

# 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 9 Update Letter.

Firstly, we hope that this letter meets you well. We are now into our fourth week of remote learning and as it stands, we will continue to work remotely from home following guidance from the government. When the situation changes, rest assured we will inform you of the next steps regarding your child returning on site to the Academy.

Mr Charlery and I are proud of the achievement of pupils in year 9 during the remote learning period, and would like to share some of the achievements of the cohort.

### Brilliant Club – Scholars Programme

The Scholars Programme recruits, trains and places doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in schools to deliver courses of university-style tutorials based on their own research. The courses are accompanied by two trips to highly selective universities. Pupils wrote a letter of application justifying their inclusion in the programme, clearly explaining how they would demonstrate a commitment and willingness to the programme as well as how the programme would be of benefit to them. The following pupils were successful in their applications: Naomi Alabi, Vieric Angwe, Wendy Arthur – Forson, Angelima Baanah – Jones, Cassandra Kamegni Kadji, Melissa Malunga, Abdul Oladejo, D'Angelo Pinnock.

### Top 10 Achievement points

The pupils below have the most achievements points for the start of the term. Well done!!!!

Name	Number achievement points
Vieric Angwe 9.1	49
George Kionga 9.5	44
D'angelo Pinnock 9.1	40
Kavin Premkumar 9.1	38
Makida Arsene-Mcneish 9.5	35
Benita Asabere 9.2	35
Savannah Hylton 9.5	34
Naomi Sifa 9.4	32
Wildy Cabral De Brito 9.6	32
Zeta Brown 9.6	32

### Amazon Vouchers

To keep pupils motivated during these tough times, we have introduced a weekly Amazon Voucher give away. Each week, pupils can achieve one of five £10 vouchers: teachers nominate pupils based on their engagement and contributions to their lessons for the week and all the names are put forward for the draw. Well done to the following pupils who have received vouchers in the last two weeks: Dominic Jaztak, Kurt McCarthy, Moyin Solaja, Michaela Smith, Charlie Morrin, Nayley Burga Males, Keith Powell, Noah Viggile, Divine Obasogie, Novithan Nageswaran.

### Virtual Collective Worship

The following pupils played leading roles in SMA's first ever Virtual Liturgy. The theme was 'Peace'. All pupils read eloquently and should be commended for their contributions to the liturgy and the wider work that they do within the Youth Chaplaincy team – The Light Bearers: Vieric Angwe, Michael Fidelis, Naomi Alabi and Angel Baanah – Jones.

### Remote learning rates of engagement

Over the last three weeks of remote learning, the engagement of the year 9 cohort has been fluctuating. We started extremely well with a daily average of 70% and more recently dropping to 62%. I understand that it is challenging to manage what your child should be doing when you yourselves are working from home but it is imperative that pupils are engaging in remote learning.

### Extra-curricular

More than ever, exercise is important for pupils' physical and mental wellbeing:

Physical activity and exercise can be effective treatment strategies for symptoms of both depression and anxiety.

Each day is a new opportunity to engage in physical activity and exercise that can bring short and long-term benefits for mood, sleep, and physical health.

Consistency and sustained motivation may be enhanced by peer support, family support, or electronic platforms offering exercise programs.

Our outdoor specialist PE teacher Mr. Saunders has been putting a series of outdoor park workouts for pupils to get active with. Please encourage your child to keep fit and stay active. You can find these videos on the St. Matthew Academy YouTube page.

### Screen Free 'Digital Detox' Day

As pupils are sitting in front of a screen for most of the week, we are introducing a series of screen free days where pupils will get the opportunity to engage in a range of non-screen activities. The first screen free 'digital detox' day will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The theme of the day is 'reflecting and looking forward' and activities include the following: Haiku poem, meditation, post lockdown bucket list poster/board, interview your parents/carers, baking and a fitness session.

We look forward to sharing more achievements from the year group in the near future. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr R Wanza**  
Assistant Headteacher  
[rwa@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:rwa@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)



**Mr J Charlery**  
Director of Learning Year 9  
[jec@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:jec@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)