

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

'Spring has finally sprung'

We have just recently returned to school after the Easter break with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the term ahead. Finally, we are into the time of year when the weather is warming up (hopefully) and the days are longer; nature is recovering from winter and there are signs of new life everywhere around us.

To have hope gives humans purpose, a belief that no matter the current difficulties, there is the belief that things will get better and we can get through the dark days. Christians have three theological virtues, faith, hope and charity. Hope is the desire for something better and the belief that it will happen and is linked with faith that people have in God and the resurrection of Jesus is something that is for all. Nobody can live without hope, even if it were only for the smallest things which give some satisfaction whatever our current circumstances.

In the months ahead we look forward with renewed hope; whatever our hopes and dreams, the arrival of Spring hopefully makes us feel that there are better days ahead. No doubt we all hope for an end to the war in Ukraine and the suffering of its people or the hope that we will see action towards climate change or support for people who may struggle financially this year with rising costs. To quote Franklin Roosevelt, "We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon." and Thich Nhat Hanh (Buddhist monk). "Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today."

For our Year 11 pupils, the term ahead brings the challenge of GCSEs and the eventual realisation that their time at SMA is up and they will have an extended break to enjoy when all the work is done. We hope they achieve the grades they have worked hard for and can progress to the next stage of their education. For the rest of us, our hopes will be different and dependent on where we are currently; whatever these are, I hope that they become reality and that the longer days ahead bring better times for us all.

Mr D Quigg

Associate Assistant Headteachers

Prayer and Reflection

You are the resurrection

*How wonderful, Lord Jesus, you came back You
suffered death but conquered it*

You laid in the tomb but on the third day

You rose again

O joyful day, Lord Jesus, when you returned

You are the resurrection, our hope and our life

O glorious and victorious Redeemer

Help us not to be afraid of death

*For we must pass through it to see you face to
face*

And on the last day we will rise again

For you said so

Let us rejoice and praise you

Our Blessed and triumphant Lord

On this happy, joyful feast.

Amen.

Diana Sutherland/CAFOD



Primary News

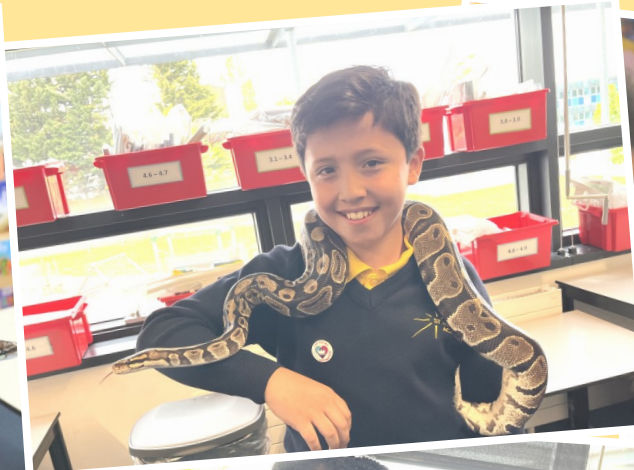
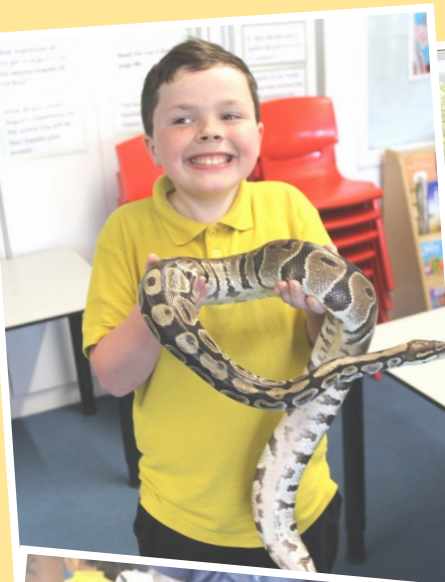
Ladybird Class

Reception have had a fantastic spring term! They have been learning addition and subtraction using a part-part whole model in maths. They have been progressing well in phonics and using their phonics knowledge to write what they think a character might say in literacy. This term, children will also be learning through our Topic-Bees, for which we will be doing a range of fun sensory activities. In literacy, the children have been learning about different endangered animals. In maths, we will be comparing quantities. There will be many opportunities for the children to learn through play! We are very excited to be taking our first school trip this term to Mudchute farm!



Reptile Visitors

Primary had some reptile visitors this week, Key Stage 1 loved learning about reptiles, they were even able to get up close and personal with them. Year 3 and Year 6 also had a fantastic time learning lots of facts about all different reptiles, they even had a cuddle!



Secondary News

Computer Science

Pupils have been having fun using turtle trinket to program in Python. The "turtle" is an imaginary pen that is given drawing commands, such as go forward and turn right. Pupils wrote short programs such as their names, create logos, draw and paint houses. The final project is a turtle race. Pupils have created some amazing designs.

Year 9's and 10's have enjoyed writing more advanced programming using python.

Year 11 are busy preparing for their GCSEs. Congratulations to the following pupils who did extremely well on their mock exam last term; Ebube, Leslie and Tyrone. They consistently work hard and we pray they will achieve amazing grades for their GCSEs.



Business

It is a busy time in Business - Year 10's have just completed their Mosaic Enterprise challenge, an initiative provided by the Prince's Trust, whereby schools across the UK compete to run an online business to generate as much profit ethically as possible. Entrepreneurs are invited to come and work with our pupils, and we were lucky to have someone from Burberry as well as TFL. Our pupils worked in teams to deliver pitches and strategize business decisions and overall were placed 12th in the UK – SMA pupils were all successful in making a profit in their ventures.

For year 9's following their upcoming ranking, we are working collaboratively with Computer Science to deliver a project, whereby pupils design a website for a business idea. We have Phylcia Rusha, a web designer and business advisor, coming in to deliver a session looking at the importance of web design but also social media to business. The competition will be judged and the winners page share so watch this space!

Brilliant Club Stars of 2022

Huge congratulations to the Year 9 SMA Brilliant Club pupils who have exceeded all expectations following the completion of the Scholars Programme this academic year. The Scholars Programme (Brilliant Club) is a national charity whose aim is to break down barriers and raise aspirations of pupils from state schools who might not consider applying for top universities or feel overwhelmed and baffled by the prospect of doing so.

The pupils chosen for the Scholars programme are of the highest calibre and had to earn their place on the programme by submitting a letter of application stating why they deserved to be included; we received 24 applications before making the very tough decision on the final 12.

Throughout the Spring term, pupils were tutored through the course by Dr Yana Manyukhina, from the Institute of Education, who came to SMA weekly to help pupils successfully navigate a university style course entitled, 'What is it like to be a bat? The Mind-Body problem in Philosophy'. The pupils were challenged to make sense of many new ideas and learn about important philosophers and thinkers before they produced a 2,000-word assignment. These were submitted at the end of term and pupils had an anxious wait over the Easter break to find out how they fared; we were not to be disappointed.

For the first time ever, all pupils completed the entire course including submission of the final assignment and we were delighted to get the results this week. It was an anxious time for them as they gathered in the library on Tuesday afternoon to get the envelope containing their result. Pupils also had an online meeting with their tutor who gave them verbal feedback on their performance throughout the course.

One described as being more nerve racking than getting ranking exam results and there was much pacing of the library while each waited to find out their mark.

The final tutorial was such a positive experience and had the feeling of a real graduation, there was lots of excitement and celebration.

We are absolutely delighted and ecstatic to announce that all have passed with flying colours. Not only did they all pass, 9 of the pupils achieved the highest grade of a First (grading is based on university degree classifications); the others attaining the second highest mark of a 2:1, a truly remarkable set of results for our Year 9 stars.

Not that we wish to single out any individual out, as all pupils did so well, but Gracie Muir scored 94% for her final project, a phenomenal mark for a Year 9 pupil to achieve.

We very much look forward to the graduation which will be held at St Catharine's College in Cambridge on Thursday 12 May. Pupils will meet with the directors of the Brilliant Club, receive their certificates and get a tour of the college and talk with current students to get a flavour of what life is like at such a prestigious university.

We are so fortunate to have this calibre of pupil at SMA; they have proven they thoroughly deserved the chance to be part of this year's Brilliant Club programme and it sets a challenge for all their teachers in the future as they enter Key Stage 4 next term. I would like to thank all the staff and parents/carers who have supported and encouraged the pupils over the last few months to successfully complete the programme. Congratulations to all the pupils on your achievement, you have truly let your light shine and I hope you very much look forward to the next challenge in your journey through SMA.

Year 9 Brilliant Club pupils 2022:

Serena Burgess, Virginluxmy Eesvaran, Hawa Fofana, Tianna Fogarty, Bess Huxton, Aliyat Lateef, Gracie Muir, Sonia Obasogie, Ayomide Odunoren, Paapa Owusu-Donkor, Daksh Patel & Rapolas Venckus.





Literacy Corner



The results are in from our fantastic World book week competitions.

Congratulations to Mandela who took first place in both the lunchtime literary quote quiz and the World book day House quiz.

Also well done to 7R2 for correctly guessing the most staff world book day costumes!

We have been busy celebrating British Science Week in the LRC. Our authors of the month for March were Darren Shan, Robert Muchamore and Cathy Hopkins, spanning the genres of Horror, Thriller and Romance. We are also excited to have received delivery of some new books for our secondary phase.

Celebrating British Science Week



New books



Authors of the month



Book Reviews

Sienna-Rose in year 7 reviewed *Star by Star* by Sheena Wilkinson.

'*Star by Star*' is about a very determined and passionate girl called Stella. She stands up for what her mum did as a suffragette and she is one too now. The book is set at the end of World War One. Stella doesn't like gender stereotypes and when it is suggested 'to get a man to do this' referring to the gardening, she takes great offence. The book is written from Stella's viewpoint so that you can feel what she is feeling. The style of writing is a mixture of formal and informal and it can be very conversational at times. Throughout the book there are many flashbacks to previous protests.

I have heard about the suffragettes before reading this book but the book is very informative as it is based on true events but with fictional characters. It is a really enjoyable book.



Book Reviews

Our year 6 team reviewed two books by the author Michael Morpurgo for KS2.

Henry reviewed 'The Mozart Question'. The book is about Paolo Levi, a violinist who is being interviewed by a reporter Lesley. Lesley has been told that she can ask Paolo anything except the Mozart question. Paolo's parents were taken to a concentration camp during the holocaust in World War Two as they were Jewish. Paolo was forced to play his violin for the Nazis. I won't spoil the book for you by revealing what The Mozart Question is though. You will have to read it for yourself to find out! I really enjoyed the book and I would give it 4.7 stars out of 5.



Caleb reviewed 'Toro!Toro!' also by Michael Morpurgo. The book is about a boy, Antonito, and he lives on a bull farm in Spain with his parents and one bull, Paco, is destined for the bullring. As a result, he frees Paco and rides away with him. However, they then see their village get bombed as it is the start of the Spanish Civil War. Paco runs off and Antonito get caught up fighting in the war. I would recommend the book because it teaches us about how determined someone can be and shows bravery. I would recommend this to those over 7 years old and those who like the genre of adventure. I give this 4.8 stars out of 5!



The team also reviewed two books in the Mini Rabbit series by John Bond for EYFS/KS1.

In 'Mini Rabbit comes home', Mini Rabbit wants to build a camp at home, so he goes shopping for all the things he needs for camping such as marshmallows, rope and wood. However, by the time he comes home and sets up camp, a storm has started and he is really disappointed not to be able to camp and has to go inside. It does have a happy ending though as his Mum sets up camp for him inside the house after all. The book had lovely, colourful illustrations and I would recommend it to younger years. I give it 3.1 stars out of 5!



'Mini Rabbit not lost' sees Mini Rabbit trying to finish off making a cake. He needs some berries to finish the cake off but he doesn't have any. He goes off searching for berries and along the way lots of different animals try to help him. He ends up very far from home and he is lost and confused as to where he is. He eventually finds one berry and makes it back home but after all of that he decides to eat ice cream and not the cake! I would recommend this to EYFS children and I give it 3.8 stars.



Secondary Rewards & Trips

Rewards Lunch

SMA's top March achievers were celebrated with a reward lunch, a pizza and cookie party! Words used by pupils to describe SMA were "fun, great and respectful". Well done and keep up the good work!



Debate Mate Regional Winners

SMA brought home another Debate Mate Cup! Well done to our Southern Regional Winners "With the highest score for a regional final in seven years!"

Warner Brothers Studio Tour

A group of the Media and Communications scholars from years 7, 8 & 9 were excited to go on a trip to the Warner Bros. Studios at the beginning of this term. It included a unique filming and camera lesson onsite lead by Warner Bros. staff and exclusive access to costumes and props from the Harry Potter Franchise, only a small number of people have ever been allowed to see up close. There was also a tour of the studios and lots of insightful glimpses into parts of the elaborate production of the wizarding franchise, including original sets, practical and digital effects, and even more costumes and props. Overall it was a magical experience.



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during March

Reception - Ladybirds

Angel OLENGA

Brianna BOAMAH

Ian FARINTO MARTINEZ

Year 1 - Bumblebee

Maisie HAMILTON

Evie SALKELD

Roland SZEKRENY

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Michael AKINNUSI

Daniel WHYTE

Maddie SALKELD

Year 2 - Butterfly

Fatoumata BAH

Kyla RAYMOND

Martin SANCHEZ ORJUELA

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Thiago JACOME ASQUI

Emily FERRO FERNANDES

Elijah JAMES

Year 4 - Tigers

Etana LEE

Adam NGUYEN

Bella CODREA

Year 5 - Lions

Keianna STEWART

Louise GILKES

Orane ALLEN

Year 6 - Jaguars

Brianna BROWN REID

Eli GORDON

Jai-Jai LEE

Year 6 - Leopards

Natalee DALEY

Shai'Reik ASHMAN

Isabelle LOPES OLIVEIRA

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...

Ms Hill



Mr Szabo



Ms Elliott



Ms Jones



Mr Turner



Ms Cotton



Staff Stars



Physical Education Lunchtime Clubs

2021-2022 Summer Term

| Monday: | Tuesday: | Wednesday: | Thursday: | Friday: |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Year 7/9/10* (12:25-12:50pm) AKG Astro - FOOTBALL | Year 8 (12-12:25pm) BSA Astro -FOOTBALL Year 7/9* (12:25-12:50pm) BSA Astro -FOOTBALL | Year 7/10* (12:25-12:50pm) NCO Astro - FOOTBALL | Year 7/9/10* (12:25-12:50pm) LSA Astro - FOOTBALL | Year 8 (12-12:25pm) LSA Astro - FOOTBALL Year 9/10* (12:25-12:50pm) AKG Astro - FOOTBALL |

***Year 11 have access every day* - Timetable will change in line with school lunchtime rota**

Lunchtime Expectations:

- Register with **Staff Member** before entry
- Trainers/Astroturfs **MUST** be worn at all times.
- **NO FOOD, CHEWING GUM** or **DRINK** in the Sports Hall or on the Astroturf.
- **TOTAL COMPLIANCE** with member of staff and 'Sports Prefect'. Any **PUPILS THAT ARE NOT WILLING TO MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS** will be excluded from any lunch time clubs till further notice.





Term 3 ~ 3-4:30pm (all pupils must be off site by 5pm)

[illegible]

ALL School team fixtures/competitions will continue to take place - see individual teacher for details

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



Ms Wickliffe
Assistant Headteacher

Ms Laker
Child Protection



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.