

## Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Last week at SMA was filled with excitement and joy as we all watched the England football team striding towards their first major tournament final in 55 years. The victory against Italy was within touching distance but ended in the agony of defeat. However, now that we have had time to reflect we should all be really proud of how well the team performed. They are a young team, who work brilliantly together within a first class set up so hopes are high for the future.

One player that caught my eye was 19 year old Bukayo Saka, Arsenal's Player of the Season last year. His mature attitude, leadership skills, talent and trademark smile were visible for all to see on the pitch. It is fascinating to discover that at school he was described as a popular but modest pupil and an exemplary student who took his studies incredibly seriously—he finished year 11 with top grades in all of his GCSEs, showing those around him how to juggle school work with the demands of elite level football training.

Saka and some of his team mates were subjected to racist abuse on social media after the match on Sunday and his measured response to this appalling treatment has demonstrated his status as a role model for young people across the country. He said 'I don't want any child or adult to receive the hateful and hurtful messages that me Marcus and Jadon have received this week. [.....] And, to the majority of people coming together to call out the people sending these messages, by **taking action and reporting these comments** to the police and by driving out the hate by being kind to one another, we will win.' This serves as an excellent reminder for the entire SMA community that we too must do everything in our power to stamp out hate and ensure racist behaviour is reported and dealt with.

**Miranda Baldwin**

**Headteacher**

## Prayer and Reflection

At the end of this week, our pupils will be taking part in an Innovation Day with the theme of 'Protest' and our focus will be on protesting against climate change. As we grow closer to the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 to be held in Glasgow this November we pray for our 'Common Home'



*Creator God, who made our beautiful world,  
appointed us as its guardians  
and gifted us with everything we need,  
forgive us  
for the times we cause it harm;  
for the times our way of life  
affects our neighbours.  
Inspire us  
to care for the environment;  
to help rebuild lives and communities;  
to share in the griefs and anxieties,  
joys and hopes of all your people,  
so that all your creation may flourish.  
Amen.*

*Stephen Davies/CAFOD*



# Whole Academy News

## The Feast of St Peter and St Paul

On 29th June we celebrated the Feast of St Peter and St Paul live in the Main Hall with our Year 7s and then our Year 8s and finally our Year 9s. Year 10 and Year 8 did not miss out on the celebrations but joined us virtually for the final liturgy of the day. This was once again a special celebration involving our whole school community.



Year 1 sing 'Give me Joy in my Heart'



The Light Bearers lead our reflection through drama



Our Year 7s, 8s and 9s sing

# Y6 at Wimbledon

Traditionally, the final week of June and the first week of July are a special time for lovers of sport all around the world as they come together to watch the world's finest tennis players converge on SW19 to take part in the Wimbledon tennis championships. The championships are the pinnacle of the tennis calendar and the highlight of the career of many a great player past and present.

This year, the event was even more special for one Canadian tennis prodigy, and thanks in no small part to the contribution of SMA Year 6 pupils. Denis Shapovalov went into the tournament as the twelfth ranked player in the world and with dreams of improving on his career best third round appearance two years earlier. Denis's back story is interesting in its own right and features a friendship with SMA's very own Assistant head of Primary, Adam Kohlbeck. In 2017, Adam was in the player's box as Denis lifted the junior Wimbledon title and embarked on a career in the professional game.

With this year's event approaching, Year 6 were introduced to Denis and his connection to Mr. Kohlbeck and decided to record a video of support for him. After just a short lunch time's brain storming, Year 6's resident lyricist, Miss. Roostan had a beautifully crafted version of *When the Lion sleeps tonight*. It was posted on Twitter on the day of Denis's second round walkover and the eve of his third round match against Britain's Andy Murray. And that is where a magical week really began.

Denis was touched and impressed by the skill and quality of the outcome and immediately re-tweeted, thanking the Year 6 children for their efforts and support.

This seemed to spark somewhat of a frenzy as the SMA twitter account went into overdrive and quickly more than twenty-five thousand people had viewed the video with some fantastic comments from the general public. Inspired by the show of support, Denis defeated Murray in three straight sets and was asked in his on court post match interview by BBC reporter Rishi Persad about the impact of the message. Denis commented on how encouraged he was by the show of support and explained the story in full, making reference to Adam and the Year 6s in the process. Clearly this sparked further interest in the original tweet with the number of views sky rocketing past thirty and then forty thousand. Currently, the original tweet has been viewed fifty thousand times. One comment in particular caught the interest of Year 6 as it asked what the next song would be! So... Miss Roostan got back to work on some new lyrics and Mr. Kohlbeck set about trying to bring the on court Wimbledon experience to some lucky SMA pupils.

In the meantime, Mr. Kohlbeck was fielding calls from the Daily Telegraph who wanted to run a story on the role SMA had played in Denis's success. Just days after the first tweet, the Telegraph's Tom Morgan published the story, complete with interview and photos of SMA pupils proudly wearing their school uniform's in front of the famous Wimbledon grounds. On the second Wednesday of the championships, with the second song of support ready to go live on twitter should Denis get through his fourth round match against Karen Khashanov, Mr. Kohlbeck took Kaylen and Zak from Year 6 up to watch the match from behind the player's box. Not only did both children cheer the loudest of anyone on court that afternoon, but they were also recognised by two members of the public, one of which was former Great Britain player Julie Salmond, who tweeted this later the same evening:

Inspired by their presence, Denis came through a five set epic to qualify for the semi-finals. After the match, in a text message sent to Mr. Kohlbeck, Denis commented on the enthusiasm of the support he received from the two students and on the extra edge this gave him to get over the line! With the cheers of Number 1 court ringing in their ears, Year 6 released their second 'Go Denis' video, inspired by the MC Hammer classic, *You can't touch this*.



# Y6 at Wimbledon...

Just like the original, this video quickly gathered pace and had over ten thousand views moments after being re-tweeted by Denis. It currently has over thirty one thousand views and climbing. The media attention also continued to increase and Mr Kohlbeck was contacted by the Daily Mail, The Independent and by Canada's Global mail for comments and photos of the Year 6 stars. Further interviews and pictures appeared in the Mail and Independent and an in depth piece in the Global mail was planned, meaning that SMA pupils feature in newspapers in two continents at the same time.

While attention on SMA was growing off the court, attention on Denis's mesmerising talent was growing on it. A semi-final against World number one, Novak Djokovic awaited and messages exchanged with Mr. Kohlbeck showed that Denis was truly touched and encouraged by our continued support. So moved was he in fact that he even offered fourteen tickets to go and watch the semi-final itself. With yet more media interviews being conducted, the same question was being asked again and again. What would be the next song?!! Armed with the green screen and the collective song writing brains of Kohlbeck and Roostan, Year 6 produced one of the finest compilations ever witnessed at SW19 to give their hero the giant push he needed in his bid to overcome Djokovic.

The popularity of this tweet was on a par with the preceding two with over forty thousand views within just two days.

Arriving at Wimbledon in good time, the children had time for a tour of the grounds and a short history lesson on one of sport's most famous occasions. They watched tennis on the outside courts and witnessed wheelchair tennis of the highest standard being played. Shortly before going on court to watch Denis's match, they had another photo session with Daily Mail reporter, Andy Hooper. Then it was straight to their seats, once again, a row behind the player's box. This prime position meant that they were frequently spotted on TV, wearing their SMA uniform with pride. One pupil, Ashanna, was also lucky enough to spot a rather famous individual to have her photo taken with. The photo was later posted by the LTA on their own facebook page, further evidence of the wide reaching appeal of SMA pupils.



During the match itself, pupils were once again recognised by members of the public and friends of doubles expert, Rohan Bopana. During the match itself, Denis was roared on by raucous support from SMA pupils, at one point signalling his love for the support to Mr. Kohlbeck. Unfortunately for Denis, his fairy-tale run came to an end, although he had amassed a new following in the meantime with his on court exploits, thanks in no small part to the work of SMA Year 6.



On the following day, with the dust settled, he reflected on the journey he had been on and while still emotional, told Mr Kohlbeck that he was immensely grateful for the support of the SMA community. He said that he could hear their cheers throughout the Djokovic match and that they gave him belief when he needed it the most. This year's Wimbledon will live long in the memory of SMA and their new Tennis hero but this is simply the beginning of a story which will run and run for years to come as Denis, cheered on by new generations of SMA pupils, is surely set to take the tennis world by storm!

# Y6 at Wimbledon



# In the Primary Phase...



School trip: Adam Kohlbeck was joined by two of his pupils at yesterday's match

## Canadian on song after class's musical support

By Tom Morgan

Even the man who sent Andy Murray packing at Wimbledon is in line for a bigger semi-final roar than Novak Djokovic. Denis Shapovalov, the 22-year-old Canadian, went as far as to say he felt like an honorary Brit last night amid the wave of goodwill around him.

Nowhere have the cheers been louder, however, than in the classrooms of a south London primary school, where pupils have been recording songs for him prior to every match.

Before Shapovalov's straight-sets trouncing of injury-ravaged Murray, the No10 seed had been moved to tears by a video wishing him luck.

One class of children had made up their own song about Wimbledon to the tune of *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* from *The Lion King*. Then, they recorded their own version of MC Hammer's *U Can't Touch This* before Shapovalov's thrilling five-set quarter-final victory over Russia's Karen Khachanov yesterday.

Last night, after being tracked down by *The Daily Telegraph*, the children's teacher, Adam Kohlbeck, unravelled the mystery behind their message of support. Kohlbeck, 32, a former full-time tennis coach, met Shapovalov seven years ago while he was working with young talent in Canada.

However, back in the UK, the teacher turned his back on full-time tennis after becoming disenchanted with the Lawn Tennis Association's struggles to bring in players from diverse backgrounds.

Now, working at St Matthew Academy in Lewisham, he has managed to get almost all the children he teaches enthused by the game – even though most of them do not have anywhere to play.

“It was a quick process,” he said of the impromptu songs which Shapovalov shared on his Twitter page. “It was just a morning to write it, put it together as a class.”

Shapovalov had arranged for his teacher friend to be in the crowd to see him play Murray. Mr Kohlbeck was then joined by two pupils, Kaylen Gilgeous-Rowe and Zak Said, both 11, for yesterday's match.

Mr Kohlbeck, who spoke to Shapovalov yesterday, said: “Denis said he was feeling good before his match. I'd like to think that our songs have spurred him on and he did say and tweet that he appreciated our support. I think our next song for him will be a version of *Three Lions*.”

The Lewisham school's love for Shapovalov appears to have caught on, with the Canadian enjoying enthusiastic support throughout on No1 Court. “Yeah, I feel like a Brit for sure now,” the player smiled. “I just got to learn the accent and everything.”

Mr Kohlbeck said: “Denis is a very, very grounded guy. He's not one to get caught up with any of the hype. He's always a very loyal guy. He's got really strong, strong values and strong morals. I'd like to think that he likes to surround himself with people that kind of reflect his values.”

Shapovalov said receiving the video songs had been a major boost ahead of his matches. “I think that's what it's about, just inspiring the next generation and seeing these kids becoming fans and learning to love a sport.”

# Extra-Curricular News

## Debate Mate in Year 8

Congratulations to the Y8 Debate Mate team: **Paapa, Bess, Hawa, David, Daksh, and Gracie** for getting through to the semi-finals of the Urban Debate League 2021 - joining the top eleven schools across the whole of London. It was an exciting tournament, despite the team winning their knockout round, they just missed making the final two on point score. However, this is the first time a Y8 team has got to the semi-finals of the Urban League - quite an achievement - and promises great things for next year. Well done to all the Debate Mate club members for your commitment and efforts in this challenging year. Looking forward to welcoming you back and some new members in the Autumn.



**Urban Debate League 2021: Semi-Finalists!**



# Careers

## Careers Day in Year 10

On Friday Year 10 had Careers Day. Pupils were invited to come into school in professional clothing, prepared for workshops on Interview skills, personal statements and CVs, networking and more. Year 10 pupils also rose to the challenge of being interviewed by Ms Baldwin, the Headteacher and other members of the Senior Leadership Team. Feedback from the pupils was really positive, the day was useful and they loved dressing up for life in the world of work!



# House News

This is it! The final week. Romero continue to lead, but their lead is only by a few points. With so many different activities taking place this week and next, there is still plenty of opportunities for Teresa to retake their lead **or** for Mandela house to dominate the final competitions and shock us all!

Taking place over the next few days:

- Our House council will be taking steps to make the school more environmentally friendly.
- House sports day taking place on Monday and Tuesday.
- House competitions taking place on Monday and Tuesday.

### Achievement Points WB 5<sup>th</sup> July:

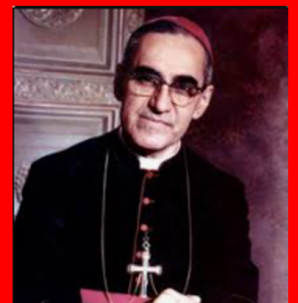
- 1<sup>st</sup> Teresa 901 (10 pts)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Romero 856 (5 pts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mandela 776 (3 pts)

### Attendance WB 5<sup>th</sup> July:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mandela 93.5% (10 pts)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Teresa 93% (5 pts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Romero 92.2% (3 pts)

### Overall:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Romero 1337 pts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Teresa 1323 pts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mandela 939 pts



# More KS2 News

## The Year 6 Residential—Camping in Blackheath

Year 6 were invited to spend the night camping on the SMA field and they loved putting up their tents, playing games, having a BBQ and keeping their teachers up late! Ms Chick, Mr Kohlbeck, Mr Henson, Miss Roostan and Ms Toprak and Mr Saunders deserve a huge thank you for organising all of the fun!

The tents were up as the sun set on the St Matthew Academy Primary field just before the pupils visited the Forest School for a campfire and toasted marshmallows!



Ms Chick was looking forward to a good nights sleep after another busy week leading the SMA primary team. She wasn't looking so cheerful at 8am on Saturday morning!

# Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Young supported by Mrs Wickliffe (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), and our Child Protection Officer is Mrs Laker. Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

## Worried about a child?

**You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.**

- Lewisham MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) **020 8314 6660**
- Or call **999** or **101** if you believe a child is in immediate danger
- Childline **0800 11 11** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

## Term Dates

### Summer Term 20/21

Monday 19 April 2021 to Friday 28 May 2021

Half Term: Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021

Monday 7 June 2021 to Wednesday 21 July 2021

### Autumn Term 21/22

Friday 3 September 2020 to Friday 22 October 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October 2020 to Friday 29 October 2021

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December 2021

### Spring Term 21/22

Tuesday 4 January 2022 to Friday 11 February 2022

Half Term: Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 1 April 2022

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 020 8853 6250