

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, we hope this letter meets you well as we remain in these exceptional times. We would personally like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy over the course of this term.

It has been a fantastic term with a number of successes. The cohort has been in fine form as they prepared for their RE mock exams. I have been extremely overwhelmed with the mature approach to this task and how seriously they have all taken their revision and interventions sessions. Our boys' football team beat Woolwich Poly 8-3 and have progressed to the next round of the Blackheath and London cups. Finally, our year 10 Light bearers have mentored some of our younger pupils who may find it difficult to cope with everyday school life.

Attendance

It is imperative that all pupils are attending school regularly and are punctual. Congratulations to the pupils below with 100% attendance for this term.

100% Attendance		
Victoria Adebari	Jochebed Kumi	Adaeze Okoli
Abayomi Ademola	Nathan Ernest Lottin	Christian Omangelo
Kevin Akubueze	Ayomide Makoyawo	Jallen Owusu
Benita Asabere	Princess Martins	Kristiana Ozolina
Aminata Baanah-Jones	Shalome Mckellar	D'angelo Pinnock
Eurelle Barriffe	Charles Morrin	Kavin Premkumar
Georgia Brown	Ehinome Moses-Ikhile	D'metri Ramator
Wildy Cabral De Brito	Ayomide Musibau	Shahid Salim
Andrea Crepin	Nivithan Nageswaran	Samuel Coelho Santos
Marquane Gowdie	Dominion Ndem Christopher	Fanta Sheriff
Dragos-Andrei Groza	Betsaleel N'guessan	Keene Sydial
Lily-Lois Holley	Divine Obasogie	Finlay Jamieson
Nathan Iroanya	Zuriel Ogudoro	Prince Oigbochie

Achievement points and No Behaviour points

Our rewards philosophy recognises rewarding pupils for effort, academic achievement and behaviour conduct is important as part of the development of the individual through encouragement and praise.

Congratulations to the pupils on the next page for their achievement for being rewarded for the most achievement points this term. Fantastic effort!

Top 20 pupils with the most Achievement Points	
Arifa Jahan	10M1
Nazeem Alliu	10M2
Makida Arsene-Mcneish	10R1
Edibeth Matos Mendez	10T1
Adaeze Okoli	10M2
Michael Umunnakwe	10T1
Stiven Mateo Novas	10R2
Dominion Ndem Christopher	10T2
Tashawna Dunkley	10R1
Christian Omangelo	10T2
Naomi Sifa	10R2
Charlie Waite	10M1
Jamall Morrison	10M1
Dominic Jastak	10T1
Ibrakhim Iusupov	10T2
Shanique Titer	10T2
Nayely Burga Males	10M1
Lara Lopes Tavares	10M2
Kyson Thomas	10M2
Wildy Cabral De Brito	10R2

The following pupils below did not receive any behaviour points this term. Another example of the commitment shown by pupils in Year 10 to their learning, excellent modelling of behaviour and living out the SMA Values. Well done to you all!

Pupils with 0 behaviour points	
Iciar Aranda Lopez	10M1
Kassandra Kamegni Kadji	10R1
Micah Koroma	10R2
Andrea Crepin	10T2
Naomi Alabi	10M2
Nathan Lottin	10R2
Rupertas Brazdzius	10M1
Finlay Jamieson	10M2
Courtney Vakanda	10R2
Musa Hussen	10R2
Jallen Owusu	10R2
D'angelo Pinnock	10R1
Benita Asabere	10T1
Kavin Premkumar	10R2
Arifa Jahan	10M1
Naomi Sifa	10R2
Lara Lopes Tavares	10M2

Enrichment / extra-curricular activities

In January we will be continuing some extra-curricular activities that we had the privilege to start in the Autumn Term:

- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze/Silver award
- Year 10 mixed sports after school club
- Debate Mate
- RE interventions
- H/W club

Arrangements for the start of the Spring Term - Lateral Flow testing in school

Under the revised guidance for returning to school in January 2022, we are required to carry out a lateral flow test (LFT) for each pupil.

Onsite testing for Year 10 will take place on **Wednesday 5 January from 10.30am – 11.45am**. The LFT tests have a rapid turnaround of 20 minutes and are designed to catch any asymptomatic cases that might pose a risk to the reopening of school. After this single test, pupils are expected to test at home twice a week. Please note that with regards to the onsite testing:

Please note that with regards to the onsite testing:

- Pupils must arrive to school promptly in full school uniform at the time indicated below
- If pupils are late, they may not be tested.
- Pupils are being invited in by Science classes

Science class	Teacher	Arrival to school
10.1	Ms Edivie	10.30am
10.2	Ms Day	10.45am
10.3	Mr Solomon	11.00am
10.4	Ms Adonri	11.15am
10.5	Mr Mahendiranathan	11.30am
10.6	Ms Szarszo	11.45am

Any pupil who tests positive will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. All pupils with a negative test will go their lessons as normal.

Consent for testing

Lateral Flow Tests are voluntary but we strongly urge that pupils participate in the programme of regular rapid testing. Pupils without consent are still permitted to attend school on Wednesday 5 January. However, the more pupils engage with it, the more effective our system of controls can be.

If you completed the consent form in September for your child to be tested on site, then you do not need to provide consent again. If this has changed or if you haven't previously completed the consent form, then please complete the form found [here](#) by Monday 3 January. Please be aware that for students aged 16 and over, consent (or not) needs to be provided by the student themselves rather than their parents. You can contact the office by emailing info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk with any queries.

Ranking Examinations

We will be continuing with your child's first set of ranking exams in year 10 week commencing **31st January 2022**. Now is the perfect opportunity for pupils to demonstrate how much they have learnt and understood during the first term. Pupils should have already begun revising for their exams, if not I urge you to encourage your child to begin now and during the festive period. Pupils will be provided with a revision booklet devised by their subject teachers. An electric copy of a 'Top tips for revision' booklet to aid your child in preparing for their examinations can be found in your child's form Google classroom page.

Virtual Parents' Evening - Thursday 10th March 2022

Due to the current circumstances, Parents' Evening this year will be held virtually. More details will follow closer to the time on how the evening will be structured.

Year 10 work experience (Monday 7th February – 11th February 2022)

Our year 10 pupils have the opportunity to do their work experience after it was put on pause last year due to the pandemic. Work experience is an opportunity for pupils to enhance their knowledge and understating of the world of work, increase self-confidence and understanding of team work. If pupils still have not found their own placement as yet, you have one final opportunity to do so over the Christmas holiday.

Uniform

We have been impressed by the way, in which pupils have worn their uniform with pride including the wearing of lanyards. Moreover, pupils have demonstrated great commitment to their learning, highlighted in the lessons we have observed and their resilience shown in light of the current day structure and adaptations to the wider school life. We encourage you to commend your child.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our uniform expectations as outlined in a previous letter by the Headteacher at St Matthew Academy. These expectations are in place to ensure that uniform does not become a distraction from learning and that pupils at St Matthew Academy, take pride in themselves and their school:

- Black shoes not boots for all pupils
- Tailored trousers or SMA skirts
- Black or blue coats without insignia for all pupils
- Lanyards and ID badges for all pupils
- Hair should be one colour and a natural colour

Key dates

Key Event	Date
Early closure	Friday 18 th December 2021 (12.00pm)
INSET Day – School closed to all pupils	Monday 4 th Jan 2022
Return to school	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
COVID-19 Testing (10:30am-11:45am)	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
Ranking Examination Week	Monday 31 st January – Friday 4 th February 2022
Work experience	Monday 7 th February – 11 th February 2022
Virtual Parents' Evening	Thursday 10 th March 2022

This continues to be a challenging time for us all but together, as an inclusive caring Catholic community and with the grace of God, we will get through this challenging time. In the meantime, please look out for our most recent edition of SMA News. We look forward to working with you closely next year and being able to celebrate more achievements and successes of our pupils over the coming months.

Wishing you a blessed, safe, restful Christmas and good health and prosperity in the New Year.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Charlery
Director of Learning for Year 10



Mr R Wanza
Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Lead Years 9 & 10