

## Message from the Senior Leadership Team

On Thursday 23rd November, our school was transformed into a vibrant tapestry of diversity, joy, and unity during our highly anticipated Culture Day event. The school buzzed with excitement as students, teachers, and staff came together to celebrate and embrace the richness of our diverse heritage and culture.

The day included a spectacular Talent Show that showcased the incredible talents of our pupils. From mesmerizing musical performances to captivating dance routines, the stage was a kaleidoscope of creativity and skill, leaving the audience in awe. Alongside this, the Fashion Show highlighted the beauty of cultural attire from around the world. Students proudly strutted the runway adorned in traditional clothing, reflecting the diverse cultures and traditions present within our school community.

No cultural celebration is complete without delightful cuisines, and our Culture Day did not disappoint! The tantalizing aroma of various international dishes filled the air, offering a gastronomic journey for everyone to enjoy. Pupils from reception to Year 11 presented their class stall, which included a wide variety of activities, games, quizzes, arts and crafts every corner of the school resonated with the joy of shared experiences. A highlight of the day was the Gele Tying Competition, where students exhibited their dexterity in adorning intricate headgear, symbolizing their appreciation for West African cultural practices and designs.

Culture Day served as a testament to our school's commitment to inclusivity and respect for diversity. It provided an invaluable opportunity for our community to come together, learn from one another, and celebrate the rich cultures that make us unique, yet united.

**Ms V Bryan**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

## Prayer and Reflection

Maranatha! Jesus is coming!

December marks the start of advent, and this past Sunday, Our Holy Mother Church lit the first Advent candle. This first purple candle represents hope; it is a reminder for each of us to look forward to the birth of Jesus, our saviour.

When we hope, we are often filled with excitement and optimism and we should allow this hope to empower us and all those we encounter, to be prepared. This is the heart of advent— preparation. We must, as the Gospel this past Sunday instructs us, 'be on our guard and stay awake.' Over the next coming weeks, as Christmas draws closer, let us remember that we are waiting for more than just Santa, turkeys and presents under the Christmas tree... We are getting ready for something, *someone*, amazing to come to us.

Let us ensure that we do everything we can to be ready.

*Heavenly Father,  
Help us in this season of advent to be filled with your  
Holy Spirit,  
that we might become beacons of hope, peace, and  
love to others, shining brightly as living examples of  
your word.  
Help us to make room for you in our hearts this  
advent season,  
that we might be ready both physically and spiritually  
for the great hope of our coming friend and Saviour.  
Amen.*



# Primary News

## Turning of the year

Year 2 children performed at *'The Turning of the Year'* annual singalong at Blackheath Halls on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Turning of the Year is an annual series of singing concerts organised by Lewisham Music, designed to give children and young people a unique opportunity to share in the excitement of making music. Children had the opportunity to perform in a professional environment with a large group of singers from other schools.

As part of the preparation for the festival, children rehearsed at Blackheath Halls on the day of the festival and get the opportunity to rehearse their individual songs either before the main combined group rehearsals. Year 2 performed 5 group songs with the other schools to over 400 audience members.



## Year 1

The children have had a tremendous start to the year. Year 1 is such a big jump from Reception and it has been wonderful to see how well they have transitioned into Key Stage 1 routines.

We have been lucky enough to have a jam-packed term so the children have been blessed with incredible experiences!

The children went on a trip to Greenwich park in November, where they loved looking at London whilst being in the park. They truly made SMA proud with their lovely manners and wide-eyed smiles towards everyone that passed them, including the pigeons, dogs and bumblebees!

Finally we have been rehearsing hard for our Nativity on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. The children have been working hard and are definitely gifted performers, we cannot wait for all our parents to come in and watch the performance.



# Cultural Day

## Year 2

Year 2 were visited by Isis Damali, a 9-year-old girl who is the author of *"Isis Meets Isis"* a book all about the origins of her name. The story is based in Egypt, the country Year 2 were focussing on for Culture day. The author and her mum came and spoke to us about how she began writing the story and how she took inspiration from her holiday to Egypt, she then read the first part of the story to the class who had many questions about how she was able to write a book at such a young age.



## Year 1

The children absolutely LOVED Cultural Day! We are so blessed to be such a diverse class and we loved the opportunity to celebrate and learn about each other.

We started off our day by learning all about Italy with Nicolo's Mum, this included learning about the food, the culture and even how to sing Heads, Shoulder, Knees and Toes in Italian!

Later on we were blessed with some, yummy Peruvian baking made by Mateo's Mum. The cake ingredients included blueberries, honey and lots and lots of chocolate! Mateo loved talking about how he made it with his family and was very proud to talk about Peru.

If our stomachs were not full enough, we were then treated some gorgeous Ghanaian delights made by Miss Helena. We enjoyed it so much; we almost did not have enough room to eat our special Cultural Day lunch.

After lunch, we enjoyed going to all the different stalls scattered around the school. A massive highlight for our class was some of the children having their hair braided by Secondary to celebrate Big Hair Day and Sebastian seeing his old brother present the amazing talent show! Not only did Cultural Day remind us to be proud of who we are, but it also reminded us how proud and lucky we are to be at this school.



# Cultural Day



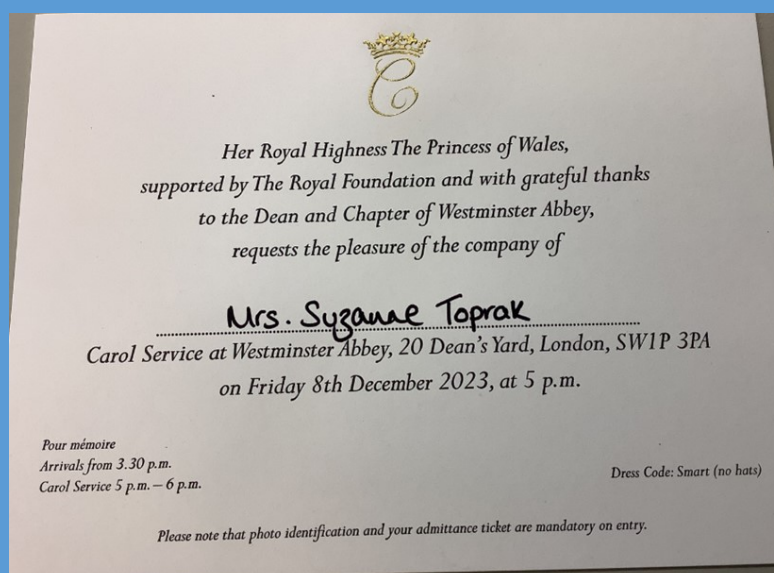
# Cultural Day

SMA CULTURAL  
CATWALK



# Volunteer of the Year 2023

Ms Toprak won the 'Volunteer of the Year 2023' award, chosen out of the hundreds of nominations that were put forward from the 600 youth based organisations that operate in partnership with London Youth. The award was to recognise the dedication and selflessness Suzanne demonstrates through giving up her time to put on events and run activities for young people with varying needs.





# LITERACY CORNER



Supporting Disability History month in the LRC.

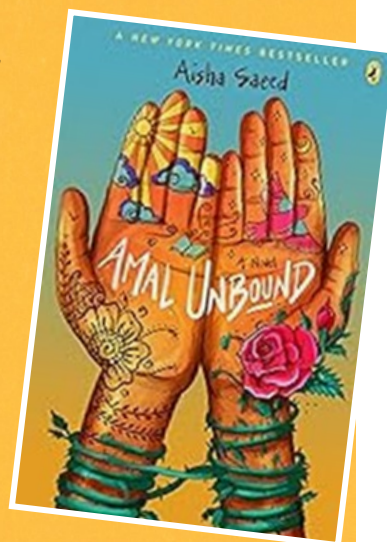


## BOOK REVIEWS



This book has enlightened me in ways that I never thought possible. Amal is a strong, young woman, who loves learning and wishes with all her might to be a teacher, sharing knowledge and new possibilities with others. Sadly, in the annoying world she lives in, Amal is expected to be the good eldest daughter and look after the house and her four younger sisters. Then, one day, a stranger stops her in the street and asks for her newly bought pomegranate (a delicate rarity as they are hardly ever in the shops). Not knowing that this man is Jawad Sahib, the terrifying son of her village's corrupt landlord, Amal causes a scene, yelling at him, "NO!" Unperturbed, he drives away, only to arrive again a few days later, bringing bad news. Amal is taken away to be a silent maid to Nasreen Baji, Sahib's mother, in his posh country house. Slowly but surely, Amal learns the ways of the petrifying Sahib household.....

This book is an amazing story and it reminds me that we can do anything when we put our minds to it. 9 out of 10.



# Going Above and Beyond!

## *Secondary phase*

*Pupils with the most achievement points during November & December*

### **Year 7**

Precious IRABOR 7M2  
Yousef ELHUSSEINE 7M2  
Achiaa ANTWI 7M2  
Kairos BAILEY 7T1  
Abigail JACOME ASQUI 7M1

### **Year 8**

Temilolaoluwa ABIKINDA 8R1  
Alperen MORADAOGLU 8T1  
Olivia OBAFESE 8R1  
Georgina DICKSON 8M1  
Mehari TESFAY 8T2

### **Year 9**

Michael TRAORE 9M3  
Michael KANGA 9M2  
Monet HAMM 9T1  
Sofia MAZIAR 9M1  
Lieselotte MAURER-SMALLEY 9T2

### **Year 10**

Blessing AKINNUSI 10T1  
Kiara CASE-WALLACE 10R2  
Shumsana NANTHAKUMAR  
Yaroslav NENYCH 10R1  
Zion DALEY 10T2

### **Year 11**

Gift OMOREGBEE 11KDE  
Lase OYEWUSI 11MEN  
Aishat AROWOLO 11EED

Gabriela COSTA 11MEN  
Elana YOUSEFI 11MKE

**Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!**

# Staff Stars

Ms Chen



*"For always being very supportive and kind."*

Ms Kakou



*"For being an excellent head of house and mentor."*

Ms Tulomba



*"For assisting all pupils and not just the pupils she was assigned to help."*

# 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 Magar**

**Deputy Headteacher**



**Ms Dryden**

**Child Protection Officer**



**Mr Gunningham**

**Senior Assistant Headteacher**



**Ms Chick**

**Head of Primary**



**Ms Dunne**

**Assistant Headteacher**



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.

Emmanuel Gateway Presents

## Hamper Collection

**Saturday  
16TH**

**374-376 Lee High Rd, London  
SE12 8RS**

**[Register Here](#)**



📅 Saturday, 16 December 2023

🕒 10:30am - 4:00pm

📍 374-376 Lee High Road SE12 8RS

### About

As a church we would like to bless out community this Christmas. A Christmas hamper from Emmanuel Gateway Church consists of food item for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and a few Christmas treats of course!

Simply complete the form below, indicating when you would like to collect your hamper.

Happy Christmas,

Emmanuel Gateway Church

Families can sign up using this link: <https://emmanuellee.churchsuite.com/events/dbwgagvf>

# Need Advice...

**CHILDLINE:** 0800 1111  
<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

**YOUNGMINDS:** [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

**KOOTH.COM:** [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

**THE SAMARITANS:** 08457 90 90 90

**CAMHS:** 0208 228 6000

**METRO – LGBTQ – SELF REFERRAL:**

[www.metrocharity.org.uk](http://www.metrocharity.org.uk)

**TEXT "SHOUT": TEXT SHOUT TO 85258**

[www.givensashout.org](http://www.givensashout.org)



КОЛИ

**П'ЯТНИЦЯ**

З 18:00 ДО 20:00

Prednegast Vale School,  
Elmira Street, SE13 7BN



## ЩО ОЧІКУВАТИ

- Ігри
- Спорт
- Екскурсії
- Арт-терапія
- Майстер-класи

Щотижневі заняття для української молоді від 11 до 17 років, які прибули до Сполученого Королівства після 24го лютого 2022 і наразі проживають чи навчаються в районі Lewisham. Всі заняття безкоштовні. За підтримки Lewisham Borough of Sanctuary



Для реєстрації напишіть на  
**+447767153647**



ХТО МИ

# УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ МОЛОДІЖНИЙ ПРОЕКТ В LEWISHAM UYPL



## Ми допоможемо

- Знайти друзів ✓
- Весело провести час ✓
- Розвинути самооцінку та впевненість ✓
- Ознайомитись з тонкощами життя в UK ✓
- Підтримати розвиток української культури і етнічної ідентичності ✓

**ПРИЄДНУЙТЕСЬ**

Більше інформації за  
[ukraineyouthproject@nascic.org.uk](mailto:ukraineyouthproject@nascic.org.uk)



NASCIC is registered in England and  
Wales, company number 14728926



## When and Where

### FRIDAYS

term time only

FROM 18:00 TO 20:00

Prednegast Vale School,  
Elmira Street, SE13 7BN



## What

- Games
- Sport
- Trips
- Arts and crafts
- Master-classes

Weekly term-time sessions for Ukrainian youth aged 11 to 17 that arrived on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and currently live or study in the London Borough of Lewisham. All sessions are free to attend. Supported by Lewisham Borough of Sanctuary



To register message

**+447767153647**



## WHO

# UKRAINIAN YOUTH PROJECT IN LEWISHAM UYPL



## We will help to

- Find friend and build Ukrainian youth community ✓
- Have fun and improve your mental health ✓
- Improve self-esteem and confidence ✓
- Maintain Ukrainian culture and ethnic identity ✓
- Raise awareness of British culture and integration ✓

## JOIN US

For more information email  
[ukraineyouthproject@nascic.org.uk](mailto:ukraineyouthproject@nascic.org.uk)



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