

# 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 8 into Year 9.

As we come to end of a very challenging school year, I would like to thank all our families for the support given to our pupils during this academic school year. At the end of a school year, I 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 a little, we also recognise that many of you will not want your children to stop the good learning routines you have already established.

I have therefore 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 enhance their vocabulary and comprehension skills, reduces stress promotes mental health and so much more. Over the course of the summer holidays, we would like all pupils to read a minimum of two books and write a book review, a small feat with the hundreds of books available to them on the Sora app. It will be a welcome break from social media apps, which we encourage you to continue monitoring over the holidays.

End of Term Plans				
Monday 19 July				
P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
CAFOD Assembly	Summer Safety Talk	End of Year Awards Ceremony	Rewards Picnic - Blackheath	Rewards Picnic - Blackheath
Tuesday 20 July				
P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
STEM Egg Drop	House Competition	House Competition	Sports Day	Sports Day
Wednesday 21 July				
SORA reading challenge launch. Online via Google classroom. Task will be posted in their virtual form room.				

## Achievements and Celebrations

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and celebrate some notable achievements and celebrations over the school year. The pupils listed here have had an exceptional school year, and their form tutors would like to acknowledge their academic progress and their overall contribution to Academy life.

8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8
Morgan EVANS-WILLIAMS	Melina STRONG	Fabiola DE FARIA DE FREITAS	Gift OMOREGBEE	Aaron JOHN-ALFA	Hillary OYENEYIN	Josephine PRELA	Bradley MORA TERAN

## Debate Mate

In partnership with Debate Mate who are dedicated to empowering social change through world-class communication training. It is my pleasure to say that the Year 7 and Year 8 Debate Mate team have represented the Academy with distinction, going against a number of schools across the nation to make it to the finals of the urban division.

They have had an audience with senior executives at Deutsche Bank and Clifford Chance as well as some brilliant program directors. Each pupil has confidently researched and argued many motions touching on topics such as the environment, race and gender. The team carried out all of their sessions virtually, both from home during lockdown and once we had returned to school. Their hard work and dedication has been admirable and they truly are a credit to the Academy and yourselves.

I would like to congratulate the team who represented us in the semi-final. Daksh, Bess, Gracie, David, Hawa and Paapa. It is unprecedented for a Year 8 team to make the semi-finals and they really held their own. The Debate Maters went against older, more experienced teams and we look forward to them having even more success next year.

### Excellent Behaviour and Fantastic Achievements

The following pupils have gone 'above and beyond' expectations at the Academy this year for zero behaviour points and received most Achievement Points this year:

Zero Behaviour Points		Most Achievement Points	
Sylvia ADDAI	8.7	Huray TEFAY	8.8
Mohamed AWAD	8.8	Kemahri TAYLOR-BAILEY	8.8
Samuel DE ORNELAS MEDINA	8.1	Gift OMOREGBEE	8.4
Hanako DENTON	8.2	Nneoma OFFORMEZIE	8.8
Virginluxmy EESVARAN	8.1	Cassel CHAMBERS	8.2
Tianna FOGARTY	8.1	Shameemah TANAGIDAH	8.2
Bess HUXTON	8.1	Bradley MORA TERAN	8.8
Andrew MARTIN	8.2	Abigail BEPAT	8.3
Tamira MASSALLY	8.1	Hillary OYENEYIN	8.6
David OREKUNRIN	8.1	Davy OLITO	8.6
Daksh PATEL	8.1	Subhan DOMACH	8.8
Natalia REYES OTANO	8.4	Cecilia KARAKI	8.8
Resma ROHAN FRANCIS	8.1	Bess HUXTON	8.1
Kemahri TAYLOR-BAILEY	8.8	Farishta MUSTAFA	8.4
		Layla MARSHALL	8.4
		Monell HAMM	8.8
		Andrew MARTIN	8.2
		Josephine PRELA	8.7
		Morgan EVANS-WILLIAMS	8.1
		Ammaize LEE-HUNT	8.2

Finally, I would just like to say how proud I am of all our pupils in Year 8. They have all had to adjust to a new way of learning. For the hard work and effort that they have put into their learning and their readjustment to school routines, each of you deserve praise for your resilience over an immensely difficult year. In addition, a huge thank you to parents and carers - your support throughout this year is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of all the staff at St Matthew Academy, I wish you a restful and blessed summer.

Yours faithfully



**Ms I Ahima**  
Director of Learning Year 8



**Mr I Gunningham**  
Assistant Headteacher