

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 8 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, Key Stage 3 pupils have the resilience to meet any challenge the Spring term can throw at them, head on - and so it has proved! As a result of new Covid related restrictions this term's learning has been delivered remotely 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 at the end of a very long dark tunnel clearly visible and we are being led towards that light by our fantastically irrepressible and ever positive Year 8 pupils!

It's been a fantastic start to this term and we could not be more proud of Year 8. Despite the connectivity and IT mishaps, we have an overall attendance to lessons of 73% this term. 8.1 are in the lead with 95% attendance and the lesson with the highest attendance rate is (I am happy to report) English. We are confident that Year 8 can increase this through consistent attendance to lessons throughout the day.

Steps Challenge

Year 8 have joined the steps challenge and while many pupils have already got involved, I'm looking forward to many more helping Year 8 gain and keep the top spot! At the moment, Ms Ahima is in the lead for Year 8 and she says she is not very active, so come on everyone, you could beat Ms Ahima in this challenge!

Debate Mate

We are delighted to be able to continue Debate Mate virtually this term and Year 8 pupils will very much be involved! Don't forget, these pupils will be following in the steps of many Debate Mate champions who have attended SMA in the past. The new season and all our new recruits will, I'm sure, do us proud!

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. It has been exciting spinning the wheel of fortune in our Friday assemblies. A special shout out to Rayan who has been nominated two weeks consecutively by different teachers!

Our winners so far:

Farishta Mustafa	Layla Marshall
Nneoma Offormezie	Ammaize Lee-Hunt
Gift Omoregbee	Andrew Martin
Kemahri Taylor-Bailey	Elizabeth Adigun
Huray Tesfay	Abigail Bepat

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Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all

Achievement Points

Below are the top 10 pupils for achievement points this term so far. These pupils have proved themselves to be fully engaged in all of their lessons, working hard and we are very proud of them.

Leah Miller 8.7	Cassel Chambers 8.2
Shameemah Tanagidha 8.2	Davy Olito 8.6
Tyler Steele 8.7	Abigail Bepat 8.3
Rayan Choukri 8.8	Akshayan Prabakaran 8.3

Screen Reduction Day

We would like to give you notice 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 laptops as possible; the learning activities will only require a computer for reading instructions. All the information for the day will be sent out on Google Classroom on Wednesday morning. We hope pupils will enjoy this slightly different approach to learning.

Opting into Google Classroom

Please could we also ask that parents 'opt in' to classroom Guardian summaries if you have not already done so. 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 Key Stage 3



Ms I Ahima
Director of Learning Year 7