

# 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. Our debate masters, many of whom are in Year 9 continue to hone their skills and take on every challenge set before them. Mr Saunders has successfully launched the Duke of Edinburgh award with a large intake of Y9 pupils. Our sporting leadership scholars show such excellence in supporting their younger peers to strive for the best. Year 9 have been maturing in many ways and their resilience this term is a cause for celebration.

## 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          |                       |                      |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Ryan Abu                 | Sylvia Addai          | Matthew Adegbola     |
| Jommy Adepoju            | Gabriel Akinnusi      | Deborah Ansah        |
| Barakat Arole            | Eghosa Asemota        | Tejiri Avwerono      |
| Cassel Chambers          | Hanako Denton         | Marilyn Didjango     |
| Andy Ding                | Morgan Evans Williams | Joanna Ezeonu        |
| Kaylah Ferreira Pina     | Hawa Fofana           | Tianna Fogarty       |
| Shanrie George           | Alexia Hattoh         | Kimani Henry         |
| Danny Herrera Galvez     | Haliya Isiaka         | Sarah Khan           |
| Tasiah Leighton-Mitchell | Asia Malone           | Andrew Martin        |
| Gracie Muir              | Bradley Nanguy        | Jayden Newton        |
| Kelvin Ogalanya          | Abolaji Olatayo       | Abidah Onigbanjo     |
| Christian Ortiz Gomez    | Elliot Osi            | Hillary Oyenyin      |
| Araceli Sanchez Marca    | Huray Tesfay          | Thais Torres Bonnard |
| Nathaniel Walker         | Antony Zefi           |                      |

## 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!

| <b>Top 20 pupils with the most Achievement Points</b> |
|---|
| Mark Koutchedi  |
| Shameemah Tanagidah                                   |
| Cassandra Onica                                       |
| Subhan Domach   |
| Cassel Chambers                                       |
| Kyle Phillip  |
| Abigail Bepat   |
| Rapolas Venckus                                       |
| Hanako Denton   |
| Bess Huxton   |
| Jommy Adepoju   |
| Gift Omoregbee  |
| Huray Tesfay  |
| Farishta Mustafa                                      |
| Kemahri Taylor - Bailey                               |
| Gracie Muir   |
| Hillary Oyenevin                                      |
| Jamai Brown   |
| Adama Bah   |
| Haliya Isiaka   |

The following pupils below did not receive any behaviour points this term. Another example of the commitment shown by pupils in Year 9 to their learning, excellent modelling of behaviour and living out the SMA Values. Well done to you all!

| <b>Pupils with 0 Behaviour Points</b> |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Deborah Ansah                         | Gracie Muir           |
| Cassel Chambers                       | Cassandra Onica       |
| Harry Cousins                         | David Orekunrin       |
| Fabiola De Faria De Freitas           | Paapa Owusu – Donkor  |
| Hanako Denton                         | Ricardo Pardo Trucios |
| Luxmy Eesvaran                        | Daksh Patel           |
| Morgan Evans-Williams                 | Akshayan Prabakaran   |
| Joanna Ezeonu                         | Resma Rohan Francis   |
| Tianna Fogarty                        | Huray Tesfay          |
| Bess Huxton                           | Rapolas Venckus       |
| Moriah James                          | Aliyat Lateef         |
| Andrew Martin                         | Tamira Massally       |

### **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 award
- Year 9 mixed sports after school club
- Debate Mate

### **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.

**At 8.30am on Wednesday 5 January**, Year 9 pupils should log onto Google classroom and check for announcements from their form tutors and class teachers regarding activities / lessons for the morning. After lunch pupils should make their way to school for onsite testing between 1.30pm – 3.30pm. 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:

- Pupils must arrive to school promptly at the time indicated
- Pupils are not required to wear school uniform
- If pupils are late, they may not be tested.
- Pupils will leave immediately after their test
- Pupils with siblings in different year groups can arrive together to be tested.

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 should return to school on Thursday 6 January by 8.37am.**

### **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](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) with any queries.

### **Ranking Examinations**

We will be continuing with your child's first set of ranking exams in year 9 in January. 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 have been provided with a revision booklet devised by their subject teachers. An electronic 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 February 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.

## 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 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 (12.00)pm                |
| INSET Day – School closed to all pupils | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2022                                |
| Return to school (virtual 8.37am)       | Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022                         |
| COVID-19 Testing (1.30-3.30pm)          | Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022                         |
| Ranking Examination Week                | Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 |
| Virtual Parents' Evening                | Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 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 – you might catch us in it! 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 R Wanza**  
Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral Lead Years 9 & 10



**Ms I Ahima**  
Director of Learning for Year 9