

## Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Our newsletter this week, is a real celebration of life at St Matthew Academy. There is much to share about the end of last term and the Easter holiday itself, with a brilliant ski trip for our Year 9 and 10 pupils alongside a dedicated team of staff over the break and an outwards bounds adventure in the Peak District for Year 7 just before the end of term.

As is always the case there is lots to look forward to in the term ahead. Our Year 6 and Year 11 pupils are busy preparing for their SATs and GCSE exams. A number of our Year 10 pupils have taken in the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' workshop and we will have 2 pupils competing in the Lewisham finals next week. Our primary pupils will be taking part in a Coronation Tea Party and the Senior Debating Team are once again through to the Debate Mate Finals and preparations are also under way for Madagascar, our Summer Fair, and Awards Ceremonies. This is just a flavour what will be going on this term.

We look for every opportunity to for our pupils to 'Let their Light Shine' and we thank our parents and carers for all they do to support this work too.

The summer term brings longer days and hopefully (although not as yet) more sunshine. We encourage our pupils and their families to make the most of the chance to be outside, which is so important for our health and wellbeing. I hope that the coming Bank Holiday weekends will bless us with good weather and give everyone more time to go for a walk, visit their local park or woodland, or perhaps be celebrating with a street party for the Coronation.

We very much look forward to having our parents and carers in school over the coming term for all of the events which are taking place from parents evenings to performances.

**Mrs S Guest**

**Deputy Headteacher**

## Prayer and Reflection

This Sunday begins the fourth week of Eastertide. It is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The readings for the day encourages us to think of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for his flock. It reminds us that Jesus is intimately involved in our lives and we are called to follow him and to trust his guidance. How well do I recognise the voice of Jesus as the Good Shepherd? Do I take time to listen for his guidance in my life? Let us reflect today on the promise of eternal life that he offers us.

*Holy Spirit, please open my ears and my heart to the voice of the Good Shepherd and to all that He speaks. My precious Lord Jesus, You are my Shepherd, I choose, this day, to follow Your voice when You speak, and to do so with complete trust and abandon. I love You, my Lord, and I thank you for loving me with such tender and intimate care. Jesus, my Good Shepherd, I trust in You. Amen*



# Primary News

## Year 2

Year 2 have gotten straight back in to the new term kicking off their plants topic by planting their own sunflower seeds. The children will be observing how these seeds grow over the next 6 weeks. As part of this topic, they will also be using their scientific enquiry skills to determine what is needed to keep plants healthy.



Before the Easter Holidays, the children wrote some excellent biographies about inspirational people. They used their interview skills to write mini-biographies about their classmates and they used the iPads to research information about famous people including the Queen, Martin Luther King and Ariana Grande. They also enjoyed our World Book Day activities and dressing up as their favourite book characters.

During RE, the children learned all about Mass and the importance of attending Mass. They learned how to genuflect and reflected on the messages from God in the stories they hear.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed having their parents and carers in fortnightly to read with them on a Friday. It has been so nice to see many parents coming in and developing a love of reading with their children. We look forward to continuing this event throughout the Summer Term.



Year 3 have been practising using compasses in the playground whilst measuring the distance from one landmark to another!



This week in Cooking Club, the children used their measuring skills to make delightful lemon cupcakes!



Well done to Year 6 for winning the attendance trophy last week!



# Trips

## Peak district Y7 Trip

A group of 15 year 7 young adventurers set out from the Academy on a 3 day, 2 night Outdoor Activity trip to the lovely Peak District at the end of March. On arrival the group took part in some team building games then they completed a "night hike" up to the top of "Mam Tor" or Mother hill, which was very challenging but fun for all.

On day 2 the pupils completed an abseil off an 80 foot bridge, which built confidence and conquered some fears! All the pupils completed this activity several times over! After lunch pupils canoed on a large lake which was very exhausting battling against the wind and rain. The evening was followed by some problem solving games and a quiz about the area which covered all what the pupils had learnt so far, prizes were given out to the winners.

Day 3 saw all the pupils complete "Jacobs ladder," a climbing challenge to get over any fear of heights that they may still have had. This also involved teamwork and communication. The pupils and Teachers then said their goodbyes to the amazing instructors and staff at the Edale Youth Hostel Association and then started on the long journey back to London. A great time was had by all involved, renewed confidence was built, and the trip was an experience that the pupils will always remember.





# Trips

## Ski Italy 2023

Over the Easter holidays 39 Year 9 and 10 pupils and 6 staff were lucky enough to embark on the first ever SMA ski trip. After a smooth coach journey and ferry crossing with no delays we arrived in the Italian Dolomites twenty four hours later. Our hotel was in a small traditional village, situated on a high plateau with the most stunning snow topped mountain views.

We all had an amazing experience – pupils and staff! The children were exemplary ambassadors for St Matthew Academy and the staff were incredibly proud of them. Learning to ski is not easy – we all realised that very quickly! However, the progress the children made throughout the week was astonishing. This was due to their enthusiasm and persistence and the patience of our ski instructors – a young team of four from Slovenia who immediately hit it off with the pupils.

Everyone we met in Italy – including the hotel staff, resort rep, ski instructors and coach drivers, told us how fabulous our pupils were. Our resort rep sent a note saying *'Your teachers can be proud of the results of your educational efforts. Your pupils are sensitive, open, kind and polite personalities whose company I enjoyed very much'*.

We are now looking forward to organising the Ski Italy 2025 trip - we know there are current year 7 and 8 pupils already wanting to sign up!





# Sports News



Year 8 Blackheath Cup Semi Final - The result may not have been in our favour, but we showed heart and resilience ending 6-3 AET.

A great result to end the term for our Y7 netball team, taking a 5-0 win against Sedgheill Academy.



A mixed Y9 & 10 netball team played Thomas Tallis Y10s today. There was some great play on show from both teams but unfortunately Thomas Tallis were able to take the win 20-10.



SMA travelled to Ladywell Arena to take part in a Quadkids tournament against 10 local schools. The pupils tried their best in every event, taking part in Vortex, 50m sprint, standing long jump & 400m running. We wait in anticipation for the results to see how well we did.







# LITERACY CORNER

## Library News

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2023 is open!

Send in your poems on any theme, of any length and of any style. Winners receive a range of fantastic prizes, including further mentoring and development opportunities from The Poetry Society, and former winners are among the most successful poets writing today. If you need some inspiration, look at the Young Poets Network <https://ypn.poetrysociety.org.uk/> where there are a number of poetry resources, prompts and tips from past winners.

*If you're an aspiring writer, enter your poems to the competition at [foyleyoungpoets.org](https://foyleyoungpoets.org) by 31 July 2023.*

*This year's Award will be judged by award-winning poets Jonathan Edwards and Jane Yeh.*

Entry is open to 11 – 17 year olds. The deadline is Friday 7th July 2023. Entries should be submitted to Mrs Fields in the Learning Resource Centre or Ms Debko in E109.

"Young Poets Network gave me a huge sense of self-worth. I was surprised that my poetry received such a positive response. It really helped me believe that I could be, that I was, a poet."

– John Blackmore, poet and musician

"Young Poets Network has got everything – whether you'd like to read new poems, find resources on writing or find free writing challenges to submit to. Young Poets Network has been an immense space of support and encouragement that was crucial to me in my journey."

– Fathima Zahra, Bridport Prize winner

"If you're thinking about getting involved in Young Poets Network, definitely do it, without hesitation. Young Poets Network has helped me take myself seriously as a writer, for which I'll be forever grateful. They really care about developing new writers and they'll be able to help you regardless of whether you're just starting writing or have been writing for years."

– Rachel Lewis, author of *Three Degrees of Separation*







# BOOK REVIEWS

## Book Reviews

Sienna-Rose from Year 8 reviewed 'Princess Sophia Duleep Singh' by Sufiya Ahmed who recently visited the academy during World book week.

Described in three words, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh is adventurous, vivid and very outgoing. This book describes a true story of the daughter of the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire. She's always lived in a world of luxury with her two sisters and three brothers and goddaughter to Queen Victoria, and she's never really been aware of what was happening around her; until she meets a suffragette! From then on, Sophia's world turns upside down and she's determined to fight for the cause, happy that she's found something to dedicate her life to.

I would recommend this book for readers interested in historical contexts, such as the campaign for women's votes. The book doesn't have extremely challenging vocabulary, but it's not even too easy; I think the writing style would suit children from year six onwards. Despite the wonderful outcomes of the cause and the result of what women have accomplished, the story does contain scenes of inequality and justice, which honestly retells experiences of women and people from other parts of the British Empire and what their lives were like.

I've read a book from the same author before and I absolutely loved the previous book. It was a very similar context and storyline and it was written in the same not too challenging first person style. Personally, I like hard vocabulary because it integrates me more into the scene. So, to improve the book I would add some harder words and maybe flashbacks to remind the reader of what happened previously, since the book stretches over a really long period of time and many years.



# House Points Update

Week beginning 24/4/23

## Total Achievement Points

1<sup>st</sup> – Teresa: 34428  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Romero: 30349  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Mandela: 28871

## Attendance:

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

## Overall House Points

1<sup>st</sup> - Romero: 2199  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Teresa: 2110  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Mandela: 1931

Teresa house have remained in first place since the beginning of the school year and are continuing to increase the gap between themselves, Romero and Mandela. Well done Teresa house! The competition for 2nd place continues between Romero and Teresa.

Last term ended on a high with the big Lenten walk on Wednesday 29th March to raise awareness on global poverty. Two volunteers from each house and each year group walked to Greenwich park by the viewing area outside the conservatory. Pupils and their families were encouraged to sponsor the big Lenten walk, which raised £210, thanks to all for your generosity.

The last round of the process to select the pupils leadership team will take place this term. The pupils will be invited to an interview with members of SLT. The candidates are excited and are getting ready to show why they should be leading the other pupils. Good luck to them





# Going Above and Beyond!

## *Secondary phase*

*Pupils with the most achievement points during March and April*

### **Year 7**

Temani WILKS-HAMID 7M1  
Joel GBADEBO 7M1  
Souleymane SOW 7T1  
Yaw NYANTAKYI 7T1  
Adam EL HARI 7M2

### **Year 8**

Michael TRAORE 8M3  
Ademide OYELEYE 8M3  
Sienna Rose BENINCASA 8T2  
Yoshua KOUADIO 8T2  
Joshua KAMARA 8M2

### **Year 9**

Jodelee OWUSU 9R1  
Maria NENYCH 9R1  
Pablo SANTOS DO CARMO 9R1  
Jordan JAMES 9R3  
Shumsana NANTHAKUMAR 9R2

### **Year 10**

Brigitte MBALA 10T1  
Ricardo PARDO TRUCIOS 10T3  
Kylie CURAY TENEDA 10M1  
Rayan CHOUKRI 10M1  
Bradley MORA TERAN 10R2

### **Year 11**

Georgia BROWN 11HIG  
Ilyas LABROUZI 11KDE  
D'Angelo PINNOCK 11KDE

Dragos GROZA 11KDE

Stiven MATEO NOVAS 11MEN

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



# Staff Stars



*“Always supporting others in the team and always with a smile too!”*



*“For hard work and dedication in planning Big Hair Day and for being a fantastic Director of Learning!”*



# Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Young supported by Mr Gunningham (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), 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

### Summer Term 22/23

**Monday 17 April 2023 to Friday 26 May 2023**

**Half Term: Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023**

**Monday 5 June 2023 to Friday 21 July 2023**

### Autumn Term 23/24

**Tuesday 5 September 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023**

**Half Term: Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023**

**Monday 30 October 2023 to Wednesday 20 December 2023**

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)



# Would you like to understand more about county lines in Lewisham, Greenwich & Bexley?

Join our panel of experts for a live webinar



Lindsay Dalton  
CEO, Pace



Metropolitan  
Police



Sarah Pritchard  
Advanced Practitioner and  
Consultant

Free webinar for parents & carers

6th June, 7.00 - 8.30pm

Join our panel of experts and find out about county lines in your area, how to keep your child safe and what to do if you have concerns. You will also hear about child exploitation from a lived experience perspective.



Learn what county lines and child criminal exploitation is



Understand the signs that your child might be at risk or involved



Learn how offenders groom and exploit children



Understand what is happening in your area

Register: [LewishamGreenwichBexleyParentWebinar.eventbrite.com](https://LewishamGreenwichBexleyParentWebinar.eventbrite.com)



METROPOLITAN  
POLICE

**Pace**

Parents against  
child exploitation