stickers provided by the organisers to as many children as possible. They made their teachers very proud!



The children have also been completing their assessments and it has been rewarding to see them making great progress. The children have enjoyed receiving their results as they have been able to reflect on their progress.

We will be ending the year on a high as the children to reflect on all the positives within the year as well as planning ahead for their future as they become year 6's in the new academic year.



Windrush Day



SMA Oscars

On Friday June 23rd was the prestigious Oscars Celebration evening in which the Media Department, Drama and Music proudly showcased some of the creative and very talented work of our SMA pupils. Dressed in their most glamorous glad-rags, parents and pupils gathered to watch a selection of short films from the Media Scholars in years 7, 8 and 9. This included some of year 7's first chance at editing vlogs on industry standard software, the year 8's and 9's film trailers and our year 9 *Childnet Online Safety* advert competition winners! We were all wowed by Annie's piano and vocals skills and Catherine's beautiful live performance of a Rhianna cover. We were further impressed by the presentation of the Drama pupils GCSE coursework and, if that wasn't enough, we celebrated the hugely talented year 11 GCSE Film Studies pupils and quaked in our seats as we viewed some of their very professional excerpts of psychological horror films. Truly terrifying! Thank you to all our parents, carers, pupils and staff that came to support this fabulous evening!



SMA Alumni

CALLING ALL FORMER PUPILS

If you are a former pupil of St Matthew Academy we want to hear from you!

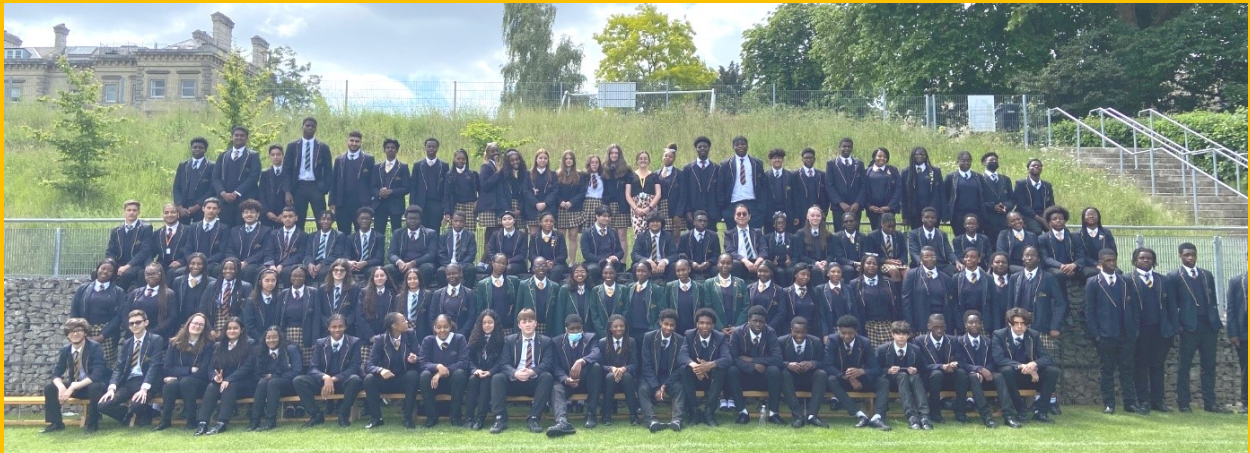
Your experiences since leaving could help to motivate and inspire our current pupils to feel more confident in making decisions about their future. We would love you to join our alumni network and stay connected with the Academy.

We have collaborated with the national education charity **Future First**, who specialise in helping schools like ours to stay connected with their former pupils.

You can choose how and when you help – perhaps you can act as a career and education role model, provide work experience, become a mentor in person or online, or help with donations, fundraising or even apply to become a governor.

It does not matter when you left us, whether you are in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help.

In order to sign up, just follow this link and fill in the online form – we promise it will only take a couple of minutes <https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/st-matthew-academy>



Unlocked Exhibition

On Friday 23rd June, Year 11 pupils put on an exhibition to display their wonderful Art, Design and Technology, Textiles and Photography final pieces to their family and friends.

The variety of work showed a plethora of skill and talent, with mixed media artwork, such as Praise Onye-Koller's collaged guitar, Paris Hanson's children's book of printing and paintings, and Jallen Owusu's installed photography. All work showed that pupils had experienced a wide range of techniques, which enabled them to create remarkable outcomes.

Pupils created knitted, crocheted and printed textiles pieces; fabric had been manipulated to form one off halter neck tops, skirts and wall hangings. Whilst Design and Technology pupil's work displayed products which followed the theme *"Caring for animals."*

The exhibition showed that the pupils had truly unlocked their talents over the past couple of years. Evidently working extremely hard with developing their creativity.

"High quality and inspiring"

"Everything looks awesome"

"I don't have the words, what a show. The textile pieces are my favourite! Well done."

"Love this amazing effort from the year 11's. Well done"

"Everyone's design was really great and unique also allowing them to express themselves"

"Very nice it's abstract and creative and expresses a lot of emotion"

"I really loved the way all of them had their own design! So creative"

"I'm so proud of you all! Well done and best of luck for the future"

"Amazing creative art's. It shows how much work and effort they all put in"

"I had no idea of the level of creativity, very impressed"

"It was a nice experience, it was a long journey"

It was an absolute pleasure being a part of the pupil's journey and being able to see each of them flourish, through nurture and self-commitment. There was so much for staff, parents and pupils to be proud of, well done to you all.





LITERACY CORNER

Primary Phase Book Reviews

Joyce in year 6 reviewed 'After the war' by Tom Palmer.

This book is about a boy and his friends who survived the holocaust. Yossi, the main character, fears that his friends will leave him. My favourite part of the story was when Yossi, Leo and Mordecai promise they will stick together because I haven't seen friendship like that in a while. Mordecai was my favourite character because he and Leo stuck with Yossi no matter what.

For KS1 Joyce reviewed 'Who's for dinner?' by Claire Freedman.

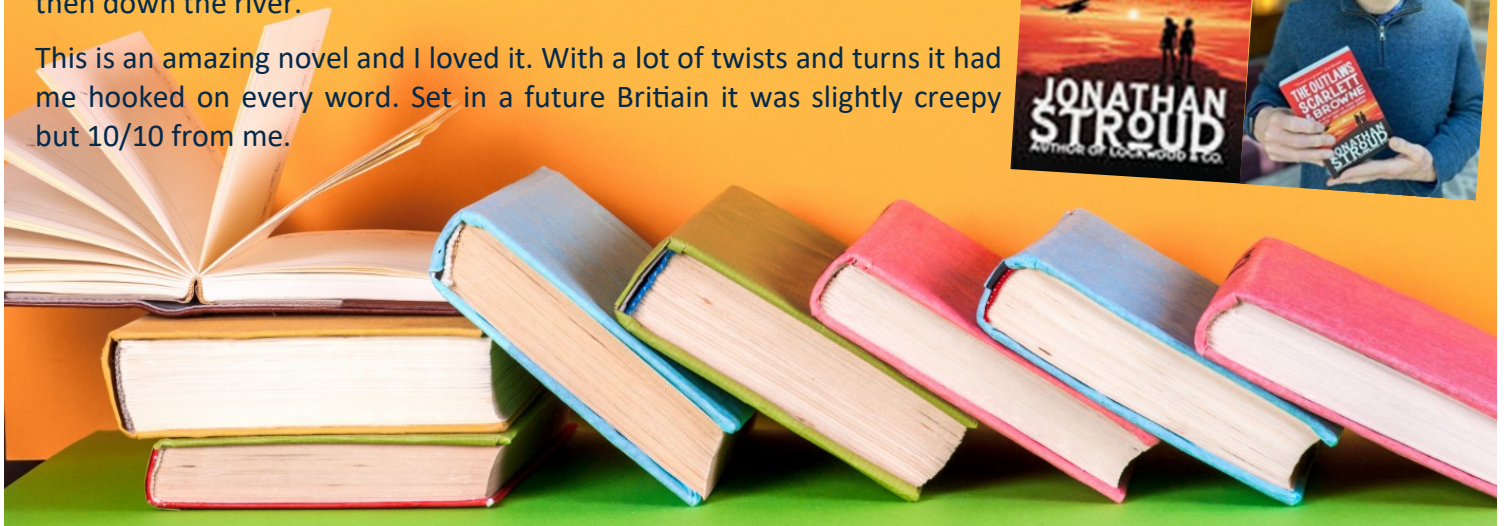
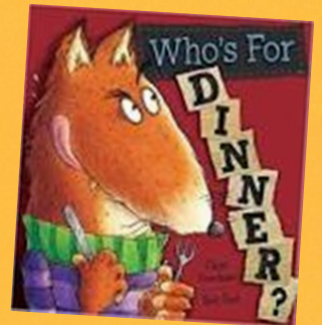
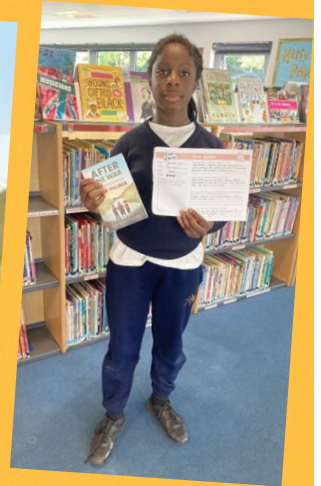
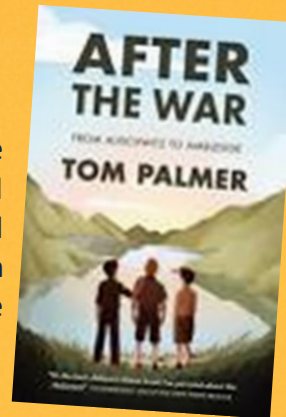
This book is about farm animals whose lives are at risk from a fox. The farm animals are so scared that they come up with a wild and crazy plan to fool the fox. My favourite part of the story was when the bull told the fox to eat him because it is just so out of the ordinary you would not expect it. My favourite character was the bull because instead of worrying about himself he helped everyone else.

Secondary Book Reviews

Liesel from year 8 reviewed 'The Outlaws Scarlett & Browne' by Jonathan Stroud.

Scarlett & Browne is a good novel about a thief (Scarlett) and Browne, a person with powers. When their paths cross they start on an adventure together. Both are wanted but for different reasons. Scarlett for her heists and Browne for his powers. People chase them from town to town and then down the river.

This is an amazing novel and I loved it. With a lot of twists and turns it had me hooked on every word. Set in a future Britain it was slightly creepy but 10/10 from me.



House Points Update

Week beginning 26/6/23

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: 44372
2nd – Romero: 39328
3rd – Mandela: 37849

Attendance:

1st – Mandela
2nd – Romero
3rd – Teresa

Overall House Points

1st - Teresa: 5901
2nd - Romero: 5274
3rd - Mandela: 5104

Teresa house has only continued to increase their lead between them and the other houses. The battle for the second place is on between Romero and Mandela and the end of year activities will be the deciding factor.

Last week the pupil leadership team lead assemblies presenting their proposals for next year. Votes have taken place this week and the winning proposals will be announced next week by the Head of Houses.

We are pleased to announce the SMA Summer Fayre is taking place on Thursday 13th July from 3pm to 5.30 pm. There will be lots fun activities to enjoy. All money raised will be donated to the Academy's charities and pupils enrichment including various trips/outings

All in the SMA community are welcome to join in the fun!!!



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during May & June

Reception - Ladybirds

Galilee VASANTH

Olivia OGBUKU

Tay'Mari POYSER

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Maya MARGAI

Jesse OGALANYA

Crystal BABALOLA

Year 2 - Butterfly

Evie SALKELD

Maisie HAMILTON

Daniel AGBAROLI CLARKE

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Deborah OMASOMBO

Jennaya MIREKU

Rory HANSFORD

Year 4 - Tigers

Coral FERNANDEZ TOLEDO

Doyinsola FOLASIRE

Isabel DURUEKE

Year 5 - Lions

Matia DALEY

Bella CODREA

Michaela SEKA

Year 6 - Leopards

Abigail JACOME ASQUI

Elijah MARGAI

Joyce BA

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars



"For being responsible for most of the amazing displays in primary, and for her passion and dedication to ensure the pupils have fun doing their sporting activities. Suzanne is also very kind and supportive."



"For being well organised and offering help to anyone who needs it in the Maths department."

REPORT IT!



If you have some information that you feel should be reported, e.g. bullying, or you are feeling low, worrying about something or if you have any safeguarding concerns you can:

Tell a Teacher



Mr Young
Deputy Headteacher

Ms Chick
Head of Primary



Mr Gunningham
Assistant Headteacher



Ms Dryden
Child Protection Officer



Staff at St Matthew Academy are always here to help and listen to pupils, if you ever want to talk to someone or share a concern please don't feel worried about doing so.

ST MATTHEW
ACADEMY

SMA

Summer fayre

Thursday, 13th July 3:00-5:30pm

2023



Traditional games and stalls

Tomobola

Raffle



Pre-loved uniform

Bouncy castle

Delicious food

Ice-cream van



All in the SMA community welcome!



All money raised for school charities, pupil enrichment i.e. theatre trips and school journey etc.



SKIPZ PRODUCTIONS CIC PRESENTS



Come and join us for an

Summer

Holidays and Food Programme

4 - 16
Year
Olds

Rainforest, Under the Sea, Pirates and Mermaids and Around the World Performing
Arts Art and Crafts and Outdoor Activities

Monday 31 July - Thursday 24th August 2023

Plays and Drama Activities | Clay Modelling |
Arts and Crafts | Singalongs and Dance |
Nutrition Education Activities |
Parent Workshops and Families Support

Lunch provided for eligible children
Free to Free School Meals Children. Siblings Welcome.
Paying Children Welcome.

10am-2pm

St James Hatcham CE School, St James's,
London, SE14 6AD

For more information and to register please visit
<https://www.skipzproductions.org/skipzhaflewisham>

If you require further assistance please email us at
skipzhaflewisham@gmail.com

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LEWISHAM COUNCIL



The
Conservatoire

Alice In Wonderland

STORYTELLING FAMILY CONCERT



Sunday 9th July
2pm & 3.30pm

Children £6 / Adults £12 / Under 2s Free
Tickets at aliceblackheath.eventbrite.co.uk
at The Conservatoire, 19-21 Lee Road, London SE3 9RQ
www.conservatoire.org.uk/events