

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



29 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Year 7 Update Letter

Well, it's been quite a term so far! As we predicted quietly to ourselves before we returned to school - if the Autumn term was anything to go by, Year 7 pupils have the resilience to meet any challenge the Spring term can throw at them head on - and so it has proved! On the second day of term, most of our pupils were sent home following the Government announcement of new COVID related restrictions, however this has not stopped our pupils from letting their lights shine brighter than ever! Far from it. 2021 is already shaping up to be a much better year for all of us in the community, with the glimmer of light, clearly visible, at the end of a very long dark tunnel. We are being led towards that light by our fantastically irrepressible and ever positive 7 pupils!

We are immensely proud of all our Year 7 pupils who have proven to be resilient, independent and ready for any challenge. There have been many successes since the last time I wrote to you. This includes many pupils who have already reached over 200 achievement points since the beginning of the year and will therefore be the recipients of the SMA Gold Achievement Star. Huge congratulations to:

- Zemirah Ogudoro 7.4
- Solange Lee 7.7
- Shumsana Nanthakumar 7.8
- Rahim Khan 7.7
- Miqdad Ekerin 7.5
- Micah Edwards Meade 7.8
- Matthews De Sousa 7.5
- Isabella Mpazi 7.8
- Jayden Diakite 7.7

The competition is fierce and we are all looking forward to adding more names to this list when we return to SMA, hopefully in March.

Poetry

Year 7 pupils have also been learning about different poetic techniques in English and using them to create their own stunning poetry. Speak to your children about this and keep an eye out for examples of Year 7 poetry in the next issue of the Academy Newsletter.

Drama

In Drama, pupils have enjoyed exploring stock characters from melodrama in their virtual lessons. I had the pleasure of popping into a Drama class (online, of course) to witness first-hand how much fun pupils were having with their learning. We certainly have talent in Year 7 Drama so watch out Hollywood!

PE

In PE, competition has intensified, particularly amongst our Year 7 'Key Worker' children. The PE challenge has really been heating up – ask your child what this is all about and feel the white heat of an intense competition!

House Competition

In the House Step competition, Year 7 pupils have really 'stepped up!' Each 100 steps they walk or run is worth a point that goes towards their House points total. Well done to all who have already joined in. Not only are you boosting your House's chances of winning the House competition 2020-2021; the Step competition is a wonderful excuse to go for a walk or a jog to clear your minds and relax away from the screen.

Amazon Voucher Winners

Each week, 5 pupils who have shown consistent engagement with their online learning by completing all their work to the very best of their ability, have the opportunity to win a £10 Amazon gift voucher. These pupils have their names entered into a raffle from which five winners are drawn. Congratulations to our winners so far:

- Shumsana Nanthakumar 7.8
- Blessing Oyedeji 7.5
- Kobe Graham 7.3
- Chloe Lee 7.3
- Mya Cobbinah 7.6
- Ngozi Maduka 7.2
- Rahim Khan 7.7
- Jayden Diakite 7.7
- Manus Hudson 7.1
- Georgina Felipe 7.4

Screen Reduction Day

We would like to inform you that Wednesday 3rd February is 'Screen Reduction Day.' On this day, we are encouraging all SMA pupils to spend as much time away from their screens as possible; the learning activities will only require a device for reading instructions. All the information for the day will be sent out on Google Classroom on Wednesday morning. We hope pupils will enjoy the slightly different approach to learning.

Opting into Google Classroom

If you haven't already done so, please could I also ask that parents 'opt in' to classroom Guardian summaries. This will enable you to support your children with their learning. Opting in will give you instant information about how well your child is engaging with learning from home.

It just remains for us to wish you all well and to remind you that the Government have identified 8th March as a possible return date to school - we very much hope that this will prove to be the day we return. The Government have promised a two week notice period, so we will keep you posted with any news regarding this date. Until then, please stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Mr I Gunningham
Assistant Headteacher (KS3)



Ms K Migon
Director of Learning Year 7

