

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As we enter the month of March we are reminded that change is all around us. Daffodils and tulips begin to grow, the birds begin each day with song and each morning becomes lighter and brighter. Spring is in the air, and colour and life is brought back to the world after the dark winter months. We begin to make plans for the summer and look forward to spending the longer, warmer days with family and friends.

However unfortunately this is not the case for all. We are now waking up to news of tragedy, suffering and loss as the conflict continues in Ukraine. News of hundreds of thousands of people forced to flee their homes in fear. Homes are being destroyed, innocent lives are being taken. Rather than looking forward to the future, millions are terrified each day.

As a Catholic school we aim to live our lives by the virtues of integrity, courage and service. To honour this, and to help those affected by the conflict we aim to raise £2000 by March 11th to send in aid to Caritas—a charity who works to bring support to those carrying the burden of the consequences of the conflict. The charity offers a range of services from food and relief supplies, to community development in hard to reach areas. You can read more about the charity at <https://www.caritas.org/who-we-are/> We will be collecting monies in school from both staff and pupils, and you can also donate directly through [parentpay](#).

We say a prayer to all our family and friends both near and far who are suffering, that they may see brighter days.

Miss Dunne
Associate Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn away from their weapons and seek for peace instead.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

We pray for the people countries neighbouring Ukraine and Russia; Hungary, Poland, Belarus, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova that they also are able to live free from fear.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

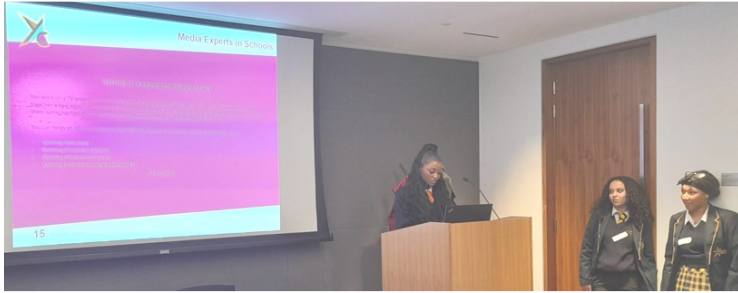
Lord have mercy.

Amen



Media Trip

We were really pleased to be able to take 20 of our Year 10 Film Studies and HPA pupils to central London for the day, to work with FTI Consultancy, a firm that deals with the media and its influence on modern society. The opportunity was offered to us by Young Citizens, a national charity aimed at providing education for young people to become informed citizens of the future, and meant that pupils would work directly with professionals. The workshop took place in the plush environs of FTI Consultancy in Aldersgate, next to the Museum of London, with panoramic views of the city from the 9th floor, including the sight of Lewisham in the distance. Throughout the day the pupils were well looked after with access to drinks and snacks and got to experience what it might feel like to work in this sort of environment in the future.



Pupils worked in small groups alongside the consultants from FTI, looking at issues on the changing nature of the media, how to spot fake news and bias and keeping the media in check. The interactive nature of the activities engaged pupils and encouraged them to share their ideas. It gave pupils the opportunity to critically think about the different platforms they rely on for news and interaction. They then had discussions, asked and answered questions using resources that explored a timeline of the history of media up to the present, and reflected on its more recent developments and the impact it has on people and how they access information and where they get their news from.



It was really good to see pupil presentations on how to spot fake news, what sanctions could be used to tackle this and why it happens. Pupils learned how fake news can be potentially identified through spelling and grammar errors, exaggerated headlines and where else the story gets broadcast to verify status. Pupils were able to make links with subjects they have studied such as the use of propaganda by the Nazis in the 1930s or the events in the USA in January 2021.

They learned that views expressed are often personal and not based on facts, there is no such thing as bad publicity and our responsibility to check whether stories are true or not by being aware of the motivation of influencers on platforms such as Facebook or YouTube. Such stories tend to sensationalise and manipulate people, examples looked at included conspiracy theories linking the use of 5G technology to the outbreak of Covid or Trump's advice to people to avoid catching Covid. Pupils know that people are gullible and we need to check the authenticity of stories on the internet and cross reference with other sources and look at the comments people post.



The pupils also had a go at writing their own version of fake news stories on the shampoo scandal to demonstrate what they had learned.



Pupils really enjoyed the experience and welcomed the opportunity to learn about the media. D'Angelo said he had learned lots and 'working with the mentors was really helpful' and he 'learned how to communicate with adults'. D'Metri said it helped him to be more critical of the media and to realise 'that there is often more than one side to any story' and that the 'news is not necessarily the whole truth' and he would be more critical of what he views online in the future. Georgia said she enjoyed doing the presentations best and that it 'was good to share your own opinions and hear others.

Our pupils created quite an impression with the consultants they worked with; this was the first time in two years that they were able to do the workshop in person and we hope that it will lead to more opportunities for pupils in the future especially our Media scholars.

Racial Justice Sunday Mass



The Archbishop John Wilson and The Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion invited all school children, young people and parents to join him at St George's Cathedral on Sunday 13th February 2022, Racial Justice Sunday. This was a time to celebrate the rich and diverse culture of our Diocese and St Matthew Academy pupils were invited to participate in the Mass to be held that day.

Debate Mate

SMA's Debate Club took part in Round 2 of the Urban Debate League and won all three Debate's - repeating their brilliant performance in Round 1 in January and securing a place in the semi-finals in May. It was a particular special night, as the school was hosting the event live and due to Covid restrictions, over the last two years all Debates have taken place via zoom: so at least the pupils got to Debate in person.

A huge congratulations to all speakers from Year 7-9: Sami Khan, Catherine Dugin Umusu, Lieselotte Maurer Smaller and Sofia Ismai; Alex England, Alex Minnoch, Lena Skorupinska, Adama Bah, Bess Huxton, Hawa Fofana, Rapolas Venckus and Davidd Orekunrin and to all the members of Debate Club who contributed with some great floor speeches. Well done, debaters and thank you for letting your lights shine!



URGENT APPEAL!

WHAT?

SMA is collecting for the people of Ukraine!

WHEN?

Tuesday, 8th – Wednesday, 9th March!

WHO?

WE must ALL contribute what we can!

WHY?

Families need food and shelter as they escape the conflict!

HOW MUCH ARE WE TRYING TO RAISE?

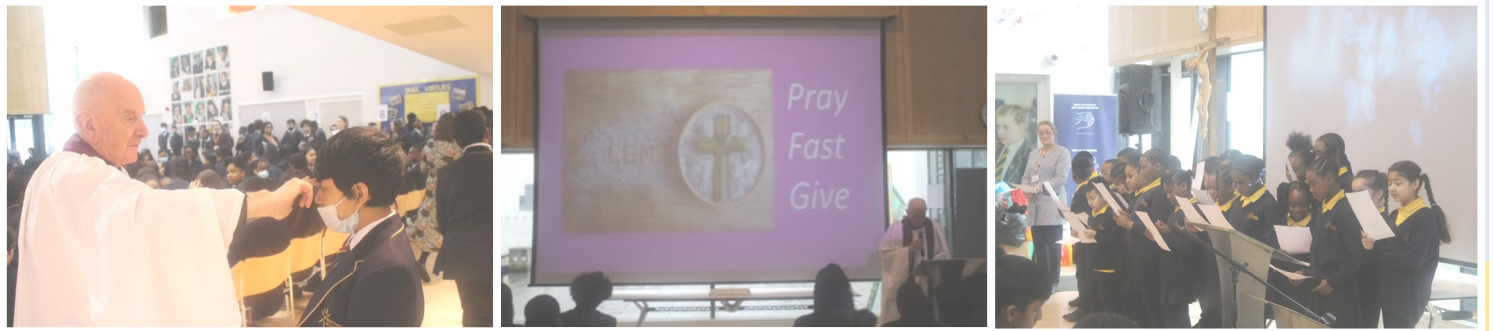
£2000

You can make your contribution on [ParentPay](#) or in one of our collection buckets.



Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 2nd March, Lent began and we celebrated the beginning of this special season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving with our Ash Wednesday Liturgies. We were delighted that Monsignor Rother from St Mary's in Blackheath was able to join us for our liturgies with Year 7 and 8 and Years 9 and 10. Our Year 4 pupils began the liturgy by singing "Beautiful Things" which was a wonderful way to begin. Our Lightbearers in the primary and secondary phase as usual had prepared so well to lead us in prayer and reflection. The secondary Lightbearers were able to share our plans to raise money for CAFOD and the Catholic Children's Society this Lent and explain that we will as a school be supporting CAFOD's "Walk against Hunger" campaign in particular by taking part in a sponsored walk with our Houses in the last week of term. CAFOD is asking schools across England and Wales to support their aim to walk 40000km, the distance around the world to end hunger. All of our pupils were invited to make their own Lenten Promise during the liturgy which we will be making a display of so that we are reminded during Lent of the promises we have made. Our liturgies ended with all being given the opportunity to receive ashes and we were delighted to be able to celebrate together in this way this year.



A fantastic Pancake Day raising money for our Lenten charity CAFOD and the Catholic Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who helped make over 250 pancakes! There were lots of smiley faces across the Academy today!





Literacy Corner



Preparations are all in place for an exciting World Book Week this week. We have a vast array of activities to look forward to including two author visits, Guy Bass for KS2 and the poet and rap artist Breis for the secondary phase. There will also be a virtual theatre production, house form literacy quiz, Don't judge a book by its cover, a primary treasure hunt and share a story and lots, lots more. In the next edition of the newsletter come and see how we celebrated this wonderful week at St Matthew Academy!

We have also launched the Lewisham Book Awards for 2022. Pupils have been selected from KS3 and KS4 to take part in this reading competition culminating in a borough-wide event later in the year. A diverse selection of recently published books have been shortlisted by the Lewisham School librarians network.

Lewisham Book Awards years 7 & 8

Lewisham Book Awards years 9 & 10



Guy Bass

Breis

GUY BASS

Guy Bass is a multi-talented author who has written over 20 books for children. His books include *Squidake*, *When the Sky Falls*, *Black Brother, Black Brother*, *I Am the Minotaur*, *Boy Everywhere*, *The Paper World*, *Age of Spades*, *The Outrage*, *Long Way Down*, *Empress of Angkor*, and *Crossing*.

GUY BASS WILL BE VISITING SMA ON THURSDAY 3RD MARCH!

BREIS

Author Educator Rap Artist

Brilliant Rappers Educate Intelligent Students written by rap artist BREIS (Breis), is a collection of his greatest rap lyrics and the inspiring behind them. Full of clever wordplay, funny stories, childhood memories and valuable life lessons.

His latest book *Diary of a Creative Mind* (available for young adults) gives us a glimpse into the rollercoaster life of an independent rap artist.

BREIS WILL BE VISITING SMA ON TUESDAY 1st MARCH!

www.mrbreis.com

Book Reviews

Our year 7 team reviewed 'Race to the Frozen North' by Catherine Johnson.

'Race to the Frozen North' was a very adventurous story and the fact that it's non-fiction makes it even more engaging. Matthew Henson, also known as Matt, was a Black American who lost his parents when he was young. He then got adopted by a vicious woman, Nellie, who beat him twice as much as she beat his sisters. That's how Matt became a runaway from home and decided that his future would be to travel the world by boat and explore the seas.

Matthew will experience the joy of being accepted by who he is and the thrill to live beneath the deck on a ship. However, Henson will also face many challenges due to his race and colour. So when Matthew and his dear colleague, Captain Peary, are the first men to reach the North Pole, Matt is thrilled to have made it there. On the other hand, will America acknowledge his achievements or will they ignore him because of the colour of his skin?

I really liked this book because it shows the definition of perseverance and determination. It also shows that those from ethnic minorities did not get the praise they deserved. Matthew and his team had to try this expedition more than twenty times which determines the aspect of endurance as they never gave up. This novel would be even better if it was written in more detail and showed sketches of pictures of all the adventures that Matthew Henson had been through.

It was easy to read and suitable for KS3 readers with a younger reading age. I would recommend this book.

This month our Year 6 reviewers reviewed two picture books by the author Tracey Corderoy for EYFS and KS1.

'The Boy and the Bear' is about a boy who wanted a friend to play with. All the best games he wanted to play needed two people, like catch and hide-and-seek. He then came across a big blue bear who started sending him messages on a paper boat. At first the boy was unsure but then he started playing all his favourite games with the bear, but the bear couldn't play the boy's games with him. He didn't understand hide-and-seek and he was too heavy for the see-saw. The bear then built a beautiful tree house and the boy and bear had a wonderful time in the tree house until winter came and it was time for the bear to hibernate. The boy missed the bear terribly until the spring when he came out of hibernation. The boy was so happy to see the bear again! I would recommend this book to year 1 pupils and I give it 4.4 stars out of 5.

'Why?' is about a curious rhino who is always asking questions about everything. He asks questions like 'Why does toast make crumbs?' and 'Why do dropped things go smash?' His Mum and Dad then decide to take him to a museum as they are tired with all his questions but then he has more questions than ever! The only time he stopped asking questions was when he was asleep. I think that EYFS children will really enjoy this book.



Romero Page

Another fantastic half term with so many events taking place in the Academy, including plenty of house related initiatives.

What have ROMERO pupils been up to?

Assemblies: International Women's Day

This week we have been developing and spreading the message of 'We want equality!' All year groups were a part of our assemblies in preparation for International Women's Day which was led by our Romero House Leaders. A word from our House Leader *"I remember attending an IWD workshop as part of the Academy Pupil Council in Year 8 and it was a very interesting topic. It has been great to support the IWD and pass the positive messages on to my peers."*



House Basketball Events:

A great attendance for our KS3 and KS4 House Basketball Tournaments. Supported by our fantastic Year 9 Sports Leaders helping to run both events.



Which was a great tournament for Romero house with the following results:

KS3 - 1st Romero, 2nd Romero, 3rd Teresa

KS4 - 1st Teresa, 2nd Mandela, 3rd Romero

The next House Tournament scheduled is Table Tennis, watch this space!

SMA Clothes Bank

As part of our continued charity work for the local community, the House Clothes bank has been a revelation in secondary, with over **600** items donated and counting! Jolene Wilson 8R1 made an excellent contribution, with a sack full of over 30 items and here is what she had to say ... *'I thought it would be a good idea to donate my clothing to charity. This is because there are many vulnerable people that don't have clothing. Therefore, donating my old clothes are helping those who are less fortunate'.*



House Points Update

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: 16339

2nd – Mandela: 15829

3rd – Romero: 15124

Attendance:

1st – Mandela 10pts

2nd – Teresa 5pts

3rd – Romero 15pts

Overall House Points

1st – Teresa: 457

2nd – Romero: 452

3rd – Mandela: 451

Welcome back Mandela, Teresa & Romero! Congratulations to Teresa for your huge effort with achievement points which has put you in the lead.

As part of our continued charity work for the community, our House Clothes Bank has been a revelation in Secondary with over 800 items donated and still counting!

Coming up we have another House Competition—Table Tennis!

Do you have any ideas of competitions you'd like to take part in? Speak to your House Leaders! Miss Barallon, Mr Hawkins or Mr Salih.

Academy council are meeting on Wednesday after school in the LRC at 3pm to share all your voices from your House Council meetings. The members meetings are: Nana Owusu-Donkor, Sameul De Ornelas Medina, Haja Konie, George Koroma, Naomi Uzugbi & Fatima Njie.

SMA House Table Tennis Competition



Dates:

Year 7 and 8: Wednesday 9th March

Year 9 and 10: Wednesday 23rd March

Time

3.10pm-4.40pm

Location: SMA Sports Hall

Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during February

Reception - Ladybirds

Brianna BOAMAH

Ameen KARGBO

Ian FARINTO MARTINEZ

Year 1 - Bumblebee

Maisie HAMILTON

Tigerlily LEIGHTON

Roland SZEKRENY

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Ibrahim OUATTARA

Ire CAMERON-COLE

Daniel AGBAROLI CLARKE

Year 2 - Butterfly

Anne Marie France TOUMBA

Paul-Elie KOUADIO

Raeyon-Jahmar JOHNSON

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Chelsea ABEKOYA

Modadeolu CAMERON-COLE

Ati ODUKOYA

Year 4 - Tigers

Bella CODREA

Adam NGUYEN

Etana LEE

Year 5 - Lions

Olivia XU

Orane ALLEN

Aline TAVARES VAZ

Year 6 - Jaguars

Oluwakemi SAMSON

Zephan OGUDORO

Eli GORDON

Year 6 - Leopards

Juan SANCHEZ

Caleb AROGUNDADE

Ebenezer WILSON

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff & Pupil Stars

Introducing our staff stars
nominated by their colleagues...



Ms Dryden



Ms Dunne



Ms Butterworth



Staff Stars

Pizza and Cookie Rewards Lunch

Ms Baldwin and Mrs Guest enjoyed a great lunch on Wednesday 3rd March with pupils that regularly go above and beyond. There were lots of interesting ideas proposed by pupils for future reward activities.

Watch this space for more information!



ST MATTHEW ACADEMY PRESENTS



THURSDAY 21ST APRIL
&
FRIDAY 22ND APRIL

DOORS OPEN 6:00PM
SHOWTIME 6:30 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/
ST-MATTHEW-ACADEMY](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ST-MATTHEW-ACADEMY)

TICKET PRICES
CHILDREN £2.00
(UNDER 16)

ADULT £4.00

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS



Our fabulous secondary pupils and our Performing Arts Team are pleased to present Madagascar - a Musical Journey Jr - Come and watch an unlikely bunch commandeer a ship and steer it to an exotic African island of Madagascar. There they meet King Julien and his arboreal bunch of hangers-on.....

Book your tickets online now limited seats available! [https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
st-matthew-academy](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-matthew-academy)

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.

Pre Loved Uniform DONATIONS NEEDED!

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS
OF SMA UNIFORM
THAT YOUR CHILD HAS
OUT GROWN?
IF THE ANSWER IS YES,
PLEASE BRING IT TO
THE ACADEMY SO WE
CAN HELP FAMILIES
IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU ALL IN
ADVANCE FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT

