

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Year 9 into Year 10.

As we approach the end of very challenging academic year, we would like to thank all our families for the support you have given to our pupils during this academic year. At the end of a school year, we normally wish you a restful break and a good holiday. However, as we are all following the government guidance, most of us will not be travelling. Whilst we want pupils and families to spend time relaxing, we also recognise that many of you will not want your children to stop the good learning routines you have already established.

Therefore, we have set a 'learning challenge' for all pupils using our Sora reading app. Studies have shown that reading and literacy levels with our young people are on the decline, even more so due to the loss of learning time over the pandemic. Reading empowers pupils to increase their vocabulary/comprehension, reduces stress promotes good mental health and much more. Over the course of the summer holidays, all pupils are expected to read a minimum of two books and write a book review. The task will be set on **google classroom** and all pupils will be expected to complete these tasks. All pupils have access to the Sora reading app via their RM unify sign in page.

As always, we would like to take this opportunity to recognise and celebrate some notable achievements and celebrations over the school year.

Achievements and Celebrations

We would like to highlight the following students who have had an exceptional school year and have been nominated by their form tutor for progress and contribution.

9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6
Benita Asabare	Kevin Akubueze	Lilia Yahiaouil	Dragos Groza	Nathan Iroanya	Lara Lopez

Brilliant club

The Brilliant Club aims to raise the aspirations of pupils and awareness of the opportunities available to them at the UK's top universities and to develop the confidence and skills to apply to these institutions in the future. This year we introduced the Brilliant Club to our year 9's. Traditionally we would normally do this in year 10 but our pupils were very eager to join and participate this year. Pupils had to write a letter of application justifying their inclusion in the programme; demonstrate commitment and a willingness to challenge themselves. As part of the programme, pupils had weekly tutorials with a PhD lecturer and had to complete a challenging and final assignment. Assignments were marked and moderated with university grading.

The pupils completed the programme throughout lockdown so all events and tutorials were done virtually, including their graduation. This did not deter them and they showed remarkable resilience and commitment; weekly attendance to the tutorials was 100% and the contribution from all was amazing. Pupils studied a humanities based course, looking at the development of ideas on the end of history. Their final assignment was to reach their own conclusion on whether we had, in fact, reached an end point in history and this required them to have an understanding of current world events and to explain how history has shaped them.

Congratulations to the following pupils who all passed. A very special mention to **Naomi Alabi** and **Abdulbasit Oladejo** who received a First-Class Honours on their final assignment.

Abdul Oladejo	1st
Naomi Alabi	1st
Vieric Angwe	2.1
Angelima Baanah-Jones	2.1
Rupertas Brazdzius	2.1
Joel Jeevaruban	2.1
Kassandra Kamegni Kadji	2.1
Melissa Malunga	2:1
D'angelo Pinnock	2.1
Kavin Premkumar	2.1

D of E Bronze Award

During the pandemic 11 year 9 pupils signed up to take part in Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards. Part of their course involved volunteering. Our pupils found some inventive and quite brilliant ways to complete their Volunteering sections. They have worked very hard within their communities completing a host of activities including; helping people pack at local supermarkets for free whilst following coronavirus safety guidelines, helping older neighbours within their communities with outdoor tasks such as gardening, clearing and cleaning tasks when they could not get outdoors, helping out in local charity shops and food banks to provide food to feed families and generate income to charities which were seriously underfunded and also within the home, tutoring siblings with Arts & Crafts, Core subjects and complex remote learning tasks. They most recently successfully completed their overnight expedition. Well done to all the following pupils who are almost finished their Bronze award.

Shekinat Ali-Obalukun	9.5
Zeta Brown	9.5
Makida Arsene-Mcneish	9.4
Andrea Creppin	9.4
Ryannah Winfield	9.3
Kristiana Ozolina	9.3
Lilia Yahiaoui	9.3
Tia-Marie Blackwood	9.3
Shalome Mckellar	9.3
Rupertas Brazdzius	9.1
Finlay Jamieson	9.1

The following information recognises the achievement of pupils in other key aspects of school life within the year group. We commend all pupils on their efforts and accomplishments.

Zero Behaviour Points		Top 10 Achievement Points		
Andrea Crepin	9.4	Wildy Cabral De Brito	9.5	527
Tashawna Dunkley	9.3	Lara Lopes Tavares	9.6	441
Savannah Hylton	9.4	Stiven Mateo Novas	9.6	422
Finlay Jamieson	9.1	Zeta Brown	9.5	421
Edibeth Mendez	9.3	Naomi Sifa	9.3	398
Jamall Morrison	9.6	Savannah Hylton	9.4	396
Adaeze Okoli	9.3	Nayely Burga Males	9.6	383
Benita Asabere	9.1	George Kionga	9.5	370
Arifa Jahan	9.6	Lilia Yahiaoui	9.3	368
Lilia Yahiaoui	9.3	Makida Arsene-Mcneish	9.4	346

Innovation Day

On Friday 16th July pupils in Year 9 will immerse themselves in our final Innovation Day of the year – ‘Protest and Cause’. We ask that on Friday, pupils wear their PE kits to school as some of the activities are outdoors and as such, they should dress accordingly. We look forward to this day - full of activities.

End of term plans

On **Monday 19th July**, pupils will begin the day by attending an informed event on staying safe during the summer led by the Metropolitan police. Pupils will then take part in House Sport activities, providing pupils with an opportunity to demonstrate our core values of collaboration and participation. Please note PE kit will be required for these events. After lunch, pupils will then take part in House Competitions.

On **Tuesday 20th July** pupils will begin the day by completing bespoke form time activities. This will be followed by an End of Year Awards Ceremony to mark and celebrate the accomplishments of pupils. Pupils will also complete an activity led by CAFOD. In the afternoon pupils will have a picnic on the heath (Blackheath) before returning to school for dismissal.

In order for staff to prepare for the upcoming academic year in regards to the re-organising of classrooms and subject areas, the Academy will be closed to pupils on **Wednesday 21st July**. A task will be set for pupils to complete on the day and we would like to take this opportunity to strongly advise you to encourage your child to complete the task set. We would also like to remind pupils of the importance of staying safe over the summer.

Wednesday 21st July Task

As we come to the end of a very difficult school year, it is important that we spend some time to reflect. Reflection is a process of exploring and examining ourselves, our perspectives, attributes, experiences and actions/interactions. It helps us gain insight and see how to move forward. Each pupil will complete a series of reflection tasks that will be uploaded to google classroom.

Religious Education – GCSE

As you are aware, the next academic year is also significant for your child as all pupils in Year 10 will sit their GCSE Religious Education (RE) examination in the summer of 2022. There are no proposed plans to alter the GCSE specification or examination for Religious Education. Therefore, it is crucial that in all RE lessons pupils remain focused, all work including homework is completed to a high standard, all interventions are attended and revision of content taught is consistently reviewed. Throughout the year we will keep you abreast of any information pertaining to pupils undertaking of their RE GCSE, including ways in which you can support your child in preparing for the examination.

Start of the academic year plans

As you may be aware the government wants schools to “be prepared for all scenarios, including testing on return after the summer holidays.” Therefore, all schools will be provided with refreshed guidance, test kits and PPE. Pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays. As such, pupils will receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests 3 – 5 days apart on their return in the autumn term. As such, year 10 will be required to attend school on **Wednesday 1st September** to receive their first lateral flow. Test timings for the day will be communicated in due course.

Academic Reports

A report from the latest assessments will be sent to you via email by the end of the academic school year. This report will only be for the Math, English, Science and RE assessments that took place in June.

Key Dates for Autumn Term

- Wednesday 21st July – End of term
- Wednesday 1st September – 1 lateral flow test
- Monday, 6th September – Return to school
- Monday, 25th October – Friday, 29th October - Half Term
- Monday, 31st January – 4th February – Ranking 1
- Thursday 10th March – Parents Evening (4:30 – 6:30)

Important Reminders

- All pupils are required to be on time each day, arriving no later than **8:35am** for line up from September
- Correct full school uniform is required
- Pupils must not wear jewellery of any kind, except for a wristwatch
- Hands should be washed or sanitised regularly

Finally, we would just like to say how proud we are of all our pupils in year 9. They have all had to adjust to a new way of learning together remotely and then again, back on site at SMA. For the hard work and effort that they are putting into their learning and readjusting to school routines – your child should be commended for everything they have achieved this term. We would like to extend a huge thank you to you as well for working with and supporting your child and the Academy over this academic school year.

We wish you and your child a lovely summer and look forward to welcoming them back in the Autumn term. God bless.

Yours faithfully,



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