

## Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As we embark on this brand-new year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt wishes for a year filled with growth, joy, and success. The start of a new year is like turning the page of a book, presenting us with endless possibilities and opportunities for learning and self-discovery.

In the wise words of Pope Francis, *"Every new year is a gift. In the face of the unknown, we need not fear. Rather, let us open our hearts to hope and embrace the beauty that unfolds before us."* This quote beautifully encapsulates the spirit of the new year and reminds us that each day is an opportunity to cherish, learn, and make a positive impact.

I am excited about the journey that lies ahead. Together, we will explore new realms of knowledge, overcome challenges, and celebrate our achievements. Let's approach the upcoming months with enthusiasm, determination, and a commitment to excellence.

Remember, the classroom is not just a place for academic learning but also a space for personal growth and the development of lifelong skills. Let us support each other, celebrate diversity, and create an environment where every pupil feels valued and empowered.

May this new year bring you moments of inspiration, resilience, and kindness. Embrace the opportunities for learning and discovery that come your way, and let your unique light shine brightly. I believe in each one of you and look forward to a year filled with shared successes, laughter, and meaningful connections.

Wishing you a wonderful new year filled with endless possibilities!

**Ms V Dunne**  
Assistant Headteacher

## Prayer and Reflection

In last week's Gospel we heard John speaking to two of his followers and pointing Jesus out to them saying "Look, there is the Lamb of God." John points Jesus out to his followers because through the intervention of the Holy Spirit, he recognised his divinity. John also knew that being the Lamb of God, Jesus was the one who deserved to be followed. In fact John himself preached this whilst baptising in the Jordan although he did not know him yet.

Today, as we ponder John's words, we are able to see them more clearly. Jesus is the One Who gave His life on the Cross for the remission of sins. He is the One Whom we now receive sacramentally in Holy Communion as that "Lamb of God." It is His flesh and His blood, poured out for us, that we now consume with the deepest reverence and love. When people see or meet Jesus, their life is never the same. For example, Simon's name was changed to Cephas, the magi went back by a different route and Zacchaeus stopped being a greedy tax collector. The message here is clear. Being in the company of Jesus learning from him, getting to know him and growing in relationship with him changes our lives. Jesus releases us from the shame of our brokenness and brings us to new life in him. John shows us who Jesus really is and leaves it up to us to respond.

*Dear Jesus we thank you for being the Lamb of God, the light of the world, the good shepherd to each and every one of us. We pray that you will give us the courage to follow you and we ask that when we encounter you we would have the resolution to learn from you and grow in you. Amen.*





# Christmas at SMA





# PE News

In the PE department the pupils have hit the ground running in their respective sports.

The football and netball teams started the year for us on the front foot and we have seen an improvement in performances across all age groups. The Year 11 girls started the year off with a thumping win in the rain, away at John Roan and the Year 7 girls recently competed in the Millwall community tournament. Year 7 & 8 boys are showing their class as the two remaining teams still in their cup competitions having beaten rival schools. The Year 8 team recently won 4-1 against St Michaels College and the Year 7 boys won 6-0 against John Roan.

Our netball teams performed well in the Lewisham tournaments at the start of the year with the following results; Year 7 - 4th, Year 8 - 2nd, Year 9 - 2nd, Year 10 - 3rd. All teams have started the year off well with some closes results, both wins and losses, in their league and friendly games we hope to improve this with our fixtures in this term.

Our most emphatic result of the term has come in our indoor athletics teams. In December we took four teams (Year 7 boys and girls & Year 8 girls and boys) to the Borough finals and won each event! This means that all Indoor Athletics in Lewisham will be represented by SMA pupils in the London finals in March! A fantastic achievement for all the pupils that were involved and trained so hard.





# Primary News

Arts and crafts club have been busy transforming wooden spoons.



Year 6 have been loving their music lessons!



Cooking club have been making cooking tasty tacos!





# House Points Update

Week beginning 15/1/24

## Total Achievement Points

1<sup>st</sup> – Teresa: 44223  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Mandela: 18583  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Romero: 18315

## Attendance:

1<sup>st</sup> – Mandela  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Teresa  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Romero

## Overall House Points

1st - Teresa: 1194  
2nd - Mandela: 1161  
3rd - Romero: 1092

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a fantastic break and are rejuvenated for an amazing year 2024 ahead. As we embark on this new journey, let's embrace the opportunities for growth, learning, and, of course, fun!

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming sport house event that promises to be an unforgettable experience for each and every pupil. This event is a chance to showcase your talents, build teamwork, and create lasting memories with your fellow pupils.

Whether you're a seasoned participant or a first-timer, remember that every contribution counts. Your unique skills and enthusiasm are the building blocks of success, and together, we can make this house event the best one yet! More information will be given soon!

Exciting news – our dedicated pupil leaders have been hard at work planning activities for the year! Keep an ear out for announcements and be ready to spot the posters displayed around the school detailing the fantastic events they have in store for you.





# Going Above and Beyond!

## Primary phase

*Pupils with the most achievement points during the month of December*

### Reception - Ladybirds

Abdullah AKINKUNMI

Jerely AGUILERA RAMÍREZ

Masha CHURAKOVA

### Year 1 - Dragonfly

Amya DAVIS-ROCHESTER

Nicolo CAMMARASANA

Sebastian DE ORNELAS MEDINA

### Year 2 - Butterfly

Ian FARINTO MARTINEZ

Korede CALFOS

Maya MARGAI

### Year 3 - Cheetahs

Daniel WHYTE

Alan DOAN

Amaya WATSON-KHAN

### Year 4 - Tigers

Anne Marie France NTOUMBA

Andrea GIANNONE

Samuel BA

### Year 5 - Lions

Thiago JACOME ASQUI

Aiden THOMAS-SALBURG

Daniel KANGA

### Year 6 - Leopards

Bella CODREA

Matia DALEY

Valentine CHAZA

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



# Staff Stars

Ms Bryan



*"For being an wonderful mentor."*

Ms Beferoura



*"For assisting all pupils."*

Mr Fouabi



*"For being an excellent head of department."*

Ms Mizon



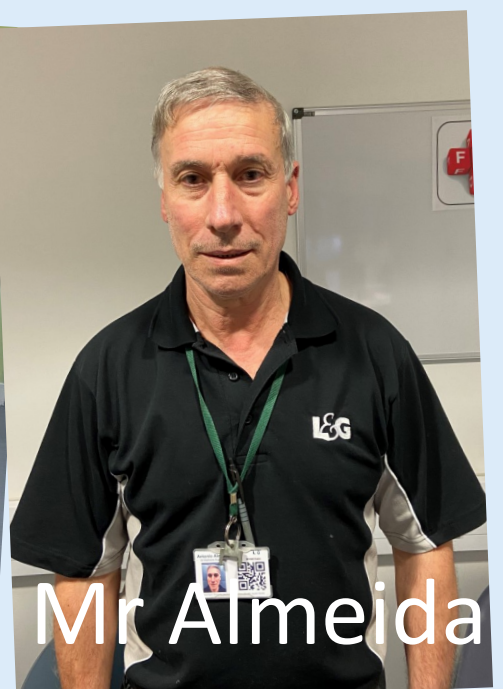
*"For leading an excellent training session."*

Mr Bradley



*"For all his work, during year 11 mocks."*

Mr Almeida



*"For always being friendly & working efficiently."*



# Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Chick supported by Mr Gunningham, Mr Magar, Ms Dunne and our Child Protection Officer is Ms Dryden. 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](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

## Term Dates 2023/2024

### Spring Term Dates

**Tuesday 9 January 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024**

**Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February**

**Monday 19 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024**

**Easter Holiday: Friday 29 March 2024 to Friday 12 April 2024**

### Summer Term Dates

**Monday 15 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024**

**Half Term: Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May**

**Monday 3 June 2024 to Tuesday 23 July 2024**

### Autumn Term Dates 2024/2025

**Tuesday 3 September - Year 7 pupils only**

**Wednesday 4 September to Friday 25 October**

**Half Term: Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November**

**Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December**

**Christmas Holiday: Monday 21 December to Monday 6 January**

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

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)



NATIONAL POPCORN DAY

19TH JANUARY

Flavoured Popcorn

Wasabi

Cajun

Bombay

Toffee Popcorn Sundae





CHINESE NEW YEAR



COMING SOON

9TH FEBRUARY





JANUARY 2024 - MARCH 2024

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## SECONDARY PARENT NEWSLETTER

### FEATURED THIS TERM:

Welcome back

Festive Update

Seasonal Recipe



### ***Welcome from all of us at Olive Dining***

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break and that you are ready for the Spring Term ahead. We certainly are!

You have brand new menus, exciting theme days and seasonal recipes which you will receive each month!

We have a fantastic choice of menus which are run in 3-weekly cycles. Each of our menus have been especially created with your school in mind and offer exciting and varied hot dishes, packed full of flavour and nutrition.

We love to hear feedback on the service we provide so please do get in touch by sending any questions or comments to:

[enquiries@olivedining.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@olivedining.co.uk)

or call our head office on: 01959 564 700

We are also on Instagram and Twitter so do follow the online Olive Dining family where you can stay updated with all our latest news and activities!





JANUARY 2024 - MARCH 2024

# FESTIVE UPDATE

## SECONDARY PARENT NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to share with you some photos and special moments from our Christmas lunches. We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all the wonderful feedback we received - our teams really appreciate the comments and we are so pleased to hear both students and staff enjoyed the festivities, food and service.





JANUARY 2024 - MARCH 2024

# FESTIVE UPDATE

PORTIONS OF TURKEY FOR DECEMBER 2023	60,000
PORTIONS OF ROAST POTATOES	58,000
PORTIONS OF ROAST POTATOES IN NOVEMBER	50,000





# FESTIVE UPDATE

## SECONDARY PARENT NEWSLETTER



**St Bonaventure's** @stbons · Jan 5

A big thank you to our Dining staff who make delicious meals for our staff and students to eat.

The Christmas dinner was lovely and we are so appreciative of their work!

@OliveDiningLtd

#DiningStaff #ChristmasDinner #AppreciationPost ❤️



**St Matthew Academy** @StMattAcad · Dec 19, 2023

Thank you to our fab catering team @OliveDiningLtd Christmas Lunch for almost 1000 went down a treat!

I love seeing Xmas lunches at schools, so festive

Thank you, it was. The kitchen staff did a great job! @OliveDiningLtd

@OliveDiningLtd Christmas lunch is open for business!!

Staff are serving and singing!



**Hammersmith Academy** @HammersmithAcad · Dec 15, 2023

It's feeling a lot like Christmas! We had our #ChristmasJumperDay today along with our #ChristmasDinner to raise money for @savechildrenuk. A huge thank you to @OliveDiningLtd for putting on a fabulous spread and to everyone who donated what they thought their lunch was worth.



**Woodcote High School** @woodcotehigh · Dec 13, 2023

All set here for our WHS Festive Christmas Lunch Extravaganza! 🎉🎅

Thank you to Head Chef, Colin, and all the elves at @OliveDiningLtd for creating such a wonderful feast! 🍽️

#WeAreWoodcote #ASPIRE #ChristmasDinner

# SPRING TERM

## SECONDARY PARENT NEWSLETTER

### 3-WEEKLY MAIN MENUS

**Week 1 Menu:**

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>MAIN</b> BEEF MEXBALL TAGINE WITH SPICED COUS COUS (ICE, E, G, M, P, S, S)	<b>CHICKEN CHOW MEIN</b> (E, G, S, P)	<b>ROAST BEEF RUSTIC POTATOES &amp; ROAST GRAVY</b>	<b>CHICKEN PASTA WITH LEMON &amp; GARLIC GREENS</b> (ICE)	<b>FISH &amp; CHIPS WITH FRESH WHITE MUSHY PEAS &amp; HOMEMADE TARTARE SAUCE</b> (E, F, G, M, S, S)
<b>VEGGIE</b> PILAFEL ROASTED VEGETABLES & COUS COUS (G, M, P, S, S, S)	<b>VEGETABLE CHOW MEIN</b> (E, G, S, S)	<b>VEGETABLE SPRING ROLLS WITH EGGFRIED RICE &amp; SWEET &amp; SOUR SAUCE</b> (ICE, E, G, M, P, S, S, S)	<b>ROASTED VEGETABLE PASTA WITH LEMON &amp; GARLIC DRESSING</b> (ICE)	<b>LOADED BEAN CHILI FRIES</b> (P, F)
ALL DISHES SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEG OR CHEF SALAD				
<b>PUD</b> LEMON & WHITE CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE (E, G, M, S, S)	<b>CHOCOLATE &amp; BANANA SPONGE WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE</b> (E, G, M, S)	<b>WINTER FRUIT CUMBULE &amp; CUSTARD</b> (G, M, S)	<b>STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING WITH BUTTERSCOTCH SAUCE</b> (E, G, M, S)	<b>EVE'S PUDDING &amp; CUSTARD</b> (E, G, M, S)
<b>STREET</b> BUFFALO CHICKEN BURGER WITH LETTUCE & COOL MAYO (E, G, M, S, S)	<b>NAAN QIDLOCK BEEF KEMA</b> (G, M, S)	<b>CHICKEN CHANA WRAP HOT PEPPER SAUCE WITH CUCUMBER RELISH</b> (ICE)	<b>SMOKEY BEEF BURRITO</b> (G, M, S)	<b>PRI PRI CHICKEN LEGS &amp; CHIPS</b>
<b>PASTA POPIA</b> TOMATO & BASIL PASTA (ICE, G)	<b>MAC AND CHEESE</b> (G, M, S)	<b>ROASTED VEGETABLE &amp; TOMATO PASTA</b> (G)	<b>CREAMY PESTO PASTA</b> (G, M, S)	<b>CHEF'S CHOICE</b>

**Week 2 Menu:**

THURS	FRI
<b>BEEF CHILI CON CARNE MEXO</b> STEAMED RICE (ICE, E, G, M, S)	<b>FISH &amp; CHIPS WITH FRESH WHITE MUSHY PEAS &amp; HOMEMADE TARTARE SAUCE</b> (E, F, G, M, S, S)
<b>VEGGIE CHILI CONCARNE &amp; GUACAMOLE</b> (ICE, M, S)	<b>ROASTED VEGETABLE FLUTTERBUSH PIZZA</b> (G, M, S)
ALL DISHES SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEG OR CHEF SALAD	
<b>PUD</b> WINTERFRUIT CUMBULE WITH CUSTARD (G, M, S)	<b>CARROT CAKE TRAYBAKE WITH FROSTING</b> (E, G, M, S, S)
<b>STREET</b> CHICKEN VEGAB MEXO GARLIC SAUCE, PITA BREAD & CRUNCHY SALAD (E, G, M, S, S)	<b>JAMAICAN JEN CHICKEN LEGS &amp; CHIPS</b>
<b>PASTA POPIA</b> TOMATO & BASIL PASTA (ICE, G)	<b>MAC AND CHEESE</b> (G, M, S)

**Week 3 Menu:**

TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>CLASSIC BEEF LASAGNE WITH SARCEL BREAD &amp; CARROT SALAD</b> (E, G, M, P, S, S)	<b>SAUSAGE MASH &amp; ONION GRAVY</b> (ICE, G, M, P, S, S)	<b>BBQ CHICKEN WITH RICE &amp; PEAS</b> (S, S)	<b>BBQ CHICKEN WITH RICE &amp; PEAS</b> (S, S)
<b>VEGAN VEGGIE KOPTA WITH CHILI SAUCE &amp; SALAD</b> (G)	<b>SUPER GREEN AVOCADO SALAD TOMATO SAUCE, HOMEMADE PESTO &amp; PARMESAN</b> (ICE, G)	<b>CHICKEN VEGETABLE CURRY WITH RICE &amp; PEAS</b> (ICE, E, F)	<b>BBQ CHICKEN WITH RICE &amp; PEAS</b> (S, S)
ALL DISHES SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEG OR CHEF SALAD			
<b>PUD</b> JAM & COCONUT TRAYBAKE (E, G, M, S, S, S)	<b>ORANGE &amp; BERRY CHOCOLATE CAKE</b> (G, M, S)	<b>LEMON &amp; POPPYSEED CAKE WITH LEMON SAUCE</b> (E, G, M, S)	<b>CHOCOLATE ORANGE CAKE WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE</b> (E, G, M, S)
<b>STREET</b> MINI CHICKEN WURSTER WHITE LINDEN WITH PICKLES & CORIANDER (G, S, S)	<b>MINI CHICKEN WURSTER WHITE LINDEN WITH PICKLES &amp; CORIANDER</b> (G, S, S)	<b>BBQ CHICKEN GIGGS, TOASTED PITTA, GARLIC YOGHURT &amp; CRUNCHY SALAD</b> (G, M, S)	<b>BBQ CHICKEN GIGGS, TOASTED PITTA, GARLIC YOGHURT &amp; CRUNCHY SALAD</b> (G, M, S)
<b>PASTA POPIA</b> TOMATO & BASIL PASTA (ICE, G)	<b>MAC AND CHEESE</b> (G, M, S)	<b>CREAMY PESTO PASTA</b> (G, M, S)	<b>CHEF'S CHOICE</b>

Our menus run in 3-weekly cycles, offering a large variety of different dishes and flavours, which suit everyone's tastes. We also have pod menus and 6th form menus!

### THEME DAYS COMING UP...

We host special themed events and days once a month, which sometimes coincide with key dates in the year. They are a fun way to add some extra excitement around the menus for our students!

**NATIONAL POPCORN DAY**

**COMING SOON**

**19TH JANUARY**

**Olive Tree**

**CHINESE NEW YEAR**

**COMING SOON**

**9TH FEBRUARY**

**Olive Tree**

**EASTER**

**COMING SOON**

**25TH MARCH**

**Olive Tree**



# EASY FAJITAS

## SECONDARY PARENT NEWSLETTER



**SERVES: 4**

**PREP: 20**

**COOK: 20**

### INGREDIENTS

#### FAJITAS

- 1 medium onion
- 1 red pepper
- 1 green pepper
- 2 chicken breast
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 4 flour tortillas
- 150ml yoghurt
- 50g grated cheese
- 1 avocado

#### SALSA

- 1/2 red onion
- 2 tomatoes
- 1/4 coriander

### METHOD

- Slice onions and peppers
- Slice chicken into strips and marinade in paprika, onion and 1/2 lime
- Leave to marinade for 30 minutes
- Make the salsa - dice red onion, tomatoes and chipped coriander, then add 1/2 lime juice
- Place pan on high heat
- Add a drizzle of oil then fry the onions, peppers and chicken
- Stir every 30 seconds
- Cook for 8 minutes until chicken is golden brown and cooked through
- Warm tortillas in microwave or a dry frying pan
- Serve family style with bowls of yoghurt, sliced avocado, lime wedges and salsa