

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Tuesday 8 marked the global celebration of Safer Internet day. The theme for this year was 'All fun and games?' and the focus was on exploring respect and relationships online. From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet day 2022 celebrates young peoples' role in creating a safer internet space, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content or interacting with their friends and peers.

As the theme implies these internet platforms aren't always all fun. So the emphasis is all about challenging young people to foster supportive relationships and respectful communities, whilst equipping them with the skills they need to keep themselves and others safe in these spaces.

Much as we as parents, carers and educational staff want to protect our young people, we have to admit that most times they know a lot more about these platforms than we ever will. And as we approach another half term break there is the worry of what they might be getting up to while they are at home. But rather than throwing out everything internet related, as these platforms do have their benefits, here are some tips for all families to try this break:

- Have a conversation without judgment about the games they play, videos they watch and take a genuine interest—you could learn a lot!
- Educate yourself on their favourite apps and games with websites like 'Common Sense Media' or 'The Family Gaming Database' so you can help if they need to block someone, report an issue or even set up their privacy setting.
- Reassure your child that whatever happens online, you are there to support them. Encourage them to talk to a trusted adult as soon as possible whether it comes in the form of a simple friend request, an online message or asking for personal information or images.

With the right guidance our young people will grow with the confidence to navigate the internet safely and protect themselves and others.

Mrs S Wickliffe
Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

Racial Justice Sunday 13th February 2022

The Archdiocese of Southwark is encouraging us to mark the day by praying the words of Pope Francis taken from his encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* – on fraternity and social friendship:

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.

Amen.



SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2022

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL SOUTHWARK

MASS 10AM PLEASE BE SEATED BY 9.45AM

CELEBRANT: ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON

COME AND CELEBRATE RACIAL JUSTICE
SUNDAY WITH THE DIOCESE

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER
MASS IN THE AMIGO HALL



RC SOUTHWARK

racialjusticecommission@rcaos.org.uk

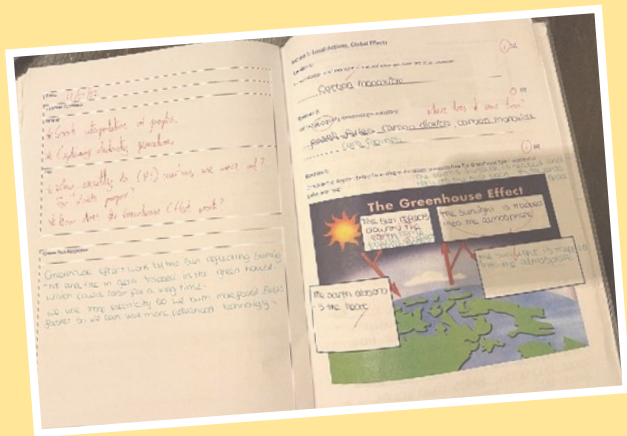
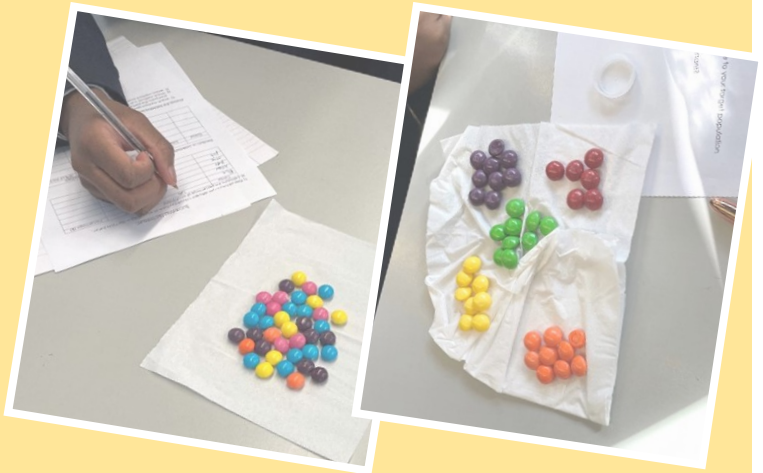


Secondary Phase

Geography

Year 11's have been having fun with skittles this week in Geography - using them to look at the different types of sampling techniques, and when they would be appropriate to use as part of their work on the Component 3 section of their GCSE Geography exam; how does stratified sampling work? Why would you use systematic sampling? What are the problems of random sampling? These are all important concepts to understand as part of fieldwork in school and beyond. Year 11 have then followed this up by continuing with their write-ups, which they've really thrown themselves into towards the end of the week.

A great cross-curricular statistical link with Maths as well. And a yummy treat at the end too!



Meanwhile, Year 9 have been receiving their ranking papers back, and reviewing their performance with some exam analysis. Key activities have looked at gaps in knowledge and revision, correct answers, time management, and exam technique - especially when it comes to extended writing and essay style questions. Pupils have taken an active interest in how they did, and annotating their answers with Green Pen - preparing themselves for future ranking assessments, and eventually their GCSEs!

English

This half term, pupils have been enjoying learning about a range of topics in English; from Year 9 pupils studying Charles Dickens' classic novella, 'A Christmas Carol', through to Year 10 analysing various poems linked to themes of Power and Conflict. Year 11 have been working hard, in particular when revising the Shakespeare text 'Much Ado About Nothing' and have also been fine tuning their skills when analysing poetry in preparation for their summer exams.

Year 8 have been reading Charlotte Bronte's 'Jane Eyre', and pupils have been getting to grips with this challenging text, whilst engaging in interactive tasks, including creating their own storyboards of key events using Chromebooks in lessons.

Year 7 have been focusing on a unit called 'Identity and Belonging', which has generated widespread discussion in lessons and encouraged some fantastic written work. Some Year 7 pupils even reimagined a poem by Benjamin Zephaniah called 'The British' (written in the form of a recipe to encourage fairness and tolerance in society) and created their own version linked to SMA!



Primary Phase

Year 1

With Spring arriving, Year 1's daffodils are growing nicely which will keep the two snowdrops company. We have been busy planting a large variety of seeds in other planters and we are looking forward to seeing them all grow.

Children have been working hard with Mr Saunders in Forest School, talking about nocturnal and diurnal animals. They have been on winter scavenger hunts and playing 'who am I?'

We are really enjoying our Collective Worship with Evie leading the prayer on this occasion, we brought in flowers and tea lights to use as a focus point, we are excited about starting Amazing Grace as our new English learning on Monday.



Year 2

The children have truly shown the values of SMA in the highest possible way through their learning in and out of the classroom. This week is Mental Health / Wellbeing Week and year 2 children now have a better understanding of what mental health is and how to deal with their feelings and emotions - their work is just amazing. An example of Deborah Omasombo wrote what mindfulness means to her:

"When I am peaceful, I find a room which is quiet and do yoga and meditate and sometimes I go in my garden and go for a walk and think about life and when I am mad I go find something to calm me down. And sometimes I plant flowers."

In English we have focused on the story Izzy Gizmo who is a young inventor of many things. The task was to work in groups to design a set of wings for a bird who was sadly injured.



BBC Share Your Story

On Tuesday 8th February the BBC came to SMA and they brought with them DJ Nick Bright and Radio 1 Breakfast presenter and author Greg James! SMA was the 2nd school the BBC visited on their 400 school 'Share your story' tour to celebrate the BBC turning 100. All of the pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to listen to Greg James share his story. He was born in Lewisham, grew up in Bromley and found his first job in Radio volunteering for his local hospital radio station. He talked to the pupils about writing his first children's book, "Kid Normal" with his friend Chris Smith and his podcasts.



The pupils were able to ask him lots of questions, how did it feel when you started writing your first book?, Were you nervous- when you first presented on the radio?, and How much did you get paid for your first job in radio? The answer was £50 a show! Year 7 were particularly impressed that he recently interviewed Tom Holland and he told us that interviewing Greta Thunberg was a lot of fun.

During the sessions our own pupils had the chance to share their own stories. Sophie in Year 7, Ngozi in Year 8 and Layla in Year 9 all shared brilliant stories they had written for the event. They were just as inspiring as the story shared by Greg James and Nick Bright who hosted the event. The excitement continued when one of our pupils, Layla was interviewed by Greg James and other pupils were interviewed for BBC Radio London. We are so glad we were able to take part in this event designed to encourage and inspire people to be ambitious and work towards their goals all through the power of storytelling.



**SHARE YOUR
STORY**

Half Term is quickly approaching on 14th February and we have a selection of fun and immersive courses aimed specifically at Teens. Meet new friends and learn new skills.

In our 2-hour **Monologue Workshop** for 13-17 yrs on Tuesday 15th February, 14.00 - 16.00, for just £20 you can try out different characters for size and hone your monologue skills, which would be perfect if you're thinking of applying to the National Youth Theatre, or for drama schools, or if you just fancy a fun challenge!

Another key skill for any actor is movement, and we've got you covered with our **Acting Through Movement Workshop** for 13-17 yrs on Wednesday 16th February, 16.00 - 18.00. Try out different techniques leaving you feeling ready for any character, and prepared for an audition panel!

Music more your thing? Then why not try out our **Songwriting For Beginners** for 13-16 yrs on Friday 18th February, 9.30 - 15.30? Experiment with different instruments, iconic song samples and sounds from a computer and midi keyboard and create your own rap/song lyrics as a team. You can even record your vocals together in our pop up music studio! At the end of the session, our goal will be to upload one finished track to YouTube, SoundCloud & Instagram to amaze your friends and family. No prior musical knowledge needed, just come and find out how creative you can be!

Or do you fancy film-making? **Making Short Films: Jumping Through Time**, on Friday 18th February, 9.15-3.45 for 9-14 yr olds. Ever wanted to make a short film? Ever wanted to step back into the past? Now you can do both with this filmmaking workshop that explores how to write, shoot and edit a short film whilst travelling on the adventure of a lifetime (or many lifetimes, to be time-travel exact). With their own tablets or smartphones, all children will work together to write short films which they will then produce in the studio by acting out, filming and editing into a final production they can take home for a popcorn premiere! Please note that participants must bring their own tablet or smartphone. Bring a packed lunch for day long courses – please no nuts!

Take a look at our February Half Term courses for Teenagers here - <https://www.conservatoire.org.uk/halfterm>, and to book call 02088520234 or email info@conservatoire.org.uk. We look forward to hopefully seeing you this February Half Term!



Charity News

Dear Ms **Baldwin**

I would like to thank Staff and students from your school who kindly donated gifts for the children's staying in hospital over the Christmas period.

The children loved the presents and the staff would like to send you a big thank you.

I have attached a photograph of the staff with the presents you donated and unfortunately because of legal reasons we could not get photographs of the patients opening the presents.

I would like this opportunity again to say a massive thank you.





Literacy Corner



It has been another busy fortnight in the Learning Resource Centre. Prizes and certificates were awarded to those who received a special mention in the recent Literacy and Reading Challenges. Well done all! New pupil librarians from years 8 and 9 have started work in the LRC at lunchtimes helping to check books in and out. They are doing a great job!



We have been promoting some of those primary and secondary books which have not been read in a while. Also we have been promoting all the book series in the LRC by encouraging pupils to come and read the first book in the series to get them hooked. Last week marked the start of LGBT+ History month. Finally, this week marks Children's Mental Health Week.

'We haven't been borrowed in a while...'

'Firstbook in the series...'

LGBT+ History Month

Children's Mental Health



Book Reviews

Our year 7 team reviewed 'The Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho-Yen

This book is about a boy called Ade who lives on the 17th floor of a tower block. The tower blocks start collapsing and in their place silvery blue plants grow and feed on the bricks and metal. Most people have left the tower blocks but Ade can't leave as his Mum is ill and spends all day in bed. From the 17th floor Ade can see "a blue, silvery sea" as the Bluchers (the plants) have formed an invisible wall around Ade's tower block. The Bluchers have poisonous spores and if you breathe them in you die.

Ade spends his time with the only other remaining people in the tower, an old lady and the caretaker. Since the caretaker has a key to every flat, they spend their days collecting food and water from all the other flats.

The caretaker manages to rescue two occupants of one of the other flats in another tower block, but tragedy then strikes

I found the book quite different with an unusual plot. I would not have chosen the book based on the blurb but I have really enjoyed reading it.

This month our Year 6 reviewers reviewed 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell for KS2.

'The Explorer' is about a group of children who got stranded on an island while on the way to Manaus. This book would be suitable for children who enjoy thrill and adventure and also for children who enjoy travelling and journeys. I would recommend this book for children over 10 years old.

For KS1 Henry and Caleb reviewed two picture books by the author Ed Vere 'How to be a Lion' is about a lion named Leo who is different to the other Lions because he is kind. Leo is gentle and friendly. I would recommend this book to EYFS children and above. It is a great book about being yourself. Reviewed by Henry.

'Mr Big' is a very kind character but he looks mean and scary. People are afraid of him and that makes Mr Big feel sad and lonely. He finds a piano shop and he is really good at playing the piano. He was then invited to join a band and he became famous. He was no longer lonely. I would rate this book 4.5 stars and I would recommend it to children over 6 year's old who may feel a bit discouraged at times. Reviewed by Caleb.



House Points Update

Week beginning 8/2/2022

Total Achievement Points

1st – Mandela: 13724

2nd – Teresa: 13007

3rd – Romero: 13874

Attendance:

1st – Romero 15pts

2nd – Mandela 10pts

3rd – Teresa 5pts

Overall House Points

1st – Teresa: 437

2nd – Romero: 432

3rd – Mandela: 431

Teresa House have flown into the lead with 437 house points! Romero closely behind with 432 and Mandela now one point behind!

We had our KS4 basketball competition. Teresa absolutely smashed it in this round! Well done to all those who took part, the sports leaders and the house leaders for our first successful sporting house competition.

House council meetings are well underway with our form reps. Please make the most of the suggestion box which is in the LRC so we can hear YOUR VOICE! Your voice is important to making school YOUR school.

Looking at our SMA Charity Clothes collection boxes we are so proud of how generous you have all been!



SMA House Suggestion Box

I want to go on more trips!



I would like to have more say on my education...

I want to run my own event



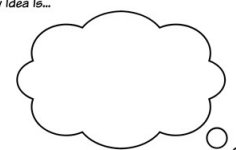
Where am I?

You can visit me in the LRC, on your left as you come through the main doors.

How to make your suggestions?

Place a slip with your suggestion and place through the top of the box. Slip as below...

My idea is...



Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase

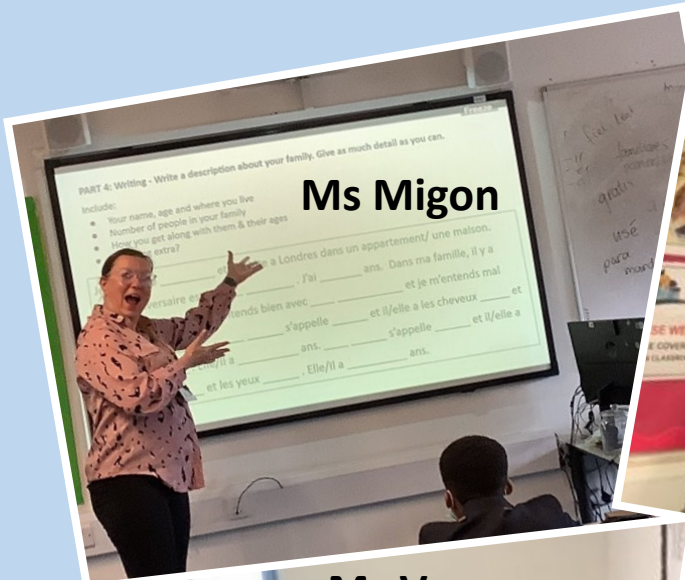
Pupils with the most achievement points during January

Year 7	Phoebe MAURER-SMALLEY 7T2 Annie BRADLEY 7R2 Catherine DUGIN-UMUSU 7T2 Lieselotte MAURER-SMALLEY 7T1 Ahyaa HADDOUCH 7T1	Year 8	Sara HUSSEN 8R2 Tyresse CRAIG 8R2 Emmanuel OMONFORMA 8M2 Chelsey TOMLIN 8M2 Chidima OHAGI 8R2
Year 9	Mark KOUTCHEDI 9M1 Huray TEFAY 9T3 Shameemah TANAGIDAH 9T1 Andrius SANKER 9R2 Kemahri TAYLOR-BAILEY 9R2	Year 10	Nayely BURGA MALES 10M1 Stiven MATEO NOVAS 10R2 Lara LOPES TAVARES 10M2 Ibrakhim IUSUPOV 10T2 Arifa JAHAN 10M1
Year 11	Shayla ANTOINE-SMITH 11MA1 Aziz ALI-OBALOKUN 11MA1 Kristos LALAJ 11MA2	Abubakar TRAORE CISSE 11MA2 Janae DALEY 11MA2	

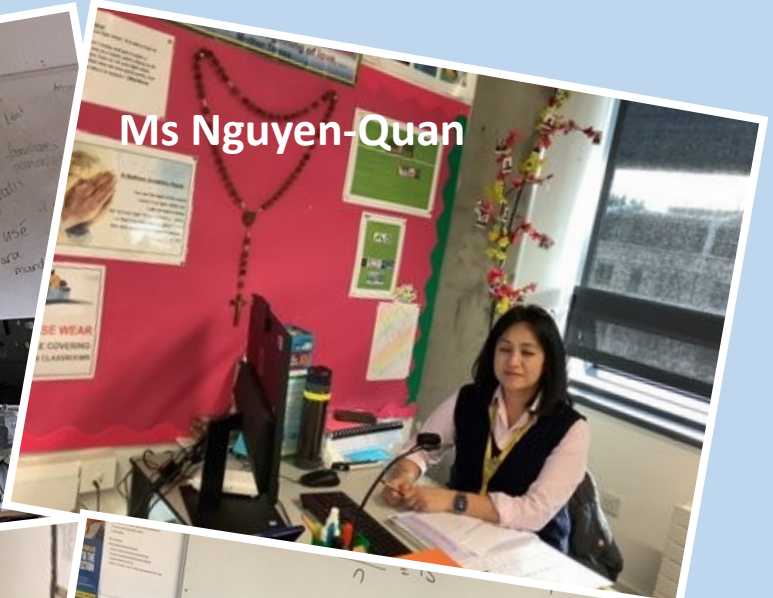
Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...



Ms Migon



Ms Nguyen-Quan



Ms Vyas



Mr Olisa



Ms Boileau



Mr Cole



Staff Stars

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Young supported by Mrs Wickliffe (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), and our Child Protection Officer is Mrs Laker. 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
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk

Term Dates

Autumn Term 21/22

Friday 3 September 2020 to Friday 22 October 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October 2020 to Friday 29 October 2021

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 21/22

Tuesday 4 January 2022 to Friday 11 February 2022

Half Term: Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 1 April 2022

Summer Term 21/22

Tuesday 19 April 2022 to Friday 27 May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Monday 6 June 2022 to Thursday 21 July 2022

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

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk

14TH - 20TH FEBRUARY 2022

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK 2022



CREATED BY LEWISHAM MHST

WHOLE-SCHOOL RESOURCES

View the ['showing kindness'](#) video resource from the Anna Freud Centre for KS3

[The School of Kindness](#) provide lesson plans and activities, teaching children and young people the impact that it has on mental and physical health

View ['5 Ways to Better Wellbeing with Your Family'](#) resource for children, young people and families



I am kind



HALF-TERM WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

[The Random Acts of Kindness](#)

[Kindness Activity Pack](#)

Foundation

Includes printable resources:

- Colouring contest
- 50 ways to be kind poster
- Kindness bookmarks
- Kindness bingo

Any many more ideas!

The MHST and SLaM are not responsible for the content of third party resources

Includes:

- Kindness calendar
- Creative activities
- Emotion tracker
- Coping strategies