

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



17 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, we hope this letter finds you well during these exceptional times. I would personally like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy over the course of this term.

Year 7 have made a great start their time in secondary school, settling in really well. They have completed their first ranking assessments recently and we have celebrated some amazing results across all subjects. Year 7 have demonstrated great independence and they utilised this opportunity to show their teachers and themselves, just how much progress they have made.

Year 7 have also really let their light shine across the school by participating in extracurricular activities - well done to Jess Carroll, Tailia Stuart- Forde and Glory Dike for representing the school in the girls' football team and also Johnathan Umunnakwe who has completed 50,000m in Rowing Club. A big well done to the following pupils who are part of the St Matthew Academy Pupil Leadership Team and have been nominated to be House Rep for their forms.

7M1 - Laurell Sedegah

7M2 - Cassidy O'Connor-Harvey

7M3- Nana Owusu-Donkor

7R1 - Kyra John Falconer

7R2 - Abraham Wilson

7T1 - Adhyaa Haddouch

T2 - Tyiana Agutor

Attendance

It is imperative that all pupils are attending school regularly and are punctual. Congratulations to the pupils below with 100 % attendance for this term.

ABANGMA, Rhea	CIFTCI, Omer	IDAMA, Nathan	NAGESWARAN, Sanujan	TRAORE, Maria
ADEDIJI, Racheal	CISSOKHO, Rayyan	HENRY, Sariah	NKWOCHA, Elizabeth	TRAORE, Michael
ADEMOLA, Adekunbi	CLARKE, Rickael	HERELLE, Sian	OGNYANOV, Kiril	VARMA, Daniel
AGUTOR, Tyiana	CURAY TENEDA, Ayleen	IRIE, Yannick	OGONGO, Ty	WATSON, Domonic
AKINSUSI, Temidayo	DIALLO, Alpha	JACOME ASQUI, Matthew	OKOYE, Ugochukwu	WILSON, Abraham
ALUEBHOSELE, Nimie	DIALLO, Umuhawa	JOHN - FALCONER, Kyra	OLADOKUN, Atilola	
AMOO CAMPBELL, Blessing	DIKE, Glory	KAMARA, Anita	OLANREWAJU, Fodun	
ANDERSON, Emma	EKA, Dorothy	KANGA, Michael	OLENGA, Mary	
BAH, Mamadu	EKA, Nancy	KHAN, Sami	DUNCAN, Patrice	
BAMIGBOYE, Angelson	EL HARI, Amirah	KINGE, Churchill	OUATTARA, Sheikh-Oumar	
BERISHA, Eldi	ELEMENT, Stan	KOUADIO, Yoshua	OWUSU-DONKOR, Nana	
BIOKO, Jonathan	FENG, Seanna	LABROUZI, Soufiane	OYELEYE, Ademide	
BRIDGMAN, William	FRANCIS, Breayh	MASSEY, Lola	OYENIRAN, David	
CAUSHELLARI, Ryan	GANNA, James	MAURER-SMALLEY, Phoebe	SESAY, Zainab	
CHALLE, Festus	GRAHAM-BENT, Jay-Shaun	MCLARTY, Nevaeh	SMAJLI, Daniel	
CHEEMA, Diya	HAMILTON, Corey	MODRAL, Leon	SUMANI, Prince	

Achievement Points

Our rewards philosophy recognises rewarding pupils for effort, academic achievement and behaviour conduct is important as part of the development of the individual through encouragement and praise. Please see below our bronze, silver and gold star reward structure.

- 100 points – SMA Bronze Star
- 150 points – SMA Silver Star
- 200 points – SMA Gold Star

Well Done to Phoebe Maurer-Smalley (108), Ahyaa Haddouch (106), Jess Carroll (101) and Wahkare Balck (100) who have all achieved a SMA Bronze star.

Congratulations to the following Year 7 pupils who have achieved more than 85 achievement points so far this year.

More than 85 Achievement Points	
ADUTWIM Ashaye	98
HADDOW Findlay	93
DAVIS-SOBOTIE Kayden	92
OYELEYE Ademide	91
DUGIN-UMUSU Catherine	89
LABROUZI Soufiane	87
TRAORE Michael	87
FISHER Cavalli	86

Arrangements for the start of the Spring Term - Lateral Flow testing in school

Under the revised guidance for returning to school in January 2022, we are required to carry out a lateral flow test (LFT) for each pupil. Onsite testing for Year 7 will take place on **Tuesday 4 January from 12.30pm – 2.30pm**. The LFT tests have a rapid turnaround of 20 minutes and are designed to catch any asymptomatic cases that might pose a risk to the reopening of school. After this single test, pupils are expected to test at home twice a week. Please note that with regards to the onsite testing:

- Pupils must arrive to school promptly at the time indicated
- Pupils are not required to wear school uniform
- If pupils are late, they may not be tested.
- Pupils will leave immediately after their test
- Pupils with siblings in different year groups can arrive together to be tested.

Any pupil who tests positive will be required to self-isolate for 10days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. All pupils with a negative test should return to school on **Wednesday 5 January by 8.35am**.

Consent for testing

Lateral Flow Tests are voluntary but we strongly urge that pupils participate in the programme of regular rapid testing. Pupils without consent are still permitted to attend school on Wednesday 5 January. However, the more pupils engage with it, the more effective our system of controls can be.

If you completed the consent form in September for your child to be tested on site, then you do not need to provide consent again. If this has changed or if you haven't previously completed the consent form, then please complete the form found [here](#) by **Monday 3 January**. Please be aware that for pupils aged 16 and over, consent (or not) needs to be provided by the pupil themselves rather than their parents. You can contact the office by emailing info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk with any queries.

Uniform

We have been impressed by the way, in which pupils have worn their uniform with pride including the wearing of lanyards. Moreover, pupils have demonstrated great commitment to their learning, highlighted in the lessons we have observed and their resilience shown in light of the current day structure and adaptations to the wider school life. We encourage you to commend your child.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our uniform expectations as outlined in a previous letter by the Headteacher at St Matthew Academy. These expectations are in place to ensure that uniform does not become a distraction from learning and that pupils at St Matthew Academy, take pride in themselves and their school:

- Black shoes not boots for all pupils
- Tailored trousers or SMA skirts
- Black or blue coats without insignia for all pupils
- Lanyards and ID badges for all pupils
- Hair should be one colour and a natural colour

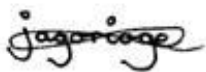
Key dates

Key Event	Date
COVID-19 Testing (12.30pm to 2:30pm)	Tuesday 4 th January 2022
Return to school	Wednesday 5 th January 2022

This continues to be a challenging time for us all but together, as an inclusive caring Catholic community and with the grace of God, we will get through this challenging time. In the meantime, please look out for our most recent edition of SMA News – you might catch us in it! We look forward to working with you closely next year and being able to celebrate more achievements and successes of our pupils over the coming months.

Wishing you a blessed, safe, restful Christmas and good health and prosperity in the New Year.

Yours faithfully



Ms D Agorioge
Director of Learning – Year 7



Mr I Gunningham
Assistant Headteacher – Key Stage 3