

## Message from the Senior Leadership Team - Time to shine!

This half term has flown by and we have so much to celebrate and more to look forward to in the next half term. Pupils in Primary spent a joyous afternoon in the Friday sunshine commemorating the King's coronation with a tea party. I hope that every family across the Academy enjoyed the bank holiday weekend and made the most of the glorious weather. Our secondary pupils have had the opportunity to take part in many extra curricular activities—sporting events, trips and clubs which all enable them to fully participate in our school life of our Academy.

Over the next month pupils across the country are sitting exams whether they be SATs or GCSEs. It is a time for our pupils to shine and showcase all they have learnt. Teachers, teaching assistants and pupils have all worked incredibly hard and we know that they will do their very best. Parents are doing their utmost to support children in coping with the inevitable nerves and apprehension that comes at this time of year. Here are some tips to help you and your child successfully manage exam season:

- Getting to bed at a decent time and having enough sleep is vital
- Avoid screen time and limit the use of phones late into the evening
- Eat properly. Have a balanced dinner and drink plenty of water
- Take a break from revising by doing some exercise and keeping active
- Take advantage of the breakfast club provided for Year 6 and Year 11 pupils during their scheduled exams
- Revise in small chunks and only practise what you do not know
- Speak to your teachers about areas for development and the best methods to retain and cement knowledge
- Be aware of your mental health during this time. If you are finding things hard then speak to a teacher.
- Remember that everyone feels nervous and that it is perfectly natural.

Finally, we wish all our pupils the very best of luck and have complete faith that they will all let their lights shine.

**Ms J Chick**  
Head of Primary

## Prayer and Reflection

In the Catholic Church the month of May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother. Devotion to Mary is an important part of the Catholic identity as she is an example of a committed "Yes" to the will of God as seen in the Magnificat written in Luke's gospel. Because of the devotion to her, many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of their life, as any child does with his mother. To help us she always points us to her son Jesus. The Blessed Mother prays with us and for us in our times of sorrow and joy. She is a true model of discipleship who we can look to for inspiration on how to love God deeply and how to fearlessly follow his will for our lives.

*Holy Mary, help those in need, give strength to the weak, comfort the sorrowful, pray for God's people, assist the clergy and intercede for the religious. Mary may all who seek your help, experience your unfailing love and protection. Mary Queen of Heaven, Queen of Peace, Mother Most Holy, pray for us. Amen*



# Primary News

## Year 3

One of the recent highlights for year 3 was an athletics trip where the children showed off their incredible sports ability. A stand out moment was when one of the children lost her shoe during the 400m run and still ended up being one of the fastest in the race!

In Maths the class created their own pizza parlour and practised using fractions to add toppings to laminated pizzas. In literacy the children have written a balanced argument on whether swimming pools should be used on buses and had some wonderful thoughts including concerns over commuters dropping crisp packets in the water. There was also concerns over passengers slipping over in the aisles!



Finally in Science the children have had the opportunity to conduct numerous scientific investigations by testing the strength of magnets on various classroom equipment and plotting directions in the school playground using compasses.

## Coronation Party

Lots of fun was had at our Coronation tea party!





# Secondary Trips

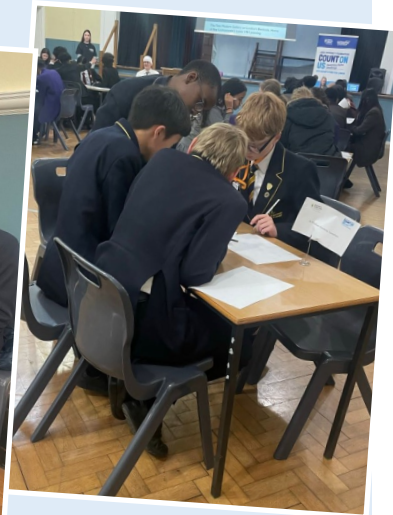
## Trinity Laban Dance Trip

Gifted and Talented pupils from across year 7 and year 8 were given the opportunity to work alongside a leading dance artist at Trinity Laban in Deptford. The pupils enjoyed a tour of the award winning building before being put through their paces in an energetic creative contemporary dance workshop as part of Trinity Laban's Centre for Advanced Training Scheme. This highly acclaimed government funded programme aims to provide young people with the skills needed to develop their talents and love of the creative process, serving as a professional pathway for those wishing to follow a career in dance.



## Maths Challenge

SMA got through to the finals of the Count on Us Maths Challenge for the second year running! Really proud of the newly formed Year 7 and 8 team and their coaches Miss Bassan and some of our Year 10 finalists from last year.



## Duke of Edinburgh

A big well done to our Year 9 pupils who embarked on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Award! The expedition included a 3 hour group navigation walk around the Greenwich Peninsula.



# Secondary News

## Year 11 Creative exams

As we edge closer to exam season Year 11 pupils in Art, Textiles and Photography have had a successful couple of weeks completing their exam component. The theme this year was "Lock" many pupils found this a challenge at first, as it initially conjured up dark, negative thoughts as a starting point, however as the preparatory work continued pupils started to apply their own personal responses which enabled a range of interesting outcomes to be realised.

We hope that friends and family can come and support the pupils, by viewing their work and seeing the creative journey they have been on over the past two years. The exhibition will be launched at the end of June, for all to see their wonderful work.



## Year 9: Art and Design challenges

The Year 9 curriculum focuses heavily on pupils being able to participate in design challenges through live projects. The V&A museum puts on a challenge to schools each year. Design and Technology pupils took part in the V&A innovate challenge, where they were able to engage in an ergonomic problem-solving task, designing products for people with disabilities. Feedback from pupils were positive, many found the experience rewarding with one pupil stating, "It was good because we understood ways that designers would create products for disabled people, which help some adjust and have a better life" (Miqdad Ekerin)



Several pupils have had their work entered for a competition with the Courtauld Institute of Art at Somerset house. They have been exploring the work of Édouard Manet, developing their skills using oil pastels, and focusing on composition. Well done to Evaluna, Micah, Jolene, Sophia, Pablo and Maria for producing such beautiful renditions.

## Year 10: Creative cooking sessions

Creative cooking sessions have been delivered to Year 10 pupils, the Food Preparation and Nutrition class have recently worked on their Mock NEA project, where they have been looking at the functional and chemical properties of pasta. Pupils have explored and experimented with both artificial and natural food colouring and flavours to enhance their dishes. Some pupils opted for traditional flavoured pasta such as basil, whilst other explored the idea of flavouring their pasta with vanilla. The experience has been very successful and enabled groups to understand the expectation required for their upcoming GCSE coursework project.

We look forward to what wonderful work the year 10 pupils will complete during summer term 2, when their final NEA coursework contexts are released.





# PE News

Key Stage 3 Football has been thriving this year, with two of our teams reaching the latter stages of cup competitions in Year 8 and 9. Year 8 reached the Semi-Final of the Blackheath Cup, however after a competitive match they lost after extra time. Year 9 are due to play their quarterfinal in the coming week and will hopefully book their place in the Inner London Cup semi-final.

Netball has grown enormously over the last term with over 40 girls across year 7-10 regularly attending. The Year 7 and 9 teams have had a mixture of results. With Year 7 securing wins over Sedgehill Academy, Sydenham School and Prendergast Ladywell. Year 9 were able to beat Eltham Hill A & B teams, but then had some challenging games against Sydenham School's KS4 team and Thomas Tallis's Year 10 team. The year 10s showed great improvement in training and across their games, with a number of pupils representing the school in a netball game for the first time. Year 8 have been most impressive managing to go unbeaten, winning all A and B team matches, including a game against Thomas Tallis Year 9s.

Athletics is now in full swing, our first competition took place last week against other Lewisham Schools. There were many excellent performances but at present we are still awaiting the final results. We are hopeful that a number of pupils will be selected to represent Lewisham at the School Games following this competition. We also have the London Cup competition coming up across the next 2 weeks.







# LITERACY CORNER

## Library News

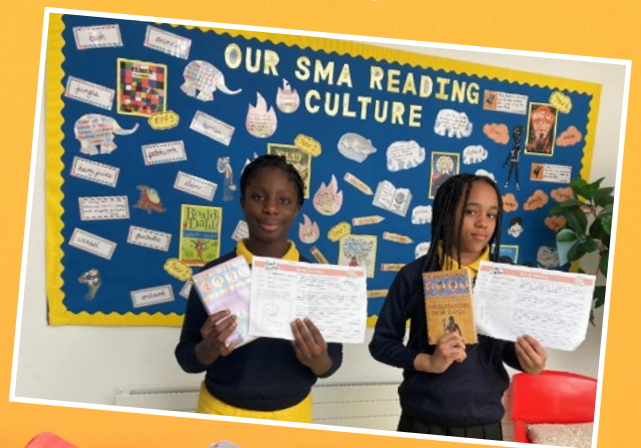
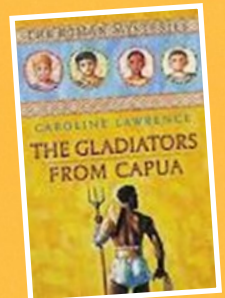
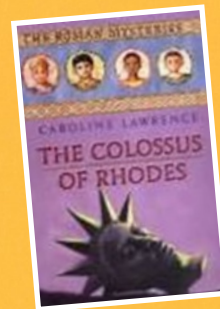
In the LRC this week, we have been celebrating the King's coronation. Students were thrilled to see a new addition to the extremely popular Manga section. And come and check out some of our classic books highlighted in this beautiful new display.

## Book Reviews

Our year 6 reviewers reviewed two books in The Roman Mysteries series by the author Caroline Lawrence.

Deneise reviewed 'The Gladiators from Capua'. This book is about when the Emperor announces a hundred days of games and the games are to celebrate the opening of the Flavian amphitheatre. Three friends are searching for their friend Jonathan and their search leads them straight to the games. My favourite part is when Nubia is talking about her lost friend, Jonathan because she gets very emotional. Nubia is my favourite character as she is sensitive and caring. I gave this book 3.5 stars.

Joyce reviewed 'The Colossus of Rhodes'. Lupus is trying to find out if his mother is still alive and he is also eager to fulfil his uncle's dying wish. He sets sail with his friends to the Greek islands to try and do this but the journey proves very dangerous. Lupus is my favourite character because he is always very determined. I only rated this book 2 stars.







# BOOK REVIEWS

For KS1 our book reviewers reviewed two fairy tales retold by Ian Beck.

Alleyan reviewed 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. The story is about a man who lives with his wife and they are shoemakers. However, they didn't make much money until something good happened. My favourite part of the story was when the man paid lots of money for the shoes and he gave the shoemaker a lot of money. 3.5 stars.

Joyce reviewed 'Chicken Licken'. This is a story about a chicken who believes the sky is falling down and runs to tell everyone. My favourite part of the story was when chicken says the sky is falling down, because it is so, so silly. Chicken Licken is my favourite character because he is so gullible. 3 stars.

Deneise reviewed 'The Princess and the Pea'. This is a story about a prince who travels the world to meet a princess but none of the girls he meets seem right. One stormy night, Phoebe turns up at his door in rags claiming she is a princess. The prince is fascinated by her, so the queen comes up with a plan to put a pea under all her many mattresses. If Phoebe feels the pea under all those mattresses, she must be a real princess. My favourite character was Phoebe as she seemed kind. I gave this book 3.5 stars.



## Secondary

'The Girl of Ink and Stars' is a fantasy story about Isabella the cartographer's daughter. Isabella must save the island from Yote an evil demon. Her friend disappears into the Forgotten Territories and she goes to look for Lupe, her friend. As the cartographer's daughter, she has the ink maps and her knowledge of the stars to help her find her way across this island. She realises that her mission is in fact to help save the island.



# Going Above and Beyond!

## Primary phase

*Pupils with the most achievement points during April*

### Reception - Ladybirds

Olivia OGBUKU

Jeremiah LEE

Mateo SANDOVAL GAVIRIA

### Year 1 - Dragonfly

Aissatou DIALLO

Carlos BRITO CASTRO

Daniel JARZABEK

### Year 2 Butterfly

Amaya WATSON-KHAN

Ianna WRIGHT

Daniel AGBAROLI CLARKE

### Year 3 - Cheetahs

Deborah OMASOMBO

Abiola SAMSON

Andrea GIANNONE

### Year 4 - Tigers

Cyril OIGBOCHIE

Thiago JACOME ASQUI

Doyinsola FOLASIRE

### Year 5 - Lions

Matia DALEY

Raheem HOLLYWOOD-DAVIS

Bella CODREA

### Year 6 - Leopards

Id TAYLOR-BAILEY

John ASANTE

Zainab DIALLO

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



# Staff Stars



*“For being a welcoming and supportive Head of Department.”*



*“Being a fabulous Child Protection officer, helping the pupils in more ways than we can imagine and being an amazing person.”*



# 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



**Mr Gunningham**  
Assistant Headteacher



**Ms Dryden**  
Child Protection Officer



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.