

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



23 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Half Term Letter – Year 9

As we approach half term I would personally like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy since our return to school at the start of September.

It has been a challenging yet rewarding term, so far. Pupils have exhibited resilience and a profound understanding of the necessary changes made to the Academy day and its facilities. All pupils should be congratulated for their co-operation.

In September, we celebrated the Feast of St Matthew. It was the first time the Academy has streamed a liturgy, live. All of our community joined in the celebration of our patron saint, socially distanced of course. When we return after half term pupils will be contributing to the planning and celebrating of Remembrance Day and our Advent liturgies.

As you are aware, so many families around the world are facing uncertain futures because of coronavirus. I am pleased to announce that our first House event – Harvest Collection, has yielded a significant amount of non-perishable foods. The Academy has collected 585 tins, 81 bags of pasta, 48 bags of noodles, 22 bags of rice, 36 packets of biscuits, 10 boxes of cereal and another 128 various items. This means the Academy will be donating 910 items to Lewisham Foodbank. All pupils should be proud of their efforts, in particular the competition winners, Teresa House! I would like to thank the House Leaders Miss Downer, Miss Livingstone and Mr Salih, with the support of Mrs Guest, for organising this event. At harvest time, the sharing of food helps Christians to remember that all gifts come from God. Giving is a way of saying thank you to God in a practical way whilst remembering that He commanded all people to love and care for others. A massive thank you to all pupils in Year 9 for their contributions to a worthy cause.

During Black History Month, we have reflected upon the contributions black people have made to our world history in assemblies, whilst celebrating modern day black excellence during tutor time. The Art department challenged all pupils to design a logo for a t-shirt that in their opinion best encapsulates the importance of learning about, learning from and celebrating Black history. The winning design will be printed and worn by all staff members.

I continue to be 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 the wonderful class work demonstrated in their exercise books. We again encourage you to commend your child and remind them of the importance of maintaining high standards of effort and behaviour at all times.

## Successes

I would like to highlight the following pupils who have made an exceptional start to the school year and have accrued the most achievement points in the year group. Well done to you all.

Name	Achievement Points
Wildy Cabral De Brito	104
Savannah Hylton	86
George Kionga	86
Naomi Sifa	85
Zeta Brown	84

:0208 853 6250 :[info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) :[www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk) :@stmattacad

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### GCSE Religious Education

Year 9 have completed their first half term of studying the GCSE Edexcel specification. Year 9 will sit their GCSE Religious Education (RE) examination in the summer of 2022, so the hard work begins now. I am pleased to share with you that Year 9 have made a noteworthy start to their studies in RE and I fully expect pupils to maintain the positive start. In Religious Education lessons, Joel Jeevaruban, Ilyas Labrouzi, Javarn Nnoli, Vieric Angwe and D'Angelo Pinnock have consistently produced excellent classwork, homework and insightful contributions. Well done to the pupils mentioned as they have truly let their light shine this half term. We hope to celebrate the work and achievement of other pupils at the end of the next half term.

### New Starters to St Matthew Academy

We have had a number of pupils join the Academy in Year 9 since September. Their attitude and aptitude towards learning has been first class and they have seamlessly become part of the SMA community. When they arrived, these pupils were paired with a 'buddy' all of whom have been incredibly helpful and have been a credit to the Academy. Thank you to the following pupils: Finlay Jaimeson, Ilyas Labrouzi and Dominion Ndem for supporting their peers.

### Key Dates for Autumn Term

- **Monday, 26 October 2020 – Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020** - Half Term
- **Friday 27 November 2020** – Staff INSET Day (Academy closed to all pupils)

### Important Reminders

- **All pupils are required to be on time each day, arriving no later than 9.20 am for line up**
- **Correct full school uniform is required including the wearing of their lanyard and face covering**
- **Pupils must not wear jewellery of any kind, except for a wristwatch**
- **Social distancing must be observed at all times**
- **Hands should be washed or sanitised regularly**

We are constantly reviewing and improving our procedures and protocols to ensure that all pupils remain safe, healthy and able to make excellent progress academically. As such, pupils are required to wear a face covering in communal areas of the Academy.

Please remember that it is really important that you keep the Academy up to date with any issues regarding COVID-19 during the half term. If your child has to isolate or if your child tests positive with COVID, then we must be informed immediately. You can do this via [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) as this account will be monitored throughout the break.

This continues to be a challenging time for us all and we thank you for your continued involvement and support in the SMA Community.

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Please see below a list of websites to for pupils to search to support maintaining a positive well-being.

NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>

UNICEF – How teenagers can protect their mental health during COVID-19 <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-teenagers-can-protect-their-mental-health-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Kooth – A free online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service for young people aged 11 -19. <https://kooth.com/>

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Mindfulness (Christianity) <https://calminggrace.com/christian-mindfulness-exercises/>

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This continues to be a challenging time for us all so we thank you for your continued support at this time. I wish all pupils in Year 9 a deserved restful half term.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Wanza**  
Assistant Head Teacher  
Pastoral Lead Years 9 & 10



**Mr J Charlery**  
Director of Learning