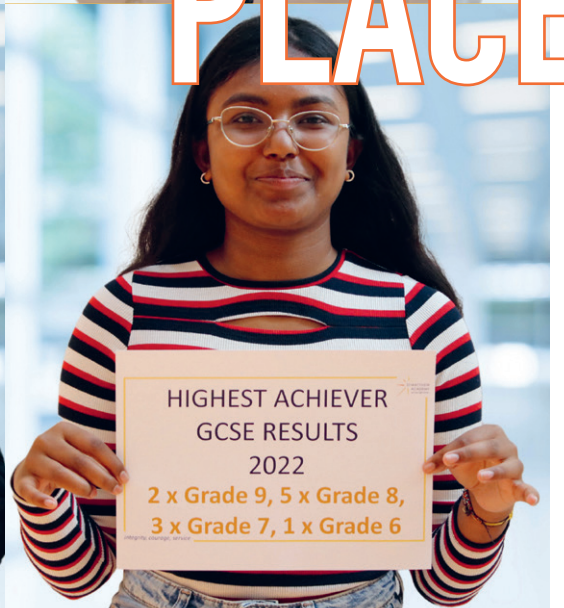
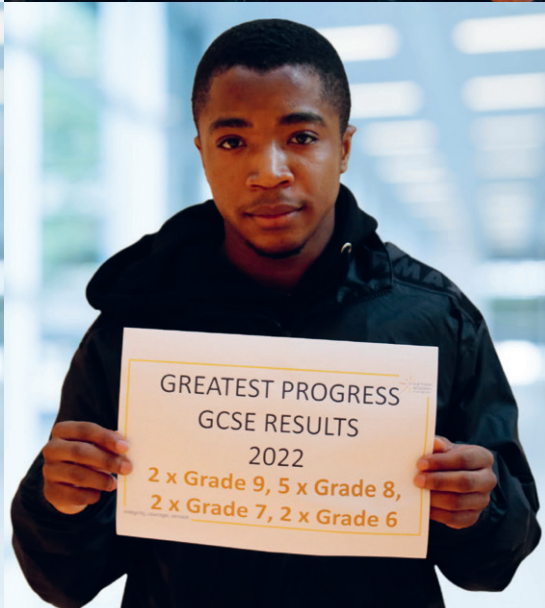


SMA CELEBRATES

INTEGRITY COURAGE SERVICE



PRIDE
OF
PLACE

AWESOME AWARDS ✨ EXAM EXCELLENCE ✨ SPORTS SUCCESS

CELEBRATING A TRIUMPHANT TERM

As St Matthew Academy begins a new academic year, we take a proud look back on summer term 2022

By Headteacher, Miranda Baldwin

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE it is often a good idea to reflect on the past and, as we closed the school gates for the summer break in July, I, our staff and all our pupils were fortunate to be able to take pleasure in recognising the huge accomplishments of the school.

It was the first full year of school since the pandemic, and I would like to thank our teams and our pupils for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm that led us to success.

As we begin the next journey, I think it's correct for us to highlight and applaud, on these pages, the achievements of just some of our incredible pupils.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Yes - we brought home the national debating cup - again

The figures speak for themselves; **4,400** students, **300** schools, across **14** cities in England.

After two qualifying heats, a regional final and the Grand National competition, St Matthew Academy were crowned the National Debate Mate Cup winners for the second time.

Making this achievement even

more remarkable is the fact that this was the first time a Year 9 team have made it to the final and won.

English teacher, Katie Perslow says: The entire team have really benefited from the opportunities of being members of our first cohort of Media and Communications scholars.

"We have a strong history of debating success at the Academy having previously won the double: the Urban Debate League Cup and the Debate Mate Cup in 2013 and another Year 10 team won the Grand Final cup in 2019.

"This really was a *fantastic* achievement by the *14-year-old* pupils who made up the team **REPRESENTING OUR SCHOOL.**"

"So, this really was a fantastic achievement by the 14-year-old pupils who made up the team representing our school."

The SMA win follows hot-on-the-heels of SMA's fantastic performance in the regional finals of the Jack Petchey Speak-Out Challenge in May, where Zillah Ofidon picked up the trophy, beating 15 other Year 10 students from schools across the borough of Lewisham.

The Jack Petchey Speak-Out Challenge is the world's largest youth public speaking competition and the fourth year running that SMA have bought the cup home.

The event was hosted by our own, Year 11 pupil Parfaite Balande, who not only won the regional final in 2021 but also qualified for the national final, placing her among the top 0.2% of young speakers in London and Essex.

Ms Perslow says "It's been an incredible year and now we are looking forward to 2023 and our hope that we will maintain our position as regional and national leaders in the field of public speaking."



Letting our light shine

By Kerryann Ramsammy, Chaplain



WE CELEBRATE LITURGIES together throughout the year but in the summer term of 2022 we held an exam liturgy for our Year 11 pupils who were about to embark on their GCSE examinations. We prayed for them, our community, and wider world, and pupils left with an exam prayer to keep with them and help during this important and often stressful time. The prayer, Footprints In The Sand reminded us that we are never alone.

The same term, our Year 7 pupils visited the beautiful Aylesford Priory, in Kent, taking part in art activities, walking, enjoying nature and being together as a community. This opportunity to spend time together allowed us to reflect on what it really means to let our light shine.

Another important highlight of the term, the Feast of the Ascension, was celebrated in school with Mass led by Father Krzysztof for our pupils and staff. Our primary and secondary Light Bearers prepared the readings and prayers and sang 'Shine Jesus Shine' with huge enthusiasm.



A TALE OF TWO PROMS

In late June as our Year 11 pupils hung up their GCSE revision cards we celebrated with a very special prom - and some incredibly smart party outfits.

by Ms Dunne, Assistant Headteacher

THE EVENING BEGAN with a barbeque and awards ceremony to recognise their achievements and accolades. Then the party kicked in with DJ Decimal spinning the decks, and a 360 degree photobooth to capture lots of special moments.

It was lovely to see Year 11 reunited and back in school looking so glamorous and finally getting a chance to relax and let their hair down after all their hard work for the GCSEs.

*For news on how Year 11 did with their GCSE results, see page 5

In July it was the turn of our fabulous Year 6 to celebrate their achievements in the primary phase and all their successes of the academic year. And, just like year 11, the effort on the fashion front was apparent and the pupils looked amazing. They spent the evening singing, dancing, and taking photographs with their friends and made memories that will last a lifetime. The evening was completed with a buffet of all their favourite foods and, of course, plenty of cake.

And the award goes to...

OUR ANNUAL END of year award ceremony saw many secondary phase pupils celebrated for their hard work and contribution to school life.

Pupils and their parents or carers were invited to watch as prizes were awarded by our special guest, Orlan Jackman a basketball player competing in the Commonwealth Games for Team GB.

There were academic prizes including the English Award in each year group, pastoral prizes for those who have made great academic progress this year and for those who have made a real contribution to the wider life of the school. Finally,

we gave out extra prizes for sport, Debate Mate, DoE, dance and the house prizes. All those nominated were richly deserved.

"You're going out a YOUNGSTER, but you've got to come back a STAR!"

LLOYD BACON 42ND STREET

Awards season continued throughout July and we also held our very special St Matthew Academy Oscars to celebrate the incredible work of the Year 7, 8 and 9 media scholars. Also lauded at the ceremony were pupils on the Year 9 and 10 GCSE Film Studies course and those

in Year 10 studying drama.

They were well supported by so many families and lots of their friends. We watched some of their amazing

media work which proved how creative and skilful our SMA students are. We were also lucky enough to be entertained by a variety of acts including a beautiful dance performance, Romeo Dalmadge's Jack Petchey Speak-Out speech and twice by the SMA Collective jazz band.



WHAT A RESULT

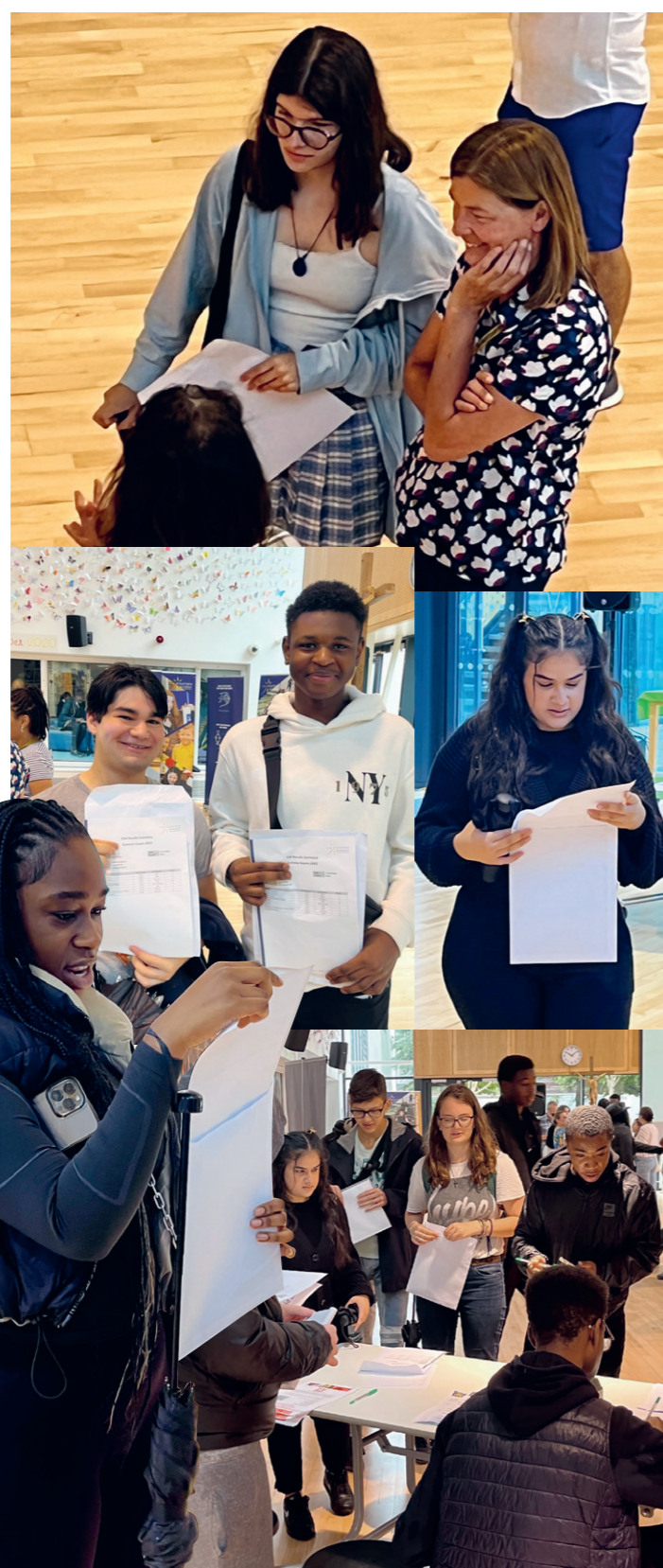
Teachers, parents and carers couldn't be prouder of the achievements of our Year 11 class of 2022 as St Matthew Academy pupils once again achieve outstanding results

by Headteacher, Miranda Baldwin

We were delighted to see smiling faces and cries of joy as the Class of 22 opened their envelopes to see the results of their GCSE exams. As the first year group to complete external GCSE exams in three years, it has been a period of challenge for everyone involved requiring lots of hard work and determination. Once again our pupils exceeded national averages in the key headline measures and we expect our progress score to put us in the top 20% of all schools in the borough.

Shekinah Abuwa opened her results with a beaming smile as she read out 5 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s and 1 Level 2 Distinction. She will be joining a number of our other pupils at St Thomas the Apostle 6th Form to study Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. When asked how she achieved such excellent results Shekinah said her science teacher inspired her and helped her to believe in herself. She said: "today has proved that anything is possible and I thank God for the gifts he gave me".

Year 11 Director of Learning, Victoria Dunne also spoke of the results: "It was such a lovely day to see pupils open their envelopes with pride. It was wonderful to see so many pupils celebrating with friends, family and teachers. Year 11 have worked so hard, and overcome so many obstacles to get to where they are today. I will never forget the class of 2022, and wish them all the very best in the future!"



MEET THREE HIGH FLYERS



HAJA KONE

made the most progress in the year group, with TWO Grade 9s, FIVE Grade 8s and THREE Grade 7s. She is currently studying biology, chemistry and maths at St Thomas the Apostle.



TANI SOYOMBO

achieved TEN Grade 9s and one Grade 8. He is now at Newstead Wood Grammar School studying economics, maths, spanish and politics.



OMEJI SHUAIBU

received EIGHT Grade 9s and one Grade 7 and is now studing A levels in biology, chemistry and maths at St Thomas the Apostle

Parent View



I'M MUM TO JASMINE ADONRI who I'm proud to say achieved some terrific GCSE results, I am immensely grateful to the teachers and staff of SMA for teaching and supporting my daughter to such a high standard. I moved Jasmine from a previous school in the summer term of Year 8 because I wasn't happy with the quality of teaching she was receiving. I knew that St Matthew Academy's standards were high.

It was one of the best decisions I have made for my child and the school and Jasmine delivered, not only did she reach her potential she surpassed all our expectations.

Ruth Adonri



SHAYLA STARTED HER JOURNEY at SMA in Reception - Bumblebee class and the staff and I worked closely together on making sure she settled into the school well.

I have seen my daughter grow more confident as the years progressed alongside her passion for football and maths. In the secondary phase she excelled despite the period of working at home due to the pandemic. Shayla revised hard and put her all into her exams. When she opened her results on results day she screamed as she had passed all her GCSEs. It was certainly a proud mum moment. Thank you SMA.

Tracey Antoine

SUPER STATISTICS

70%	Achieved a grade 9-4 in English and Maths
83%	Achieved a grade 4 or above in English Literature
75%	Achieved a grade 4 or above in Maths
74%	Achieved a grade 4 or above in 2 Sciences
100%	Achieved a grade 4 or above in: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Further Maths, Music and Physics
80% or higher	Achieved a grade 4 or higher in: Art, English Literature, French, Photography, Sport

SATS AMAZING

Our Year 6 pupils excelled in their end of phase exams

By Tayla Roostan, Year 6 teacher

WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD of the hard work and resilience shown by our Year 6 pupils last academic year. They proved that anything is possible with the right attitude and sheer determination.

After the two years of uncertainty that came with the pandemic, Year 6 were able to complete a full year in the classroom and take their SATs exams in May. All the children across the cohort did a fantastic job and made accelerated progress throughout the year. They should be incredibly proud of themselves and the commitment that they showed towards their learning and their future goals and aspirations.

Juan Sanchez, Caleb Arogundade, Natalee Daley and Henry Solaja Estevevssolaja Esteves all achieved the greater depth Standard in reading, writing and maths. These children and the entire year 6 cohort regularly went above and beyond throughout the year and worked tirelessly in school and out of school to achieve results better than national and Lewisham averages.

Alongside their fantastic academic achievements, our Year 6s really gave back to their school community as sports leaders, light bearers, class librarians and school councillors. Over 90% have continued their journey at St Matthew Academy and we look forward to watching them continue to let their lights shine in the secondary phase.

The 2021/2022 cohort of children were phenomenal and hardworking and it was a privilege to work with them. The year was full of joy, and it was an absolute pleasure to be their teacher. The sky is the limit for these pupils and we look forward to sharing in their future successes.

From top: Caleb, Jose, Natalee and Henry



WORLD OF SPORT

The academy's Sporting Brilliance pupils took part in regular training sessions in the previous academic Year

by Alistair Young

THERE WERE MASTERCLASS workshops with Professional Basketball player Orlan Jackman, a range of fitness workouts, nutrition advice, athletics competitions, leadership opportunities as well as enrichment trips to Sutcliffe Park athletics track and to Millwall football stadium. We also visited the Sky Sports Studios in July.

We caught up with two of our previous Year 7 Sporting Scholars, Cassidy O'Connor Harvey and Glory Dike to gain an insight into their sporting background and what they have enjoyed about the Sporting Brilliance programme so far.

What sports do you currently do both outside and inside school?

Cassidy I am currently at Millwall development squad and play for Dynamos Football team. At SMA I represent the school in football, basketball, athletics and cricket and really enjoy doing so.

Glory I am in the process of joining Greenwich Titans basketball team and in school I represent the girls football, netball, basketball and athletics teams.

What have you enjoyed most about the Sporting Brilliance programme this year?

Cassidy I like the fact that it is challenging and makes you work

really hard. I also enjoyed the Millwall enrichment trip and masterclass with Orlan Jackman too.

Glory I have really enjoyed learning new skills and working with people who have the same interests as me. Also competing at the Indoor athletics and Lewisham

championships as well as the basketball workshop with Orlan Jackman.

What advice would you give to any future aspiring sporting scholars?

Cassidy If you don't get in the first time don't be too disappointed with the setback. You must continue to work hard and try to make the grade.

Glory To work really hard at the sports you play and always enjoy what you do.

Who is your sporting role model and why?

Cassidy Marcus Rashford, he has a similar background to myself and he has inspired me to work hard and believe I can achieve anything I want. I also hope he signs for my favourite team Chelsea FC.

Glory Michael Jordan because he was a real winner who never gave up. He also has some setbacks at the start of his basketball journey but he still went onto to be best basketball player that ever lived. I also like Nike Air Jordans.

SPOTLIGHT ON BASKETBALL

There has been several sports and activities pupils have been involved in recently at SMA. This has ranged from rugby, football, netball, rowing, boxing and cricket and our pupils have had particular success within basketball and athletics.

BASKETBALL U13 Junior NBA Basketball Championships:

On Friday 24th June 2022 our Year 8 boys took part in the Junior NBA London Finals. The boys were excited to showcase their abilities on



one of the biggest stages for boys' basketball in the country. Our first game saw us up against the basketball powerhouse City of London Academy (COLA). We got off to a strong start and dominated on both ends of the floor, with COLA struggling to defend the height and physical abilities our boys were showing. Unfortunately, in the second half COLA came out strong and managed to pull away with a 10-point gap which we unfortunately could not recover from. This meant the boys turned their focus to the 3rd and 4th play-off game in the afternoon. Before our final game Kieron Tyler (right) took part in the shooting challenges where he



showed amazing composure and shooting technique. He took 2nd place. Unfortunately, our day didn't end with a win or a medal as we lost our final game to The John Fisher School leaving us in 4th position. The boys had a great time and are ready to get back playing next year.



STANDOUT PERFORMANCES IN THE BOROUGH ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

OVERALL TEAM POSITIONS BY YEAR GROUP:

YEAR 7

- 100M**
Joshua Kamara (2nd)
- 200M**
Jonathan Bioko (2nd)
- 800M**
Festus Challe (2nd)
- LONG JUMP**
Jonathan Bioko (1st)
- DISCUS**
Cassidy O'connor (1st)
- SHOT**
Ade Oyeleye (1st)
Emma Anderson (1st)
300m/Triple Jump
Jamil Koroma (1st)

GIRLS YEAR 7

PLACE	SCHOOL	POINTS
1st	Sydenham High	136
1st	Knights	136
3rd	Addey Stanhope	122
4th	St Matthew	104
5th	Prendergast School	82
6th	Prendergast Ladywell	76
7th	St Dunstans	60

GIRLS YEAR 8

PLACE	SCHOOL	POINTS
1st	Sydenham High	154
2nd	St Matthew	144
3rd	Addey Stanhope	128
4th	Knights	120
5th	Prendergast Ladywell	94
6th	St Dunstans	58
7th	Prendergast School	14

YEAR 8

- 800M**
Louis Holley (1st)
- LONG JUMP**
Hans Beeckman (2nd)
- DISCUS**
Micah Edwards Meade (1st)
- SHOT**
Kieron Tyler (2nd)
- HIGH JUMP**
Elijah Iyegunde. (2nd)

BOYS YEAR 7

PLACE	SCHOOL	POINTS
1st	St Matthew	182
2nd	Addey Stanhope	134
3rd	Forest Hill	128
4th	Knights	116
5th	St Dunstans	80
6th	Prendergast Ladywell	70
7th	Prendergast School	14

100M
Eriane Angwe-Nze (1st)

JAVELIN
Lauryn Campbell (1st)

300M
Ayanbanke Ojo (1st)

1500M
Sophia Minnock (2nd)

BOYS YEAR 8

PLACE	SCHOOL	POINTS
1st	Knights	172
2nd	St Matthew	164
3rd	Addey Stanhope	150
4th	Prendergast Ladywell	136
5th	Forest Hill	126
6th	St Dunstans	18
7th	Prendergast School	14

ENRICHING LIVES

Our children in Primary last term had many truly memorable learning experiences to complement all the learning they do in the classroom.

Ms J Chick, Head of Primary Phase

OUR AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Programme is designed to offer unique opportunities to develop communication skills, foster talents and refine their creative and sporting talents. All clubs are run by our talented staff who use their specialist knowledge and skills to provide a worthwhile experience for the children that attend.

Science Club, African Drumming, Cooking Club, Lego Club, Messy Play, Sign Language, Choir and Rounders Club are just some of what's on offer. We are privileged to be able to utilise the fabulous facilities the school has



to offer and using the forest school, DT labs, sports pitches and catering rooms means the experience for the children is made even more impactful.

At the end of each term all pupils complete a 'Pupil Voice' questionnaire on the clubs they have attended and we use their feedback to choose the clubs for the following term.

A ROMAN INVASION

The Romans came to conquer St Matthew Academy when Year 3 dressed up for their Roman Day experience. A fierce battle ensued in the drama studio as pupils re-enacted the Battle of Colchester. The pupils watched a virtual workshop from the London Mithraeum Museum and were enthralled by the artefacts that were delivered.



BEST FOOT FORWARD

AS A PRIMARY PHASE we ensure that we commemorate key events throughout the academic year to deepen the children's learning and celebrate as a community. The Reptile Show for year 1, 2, 3 and 6 was a real highlight for all involved. Many children had never seen a bearded dragon or python, let

alone held one. The children were far braver than the staff in handling the reptiles.

In the spring every pupil proudly donned their special Daily Mile 10th Anniversary t-shirt to walk, run and skip the one mile course around the playground. Promoting healthy minds and healthy

bodies is key to ensuring children understand the impact of exercise on their health and well-being. It was delightful to see all the children taking part and the younger children spurring on the older ones. Everyone completed the mile, and a well-deserved rest was in order afterwards.

A NUMBERS GAME

Maths is a key life skill and one that is used frequently in our everyday lives, so we endeavour to instil in our children that everyone is a mathematician. During National Numeracy Day we continued to bring maths alive for our pupils and put their skills and knowledge to the test. Year 6 were given a budget of £500 to spend on renovating the outdoor area as part of their Year 6 legacy project. The creativity and accurate accounting from our Year 6 mathematicians was extremely impressive. Year 1 were given a baking challenge and had lots of fun weighing out and measuring ingredients for their cakes.

CLASS TRIPS

This term we have been delighted that we are able to give our children opportunities to ignite their passion for learning outside of the classroom by taking them on school trips. Reception class went on their very first school trip to Mudchute farm and looked adorable in their yellow vests as they left school. Luckily, the weather was good to them, and they loved feeding the animals. Year 1 visited the Florence Nightingale Museum and were amazed to hear how hospitals have changed over time and the challenges that Florence faced. As usual our children let their lights shine and were fabulous ambassadors for the school.

PUPIL VOICE WHAT THEY SAY

Juan – Year 6 'I love Cooking Club as I really enjoy making new recipes with friends and eating what I have made is the best part. This term I have been attending African Drumming and I am pleased that I can learn a new skill. Being able to play different rhythms and perform them is what I enjoy most.'

them grow. I learn a lot about nature.'

William – Year 5 'I go to Lego Club as I love building and creating models. I lead and support the younger children with their models, it is exciting to see what we can create.'



Ferninand and Haru – Reception 'We go to Messy Play Club as we love doing messy things like creating pictures with wiggly jelly and noodles.'

Martin – Year 2 'In Science Club we have been looking at animals with paws and claws. We were amazed to find out how far a cheetah can run. Last term we went to the Forest School to learn about plants.'