

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As we approach the end of a busy half term that has seen our community return to a more normal daily routine it is always worth pausing and reflecting on what we have already achieved this year. Our new Year 7's have settled into the secondary phase fantastically well and are experts in navigating our building now. The majority of our Year 8's enjoyed a weekend away at Kingswood outdoor adventure centre, an experience that they would have missed in years 6 and 7 due to lockdown. We have seen all year groups come together to celebrate the feast of St Matthew. The return of extracurricular activities including football and netball fixtures, the sporting brilliance, media scholars and Debate Mate to name a few. The first five weeks have flown by as they always do. As always parental support has been vital to all that we have achieved, so a big thank you to you for all your efforts. As always if you have any questions or concerns please get in touch with your child's tutor.

Looking ahead to the next half term we know the hard work continues for both staff and pupils as it is always an important half term. Our Year 11 pupil's will be looking to secure a place at a 6th form or college in preparation for the next stage of their educational journey. Our Year 7's will sit their first ranking assessments on the week beginning the 15th in November. Year 6 will have their assessments starting the following week. We also know that this is the half term when the clocks go back and pupils can be travelling to and from school in much darker and colder conditions. As always it is important that pupils leave plenty of time to arrive at the Academy and make their way home straight from school each day.

COVID continues to have an impact and we ask that parents and carers are continuing to test twice weekly, reminding children of the importance of hand hygiene and giving space where possible.

I hope all our pupils and families have a fantastic final week have a restful and enjoyable half term.

Mr A Young -Deputy Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

The autumn term is always a hard one for us in schools. We need to re-establish our routines and there is so much to do. The nights are getting longer and those half terms feel like they are so far away. However, autumn is my favourite time of year. Trees produce an explosion of colour. Animals prepare for the winter ahead. It's a time to watch nature's cycles in action. As we watch leaves fluttering to the ground, we are reminded that nature's cycles are reflected in our own lives.

The trees shed their leaves as they get past their best and they go into hibernation. They prepare for growth and renewal in the spring, ready to burst back into life with the start of a new season. Trees constantly grow, going through cycles of growth and letting go.

We all go through our own seasons. We let go of things in the past that we need to let fall like leaves in autumn. And then we grow further as people. And we need to remember that it is the same with our young people.

So as the leaves fall and the nights draw in, let things fall and allow them to regrow.

Gracious and loving Lord,

Thank you for the seasons we can count on, find routine in, and that will never cease while the earth remains. As we enter into autumn, when the cooler winds drift in and the days grow shorter, draw us closer to you. Let us feel your warm and loving presence. May we imagine ourselves in your arms, close to your heart, surrounded by your light, and find comfort in your consistency when the world around us seems to be constantly changing. Thank you for your lovingkindness that engulfs us and your light that drives the darkness away. We praise you for being a God who loves us and takes care of us. We are grateful you are with us in all circumstances and seasons.

Amen.

Primary News

Sports Leaders

The Sport Leaders have got off to a great start to the term, with supporting all the year groups with a variety of sporting activities being on offer at lunchtime in the playground.



They have already started to learn to adapt their skills they have to suit the different age groups they are interacting with and the younger pupils love having the opportunity to show off their skills.

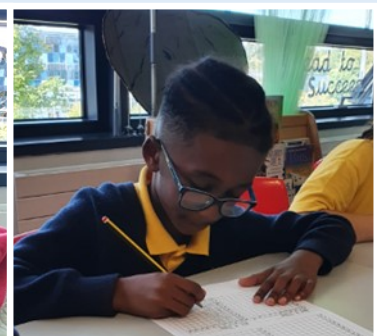
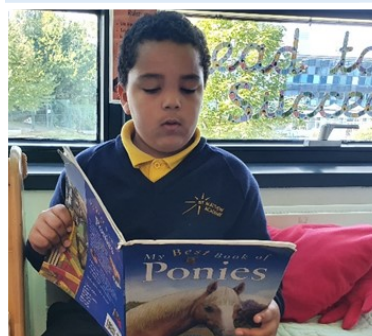


Good News from Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic start to the new school year, quickly settling back into the school routine. We have been immersing ourselves in the history of ancient Egypt and have been learning all about the life of Tutankhamun. We have examined the pyramids and beliefs of Ancient Egypt and have studied the discoveries of Howard Carter. The children have produced some lovely work from this, ranging from non-chronological reports to recounts of the adventures of an intrepid explorer inside a pyramid.

In other areas of the curriculum we have been learning about electricity, about some of the important people in the Bible and we are really enjoying our specialist lessons in Dance, Spanish, PE and Art. A big thank you to our specialist teachers, this is a great opportunity for the children.

We are all working hard on our handwriting in year 4 so a special mention goes to Michaela and Matia who have already gained their pen licenses. A big focus is also being placed on our times tables ready for our assessment later in the year. We are all improving but a special mention here goes to Raheem for consistent full marks in our assessments. Our last special mention for our reading focus goes to Malik for his hard work on the Read Theory website.



Year 3 Letting Their Lights Shine

Year 3 Class Trip

On Friday 1st October, year 3 travelled into Central London to watch the Fulham Brass Band in concert at Regent Hall.



They listened to music by Hollywood Film Composer, Bruce Broughton who they had the opportunity of meeting after the concert. The children enjoyed the concert so much, they just had to write about their experiences. One child said, "This is the best day of my life! I want to learn to play an instrument!" It was absolutely wonderful to expand the cultural capital of our children and give them an opportunity they wouldn't necessarily have.



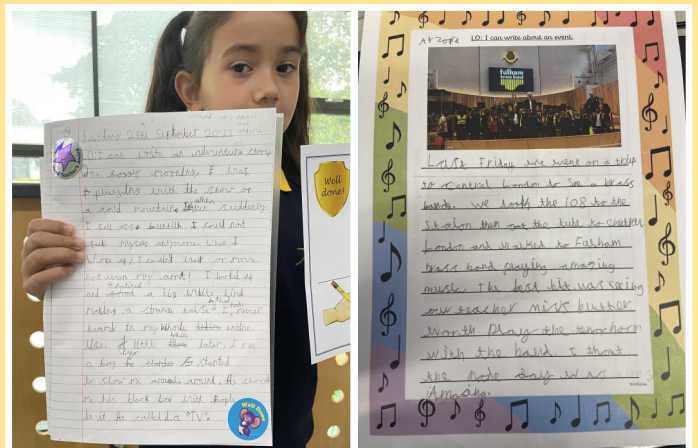
Their behaviour was exemplary and they did a fantastic job of representing St Matthew Academy. Not only did they impress Ms. Butterworth, Ms. Chick, Mr S and Ms. Bryan-Hesse, but also the public. One member of the public told Ms. Chick that her experience of the concert was "made far more enjoyable watching the children enjoy themselves and immerse themselves in the music that was on offer." In addition one of the musicians from the band e-mailed "I was playing at the concert Miss Butterworth's class came to today. It was great to see them all there. I hope they enjoyed it, I think they did from where I was. They were also so well behaved—well done."

Outstanding Work in Year 3.

Year 3 have been working really hard in their writing lessons since the beginning of the half term to develop their writing skills. Their focus was "The Stone Age Boy" by Satoshi Kitamura. They travelled back in time to imagine life as a Stone Age child then used this experience to imagine how a Stone Age Child might react to the modern day world.



A beautiful piece of writing was created by Emily who also won writer of the week for her imaginative and creative piece, referring to a TV as "a strange black box with people inside."



The children have worked really hard to improve their writing and Ms. Butterworth could not be prouder of their effort and can-do attitude they have demonstrated over the last 5 weeks.

National Poetry Day 2021

In the primary phase, we decided to spread our celebrations across the week! On Thursday, we were lucky enough to receive a visit from Adisa – a fantastic, published poet! Adisa held workshops with Year 3, 4 and 5 and they were so inspired by his work and the way that he engaged with them. In the afternoon, we were treated to a live performance of some of Adisa's poems and the children were given the chance to ask him some very insightful questions about his life!

On Thursday, which was the official National Poetry Day, all of the classes in KS2 looked at a variety of poems that linked to the Black History Month theme – proud to be me. They then had a go at writing some of their own poems.



In KS1, the children enjoyed a virtual performance of 'The Rhymes and Crimes of Naughty Jack', which they all found hilarious! The children then had a go at finding words that rhymed with their words that rhymed with their names. They loved it, they even managed to put their own twist in it!

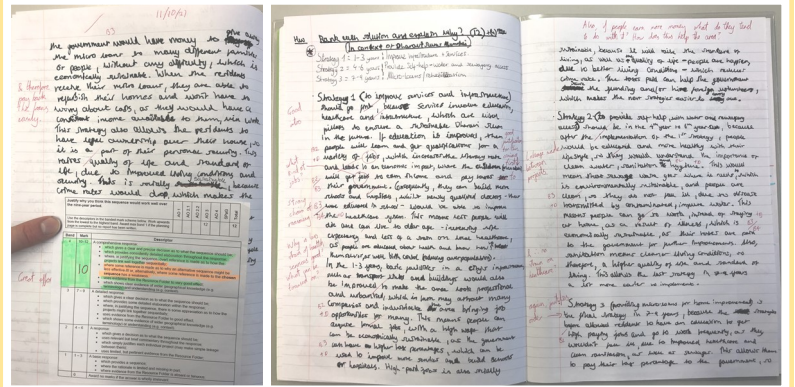


Secondary News

Geography

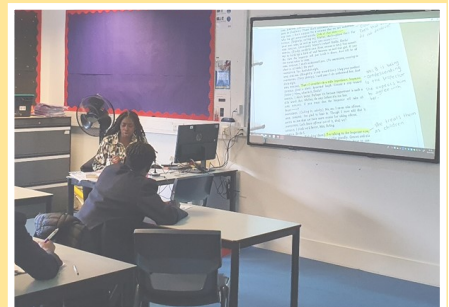
The new school term has seen a fresh start for everyone, and the geography department is pleased to welcome Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Eshmade and Mr. Quigg on board!

Year 9's have made a solid start, and are progressing through the current unit 'Local Actions, Global Effects' really well - learning about plenty of current events and relevant topics that impact our everyday lives, and futures! Their current homework task is a poster project that focuses on Antarctica, and we're looking forward to collecting these next week. We're also really excited about the new cohort of Year 10's starting their GCSE geography course. They have settled in and are putting their hand to Decision Making Exercises focusing on solving issues in the slums of Mumbai in order to develop their subject knowledge and exam technique.



English

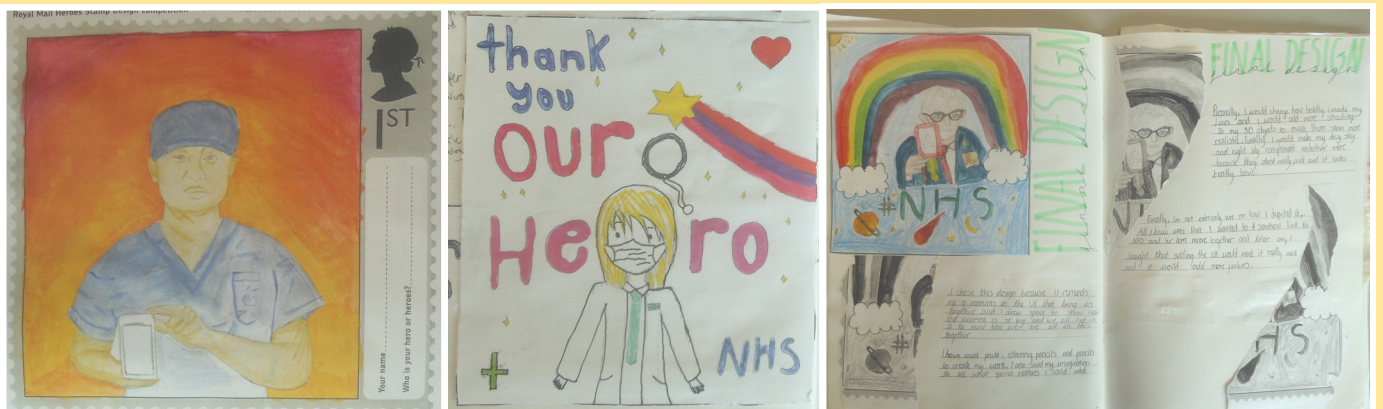
This half term, we have been immersed reading a variety of texts in English lessons, ranging from novels such as 'Windrush Child' and 'Refugee', through to plays and short stories. The English department have been trialling a new structure this year, which includes a cycle of two reading lessons, an oracy lesson and a writing lesson each week. In the allocated oracy lessons, pupils have been able to take part in a range of speaking and listening/drama activities which link with the texts being studied. Pupils have found lessons even more engaging and exciting, and have been able to use these oracy lessons to generate creativity in the writing lessons that follow.



Every English teacher has also been using visualizers with all of their classes to explain and model writing and annotation. The pupils have found this extremely useful and have found that their quality of work is quickly improving already. We're not sure who is enjoying using the visualizers more though: the pupils, or the English teachers!

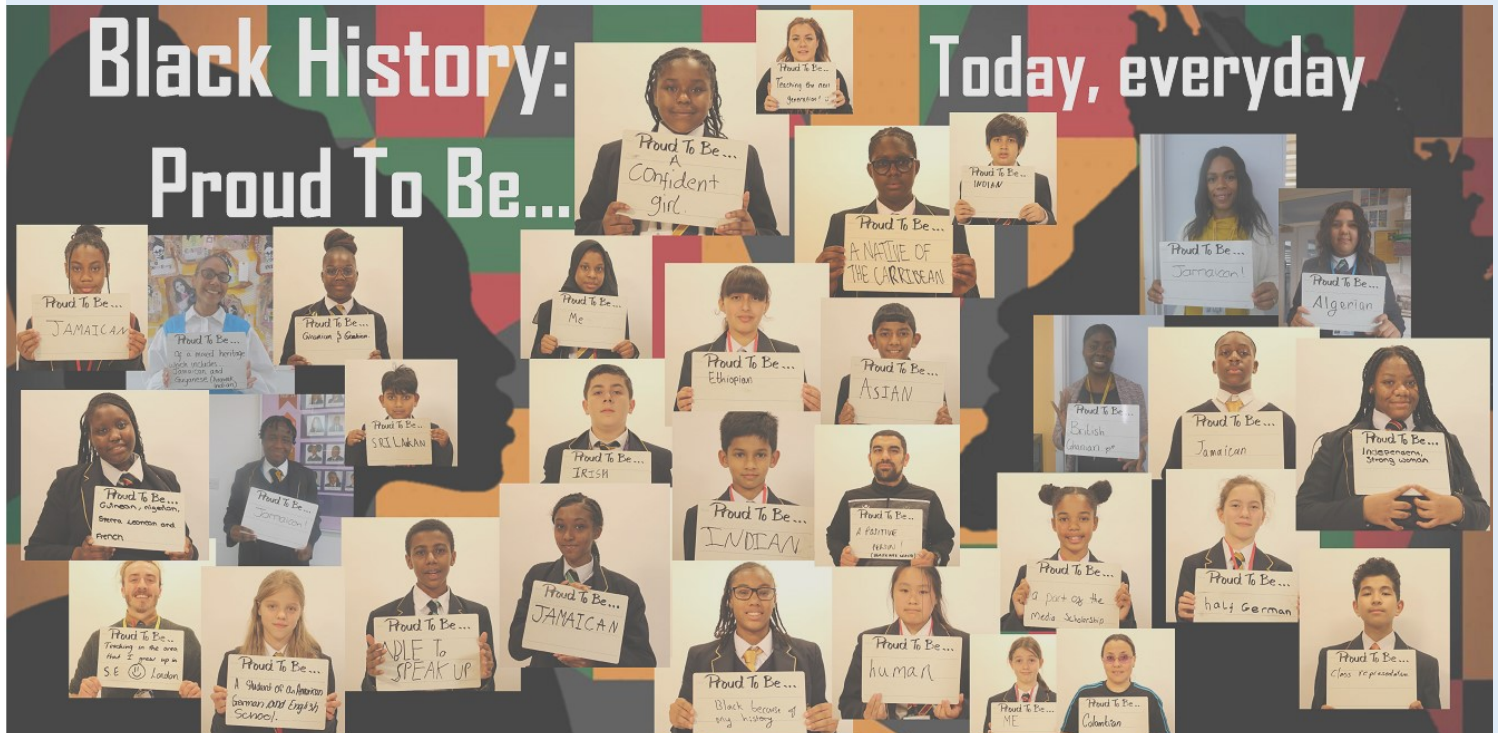
Guinness World Record

Last year we entered pupils into the Royal Mail Hero's stamp competition, unfortunately we did not get to the finalist stage, however we did make a difference as it was the largest stamp design competition set and we contributed towards a Guinness world record. Pupils who the entered competition have received a Guinness World record certificate.



Black History Month at SMA

The beginnings of Black History Month (BHM) go back to 1926. In 1969, the week's celebration was expanded to a month and in 1976, Black History Month was endorsed by the US government. In the United Kingdom, BHM has been celebrated every October since 1987. BHM is now in its 34th year. The theme for this year is 'Proud to Be'. At SMA we recognise the importance of celebrating BHM and are proud of our diverse pupil cohort. We asked pupils and staff what they were proud of and we had some fabulous responses including being able to speak their own native/cultural language, serve others and being a teacher working in a diverse community.



The Academy kicked off BHM with an engaging and inspirational assembly led by Mr Wanza. He articulated in his assembly the importance of all pupils having high aspirations for themselves drawing on the motivating story of Betty Campbell, the first black Headteacher in Wales. People, many of whom, including her teachers believed she would not be successful in pursuing a career in education solely due to her working class roots, her gender and ethnicity as a black female. Betty certainly proved them wrong! Mr Wanza also expressed how proud he was to come from a working class background, raised in a Caribbean household, full of love, laughter and the aroma of curry, chicken, fried plantain and roti. Sounds delicious! However, there was a deeper and significant message which explored the presence and significant contributions of black people, particularly black Britons, which for one reason or another may not be as publicised as it ought to be.

Throughout October and beyond we intend to shine the spotlight on some of the black people who have helped to forge and are still forming Britain as we know it today. A pupil in Year 11 finished off the assembly with a spoken word piece entitled to 'Proud to be' which left the audience wanting more. Pupils are currently in the process of completing 'Inspirational Black Briton' form boards. In each classroom a form board will have an inspirational black Briton that will reinforce the importance of pupils having high aspirations. We are also very fortunate that there are members of staff that are Master Chef winners in the waiting. Mrs Smith has been treating staff to samples of her culinary skills by providing lunch meals. The cuisine of the meals stems from the Caribbean islands. 'The Friday Luncheon' has been very popular with staff and at the time of writing this article, my mind is reflecting on the stewed chicken and rice and peas meal I received last Friday.

Pupil Voice

Our focus has been around 'Serving others' and the power of 'Democracy'

There have been plenty of different Pupil Voice and Pupil Leadership events taking place over the past two weeks. We have a number of candidates that are taking part and running for Young Mayor of Lewisham, with a record 8 candidates that have put themselves forward to make a difference to their community. Pupils have worked extremely hard in presenting their manifestos to their peers throughout this week and have done a fantastic job! As an additional part of their programme, three of our year 9 candidates attended Deptford Green for the annual 'Now and Then – Young people building their agenda around anti-racism and equality in Lewisham' conference with other schools from the Lewisham Borough hosted at Deptford Green. We look forward to hearing what they have covered, so look out for this in the next addition. *Could one of our SMA pupils be the next driving force for change in Lewisham?*



From left to right: **Morgan Evans –Williams, Hawa Fofana and Adama Bah**

Manifesto Video links below:

Hawa - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkgDqCwageQ>

Morgan - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCjSJ4FQiR4>

Adama - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VE6gLb3OELQ>

Outside of this our next PSHCE session on Tuesday will be based on 'Democracy' in line with our whole school vote for 'The Young Mayor of Lewisham' and SMA are one of the Polling sites on **Wednesday 20th October**.

To further support our current theme, pupils have been busy campaigning and voting for their House Form reps this week in our tutor time, once more some exciting news to reveal in the next addition.

Cast your vote for the next Young Mayor of Lewisham

WED 20 October 2021

Adedolapo Adokola, Rachel Afrifa, Adama Bah, Rosanna Campbell, Sheniz Elmaz-Golding, Morgan Evans-Williams, Hawa Fofana, Lucien George, Teashka Hanniford, Max Howard, Dominic Jastak, Ammaize Lec-Hunt, Olivia Harding, Princess Martins, Moriah Mensah, Alex Mills, Nivithan Nageswaran, Sasha Nolan-Rigby, Comfort Oluwatusin, Djibril Ouattara-Dieme, Kyria Peters, Nur Redha, Ana Rodrigues, Micah Spence, Dimitri Tsanakas, Melisa Veshta

For more information about the work of the Young Mayor and the election process visit www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

or contact Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313 or katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk or jacob.sakil@lewisham.gov.uk

Lewisham

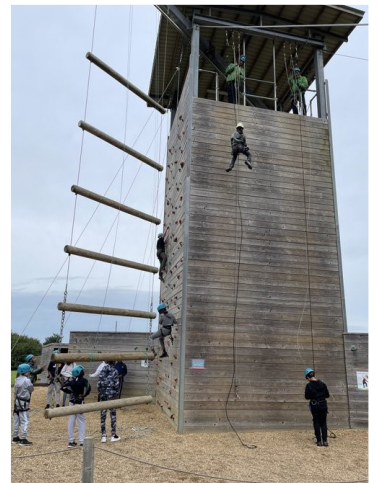
Kingswood 2021

Year 8 Residential

On Friday 8th October, 97 Year 8 pupils and a team of enthusiastic (if slightly apprehensive where sleep was concerned) teachers embarked on their first St Matthew Academy residential trip. Pupils and staff remained excited throughout the 3 and a half hour coach journey, looking forward to a picnic lunch on arrival. Fortunately the Coach had 'The X-Men' and 'The X-Men 2' to keep them entertained! We arrived on a bright sunny day to be greeted by a team of Kingswood staff and after eating our lunch on the decking we were able to get settled in our rooms. Many a Year 8 pupil learnt to make a bed for the first time on the trip under the expert guidance of their peers and teaching staff.

When the excitement about making the our beds had subsided we lined up for our first activity. There were screams as groups 1 and 2 tried out the zip wire and that was just Mrs Guest and Mrs England. The abseiling and climbing went down a storm on the first day and all of the groups were excited to have a try themselves. By Saturday afternoon everyone had had the opportunity to face their fear of heights and many managed to conquer it. Some pupils who had at first appeared terrified were the first to ask if they could abseil a second time!

The evenings proved equally enjoyable with a walk up 'Beast and bump' the highest point in Norfolk and some loud and energetic games of 'Capture the Flag'. We enjoyed the trip immensely and certainly plan to arrange another trip although I think the staff and pupils are all agreed that we need some time to rest before anyone goes again!



Mini Career Focus

Medical Profession

When many think of the medical profession they think of only doctors and nurses; But... there are so many more avenues within this profession.

Radiography, midwifery, dentistry, paramedics, pharmacy and public health to name a few and all can be found within the public & private sectors.

Roles, training and qualifications vary greatly and opportunities are worldwide but all centering on caring for others; whether from the pre-natal to the geriatric and everything in-between.

Register for a place on the NHS virtual Work Experience Programme: starting October 2021

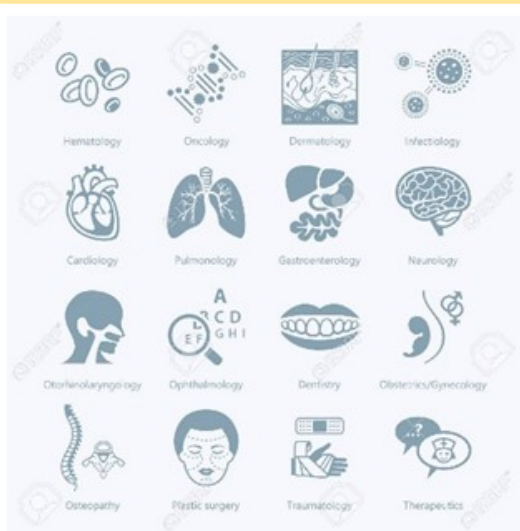
Excellent places to study are:

- Pharmacy – Birmingham
- Midwifery – London, South Bank University
- Medicine – Cambridge or Queen Mary - University of London
- Radiographers – Leeds or Sheffield
- Paramedics – University of Surrey or Oxford Brookes

For an insight to courses, places to study and qualifications needed check out <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder>

Upcoming Open Evenings:

- St Charles 6th Form: Saturday 16th October @ 11AM
- Lambeth College Tuesday 19th October @ 5PM
- Sedgely 6th Form Thursday 21st October @ 4:30PM
- St Francis Xavier Saturday 13th November @ 10AM



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points this half term

Reception—Ladybirds

Michael OMORIGIEVA

Angel OLENGA

Serena AGEBA

Year 1 - Bumblebee

Maisie HAMILTON

Roland SZEKRENY

Evie SALKELD

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Amelia VELICHKOVA-STEER

Ella CENKUTE-TSHABALALA

Fatoumata DIALLO DIALLO

Year 2 - Butterfly

Abiola SAMSON

Bailey MILLER

Deborah OMASOMBO

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Cyril OIGBOCHIE

Chelsea ABEKOUA

Donovan ROCHA VEGAS

Year 4 - Tigers

Michaela SEKA

Salem LUVUADIOKUENO

Valentine CHAZA

Year 5 - Lions

Elijah MARGAI

Olivia XU

Orane ALLEN

Year 6 - Jaguars

Olek WADEJKO

Daquan LOTTRY

Clara FERRO FERNANDES

Year 6 - Leopards

Glory OMOROGIEVA

Jessie CLARKSON

Juan SANCHEZ

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

House Points Update

Week beginning 11/10/21

Total Achievement Points

1st - Teresa: 3648 (10pts)
2nd - Mandela: 3238 (5pts)
3rd - Romero: 3176 (3pts)

Attendance:

1st – Romero (10pts)
2nd – Mandela (5pts)
3rd – Teresa (3pts)

Overall House Points

1st - **Teresa: 157**
2nd - **Mandela: 156**
3rd - **Romero: 122**

Nearing the end of the term and Teresa have taken the lead by just 1 point!

Well done to all of the Pupil Leadership Team who have been fantastic in assemblies, visiting tutor groups in their houses and their duties during lunch time. Voting next week for the next Young Mayor of Lewisham!

Results from your form representative for school council will be released soon, so keep your eyes peeled!

Harvest Festival Collection is on **FRIDAY 15th OCTOBER!** Mandela's spot in the main hall is looking good, can Teresa and Romero catch up and fill up their space with essentials for those in need?

Well done to the following forms for earning the most achievement points for their house!

7T1 - 547

9T1 - 377

8R2 - 311

10T1 - 298



Staff Stars

Wednesday 6 October—Wednesday 20 October

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...



Ms Adonri



Ms Ferrigan & Ms Ford



Staff Stars



Ms Green



Ms Guest



Ms Wilkins

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Young supported by Mrs Wickliffe (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), and our Child Protection Officer is Mrs Laker. Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child?

You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

- Lewisham MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) **020 8314 6660**
- Or call **999** or **101** if you believe a child is in immediate danger
- Childline **0800 11 11** www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk

Term Dates

Autumn Term 21/22

Friday 3 September 2020 to Friday 22 October 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October 2020 to Friday 29 October 2021

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 21/22

Tuesday 4 January 2022 to Friday 11 February 2022

Half Term: Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 1 April 2022

Summer Term 21/22

Tuesday 19 April 2022 to Friday 27 May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Monday 6 June 2022 to Thursday 21 July 2022

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk

Dear parents,

With all the different means of accessing the internet, we know children and young people may spend more time online.

Lewisham Council has commissioned the Athena Refuge to deliver 2 x free workshops to empower parents to support their children to access technology safely and positively and what to do if you have any concerns.

We know removing technology from our children can seem like a logical solution but sometimes this can in fact increase risks of unsupervised use.

The purpose of this workshop is to increase awareness and provide some useful skills to support parents, by the end of this workshop you should be able to:

- Recognise how modern technology can be used to jeopardise young people's safety
- Distinguish between different types of technological abuse that could affect children and young people
- Assess the risk factors involved in cases where technology is being used to abuse children and young people
- List different ways in which you can empower your children to use technology safely and positively

There are 2 workshops available via Zoom in November:

Workshop 1 – Tuesday 2nd November 2021 6pm to 8pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlce-hrDMSGtAFr7pIpVuJgaO5cUaYVti8>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Workshop 2 – Wednesday 3rd November 2021 6pm to 8pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrc-ivrz8iH9aUfvTfX7647wtJ5tdBZrJg>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please click on the link provided for the workshop you wish to attend or copy and paste into a web browser for the same result, please add the required information to register and you will be sent information and instructions on how to join the appropriate workshop.

All workshops will be delivered via Zoom, for this you will need a device that is connected to the internet such as a smartphone, tablet or computer. You can download the Zoom App from:

- For Apple devices, i.e. iPhone or iPad this is the **App Store**
- For all other devices you download apps from the **Google Play Store**
- **The Zoom App**



You do not need to download the Zoom App you can still access via the web browser.

If you do not have access to the internet, a smart phone or tablet device please speak to your child's school about alternative access arrangements.

Extracurricular Clubs Autumn 2021



Breakfast or Lunch		After School									
M		Table Tennis Y7/8 3-4:30 Sports Hall NCO	Girls Fitness All Years 3-4:30 Fitness suite MMC	DOE Y9/10 3.00-4.30 Silver/Bronze LSA, NBA, TSK	Guitar Club All years 3:00-4:00 DKE	Football Y9 3-4:30 Astro AKG/THA					
O											
N											
T	Maths Club Y7/8/9 12-12:45 KNG										
U											
E											
W											
E	BREAKFAST MFL HW drop Y10/11 8.00 - 8.30 S103 FDE	Madagascar rehearsals 3.00-4.30 Drama Studio AMB, JEC, CSM	EAL HW Club 3.00-4.00 MGI	Latin American Dance All years 3.20- 4.00 S100 AMI	Girls Football All Years 3.00-4.30 Fitness suite SKE/TSK	Sporting Brilliance Y7/8 3.00-4.30 Sports Hall LSA	MFL Culture + KS3 HW drop in 3.20-4.00 S102 AMA	Fitness & Rowing Y7/8 3.00-4.30 Fitness suite LSI	Step into Dance Year 7/8 3.00-4.30 Dance Studio Zoe Elliot	Debate Mate Yr 7/8 3-4:30 E108 KPU/MEN	Gospel Choir All years 3.00-4.00 Music Room AOM
D											
T	WEEK A ONLY The Art of Appraisal Year 9/10 12.00-12.45 S111 MPI	Week A ONLY Light Bearer Prayer 12.05-12.25 Led by Y8/9	Netball Club All years 3.00-4:30 Sports Hall MMC	Football Y7/8 3.00-4.30 Astro BSA	Fitness & Rowing Y9,10 & 11 3.00-4:30 Fitness suite LSI	Dance Performance Group 3.00-4.30 Dance Studio CSM	Science Y7/8 3.20-4.00 N024 LSO	KS3 Creative Y7/8 3.20-4.00 LWR N1.18	Maths HW Club Y7/8/9/10 3:10-4:00 RHA/SKE/ IOL E005		
H											
U											
R											
F	Week B ONLY Light Bearer Prayer 12.05-12.25 Led by Y10	Madagascar rehearsals 3.00-4.30 Drama Studio AMB, JEC, CSM	Football Y10/11 3-4:30 Astro - LSA								
R											
I											

STAFF MEETING