

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

'Celebrating our Successes'

Last half-term was an extremely successful one with so much to celebrate. It has been an absolute joy to be able to take all our pupils on trips to enhance their cultural capital and enrich their learning. Children from Reception to Year 11 have experienced visits to the theatre, concerts, museums, farms, sporting events and so much more to ensure that learning extends far beyond the classroom. We are particularly proud of the continuous positive feedback we receive from members of the public when they meet our children at these events and visits.

Academically our Year 6 and Year 2 pupils have excelled themselves in their SATS. During their assessments they truly embodied the school values and characteristics. The baton is now handed over to our Year 11 pupils who are sitting their GCSE examinations and our Year 10 pupils who have just finished their RE GCSE papers. We wish them all the very best of luck and know that their hard work and that of their teachers will be rewarded.

This term we are really looking forward to be able to host our Summer Street Festival Fayre on Friday 8th July from 3.00—5.30pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our talents and celebrate the cultural diversity of our SMA community along with stalls, food, music and performances. Mr Gunningham and I are leading the event and canvassing parent support. A huge thank you to all the parents that were able to attend the Coffee Morning on Friday 27th May to express their interest in supporting this event. We fully appreciate any donation of time and resources and look forward to seeing you all at the fayre.

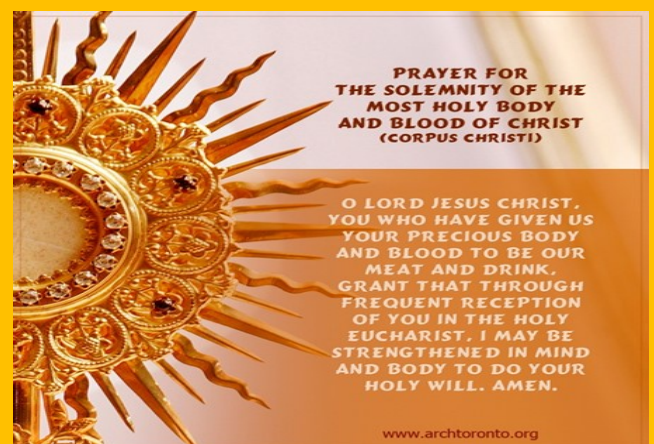
I wish all pupils, parents and staff a lovely weekend and hope that the sun continues to shine.

Ms Chick, Head of Primary Phase

Prayer and Reflection

The Feast of Corpus Christi, Latin for the Body of Christ, was first instituted in 1264 by Pope Urban the IV, in a town called Orvieto, Central Italy following the experience of another member of the clergy. A German priest who was going through hard times started to doubt the mystery of the Eucharist and under guidance from his Confessor, set off on pilgrimage from his village, to Rome, to visit the tombs of the apostles. During his travels he continued to contemplate on the mystery of the Eucharist and on the last part of his journey he stopped in a small town called Bolsena and celebrated mass there. It was here, during the mass he received confirmation and answers to his doubts and uncertainties when the consecrated host, which was already the real flesh and blood of Christ, changed its appearance from that of bread and wine to that of real flesh and blood of Christ.

The Church teaches us that Jesus' body blood soul and divinity is substantially present in the Eucharist. Jesus himself says this to us in the gospels when he says "This is my body... This is my blood." The gospel reading for Sunday tells the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 with five loaves and two fish. Jesus, with the help of his disciples, freely offered the 5000 food to nourish their bodies. This was an act of real and true faith on the part of the disciples to follow his instructions and believe that he could truly feed everyone. This is re-enacted every time we go to Mass as Jesus' whole self is present when we receive the Eucharist. Just like the disciples, we must have faith that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist. In transubstantiation he not only offers us unconditional nourishment for our bodies but also our souls that our lives may be united to his.



Secondary News

Lewisham Borough Athletics Championship 2022

On Thursday 5th May, SMA's PE department were invited at very short notice to attend and compete in the first annual Lewisham Athletics Championships since the COVID-19 pandemic. Without time to prepare and not afraid of a challenge we gathered a team of 32 pupils in years 7 and 8 together and enough pupils to represent SMA in every event!

In SMA style our pupils truly did "let their lights shine" and were fantastic! We are super proud of each of them especially our Year 7 boys team who are now the borough champions. Our Year 8 boys and girls came in second place and Year 7 girls in fourth. 17 of our athletes placed in 1st or 2nd in their individual events which means there is a strong possibility they will be chosen to represent Lewisham at the forthcoming London Youth Games - what a brilliant achievement for a last minute event!

Next year we are planning to take eight teams across four year groups and aim to be top of every group!



The RESULTS !

Year 7

Event	Name	Position	Time
100m	Joshua Kamara	2nd	14.78s
200m	Johnathan Bioko	2nd	27.31s
300m	Jamil Koroma	1st	45.97s
800m	Muna Nwogwugwu	2nd	2mins 48.28s
Long Jump	Johnathan Bioko	1st	4m 10cm
Discus	Cassidy O'Connor Harvey	1st	13m 80cm
TJ	Jamil Koroma	1st	3m 50cm
Shot	Ademide Oyeleye	1st	9m 12cm
Shot	Emma Anderson	1st	6m.72cm

Year 8

Event	Name	Position	Time
300m	Hans Beeckman	2nd	44.09s
800m	Lois Holley	1st	2m 34.72s
LJ	Hans Beeckman	2nd	4m 29cm
Discus	Micah Edwards Meade	1st	22m 93cm
TJ	Temilolu Babalola	2nd	3m 20cm
Shot	Kieron Tyler	2nd	11m.30cm
High Jump	Elijah Iyegudu	2nd	1m 30cm
100m	Eriane Angwe-Nze	1st	14.38s
300m	Ayanbanke Ojo	2nd	53.16s
Javelin	Lauryn Campbell	1st	13m 22cm
Discus	Temilola Babalola	2nd	11m 4cm



Secondary News

Geography

Our Year 11's have begun their Geography exams. Initial responses from the pupils seem to be very positive and upbeat, with several predictions about the longer 8 questions being correct. Pupils seem to be very optimistic!!

Year 9 pupils have received feedback from their ranking exams, and overall it looks very promising. Not only did the students perform well, but they enjoyed the exam which was structured like a GCSE paper, and involved different styles of questions from the different components.

Finally Year 7's have been taking their learning outside the classroom and getting out-and-about with Microclimate investigations (picture attached) by measuring temperature, precipitation and wind direction. Pupils have really enjoyed this part of the 'Weather & Climate' unit, and will consolidate their learning with an investigative write-up that strengthens cross-curricular links and develops important skills for the future.



MFL

Mandarin Provision

We were very excited in October 2021 to enrol a new cohort of Year 7 students and this year has proved to be very successful with our pupils making very good progress with their native speaker teacher.

I am very pleased to announce that the provision of Mandarin will continue for Y7 students into Y8 and also for 2022 Y7 cohort. The courses are fully aligned to school curriculum and are combined with cultural studies, giving students invaluable cultural knowledge and awareness while simultaneously advancing their language skills. This will allow SMA students to access cultural events offered by the Confucius Institute London, the cultural arm of the Chinese Embassy.



The Stephan Spender Prize

The Stephan Spender Prize is an annual competition for poetry in translation, with categories for students of all ages (14-and-under, 16-and-under and 18-and-under). Entrants are invited to translate any poem from a range of languages (into English, and write a short commentary about it.

Alongside the multilingual main prize, this year there is a special language focus with the Romanian Spotlight. The Spotlight prize is also open to pupils of all ages, with categories at 18-and-under, 14-and-under and 10-and-under.

2 SMA students were commended for the Prize in 2021-2022 and this year we hope to enter as many students as possible from Y8 and Y9 classes.

Also we have invited our Community Language speakers to take part!



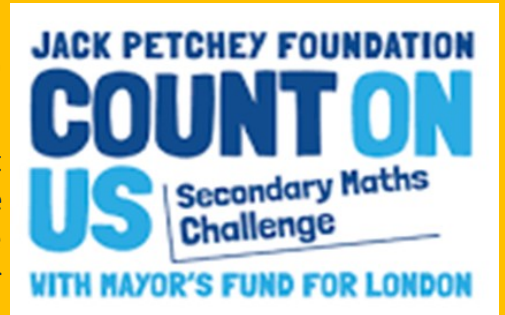
A Stephan Spender Trust site

Count On Us, Maths Challenge

On 16/5/2022, We 6 students (Daksh, David, Bess, Gracie, Paapa, Rapolas) went to the Count On Us Challenge at Queen Mary's University -

The Octagon building. We went in with the idea of just having fun and not expecting to win anything. As we thought, we didn't get the highest score at the competition at the Queen Elizabeth University but to our surprise we managed to get the 4th highest points out of everyone competing this year allowing us to get into the final, which will occur on the 4th of July.

We are hoping to win!



Here are some comments from some of the team that took part.

David - *"I personally enjoyed the competition and my favourite event was the Geometry game. It showed how quick you understand how to solve geometry, whilst also making you hope that you get good number cards with your good question cards. I also enjoyed the 24 game as it was the game we (me) had the most experience with as we've been practising it since year 7."*

Bess - *"I really enjoyed going to the competition. We've been practising as a team for a while now, and it was really nice to be able to work together in a competitive setting. I'm really proud of how we all did, and overall I think the event was really fun. My favourite event was the Gridlines Geometry, as I found doing the problems really interesting, and it was nice to work together on the problems. I really liked being able to work as a group on many of the events, and I am very excited for the next round of the competition."*

Gracie - *"The competition was a great experience, the library of the university was amazing- which the event was held in. All the games I took part in were fun, I particularly liked the Hedgehog game. Which was mainly based on luck but still had some strategy to it. I can't wait for the final! I hope we win."*

Rapolas - *"I found the Count on Us Challenge really enjoyable, my favourite was the 24 games where I actually performed really well, and gained a lot of points for the team. I never expected us to get so high and reach the finals, especially with a lot of other people doing very well!"*



Primary News



St Matthew Academy Family Rounder's Social

What better way to welcome the sunnier days than a St Matthew Academy Rounder's Social!

On Thursday 26th May, gold medals and sporting prowess were at stake as a number of our families gathered on the sports field to take part in some sporting fun. Tension and excitement levels were high as the family teams were assigned their teams and prepared to flex their batting and catching skills against their opponents.

The atmosphere was electric and family spirit was shining through, as parents/guardians and pupils dashed around the rounder's field, lunged to catch the balls flying through the air and cheered each other on. There were some really impressive batting and running across the board, but the team that came out on top was the Blue Team! Well done to our Rounder's Champions 2022!

Everyone shared the refreshments to re energise and spend time catching up with friends, family and staff. Truly an event we will remember for years to come.

Thank you to all the families who supported our very first St Matthew's rounder's social!

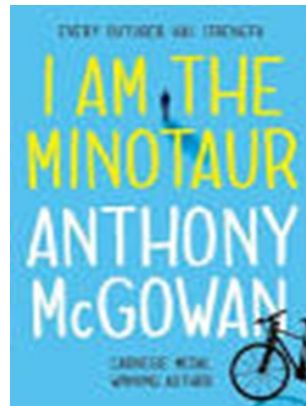




Literacy Corner



Book Reviews



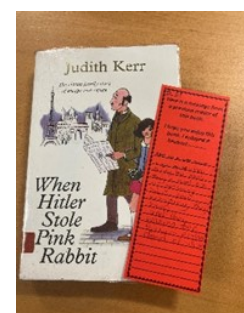
'I am the Minotaur' is a very realistic story which represents the true feelings and thoughts of some kids living in conditions similar to Matthew's. I gave this book three stars exactly for that reason!

Matthew is a year 9 student who lives a very simple life with his very 'normal' mum. A large part of his life at school was spent with people who mocked him for who he was. He does have to look after his mum, make noodles out of a packet, bathe in cold water, wear tight fitting clothes out of a charity shop and live with greasy hair and dirty fingernails but life isn't always so sour. Then one day, Matthew discovers his real crush, Ariadne. A beautiful girl named after a Greek goddess. She's always hanging out with the 'Golden Gang'; those kids who seem to never have a worry in life. Those kids who seem to never get in trouble because of their popularity or smartness or wealth. Those kids who simply look perfect. And in Matthew's eyes, Ariadne really is perfect.

However, when Ariadne's birthday bike is stolen, Matthew finds the perfect chance to maybe impress Ari. Or at least make her happy. With this goal in mind, Matthew sets out on the search of the wonderful beauty which belongs to Ari and Ari only. Will he be able to succeed in stealing her heart over or will he only get beaten up more in his already rubbish life?

Mental Health Awareness

The LRC marked Mental Health Awareness week with a focus on our huge range of self-help books.



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during May

Reception - Ladybirds

Leyla DOUMBIA

Ian FARINTO MARTINEZ

Nasia SEKA

Year 1 - Bumblebee

Morrocco ANTOINE-CAMPBELL

Tigerlily LEIGHTON

Evie SALKELD

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Ibrahim OUATTARA

Maddie SALKELD

Izel ROCHESTER

Year 2 - Butterfly

Yasmin GRIFFITH-WILLIAMS

Jared EGUEZ

Raeyon-Jahmar JOHNSON

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Emily FERRO FERNANDES

Jean-Luc NARTEY

Thiago JACOME ASQUI

Year 4 - Tigers

Valentine CHAZA

Michaela SEKA

Josue GALVEZ TRUCIOS

Year 5 - Lions

Michelle OGALANYA

Zainab DIALLO

Tristan DANIELS

Year 6 - Jaguars

Henry SOLAJA ESTEVES

Amalia GARCES DE FREITAS MORRIS

William JOHN-ALFA

Year 6 - Leopards

Gian Luca PINI

Glory OMOROGIEVA

Makayla MCKENZIE

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...

Ms Wilkins



Ms Vyas



Ms Gilperez



Mr Baines



Ms Laker



Ms Holding





Clean Air Fair



Stalls: Breathe 2022, London Environment and Energy, Lewisham Cyclists, Mums for Lungs, NHS Lung Screening Stand, SGN Gas and much more...



**Catford Broadway
18th June 2022
11am-4pm**



Sponsored by Janet Daby MP and Lewisham Council
Supported by Rosamund Adoo Kissi-Debrah
from the Ella Roberta Family Foundation



REPORT IT!



If you have some information that you feel should be reported, e.g. bullying, or you are feeling low, worrying about something or if you have any safeguarding concerns you can:

Tell a Teacher



Mr Young
Deputy Headteacher

Ms Chick
Head of Primary



Ms Wickliffe
Assistant Headteacher

Ms Laker
Child Protection



Staff at St Matthew Academy are always here to help and listen to pupils, if you ever want to talk to someone or share a concern please don't feel worried about doing so.