

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

During the week of 6th to 10th February, we acknowledge and celebrate 'Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'Let's Connect' which encourages children (and adults) to look at how we can make meaningful connections. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

How can we, as parents, staff and pupils, make meaningful connections to improve our mental health?

Smile!

Smiling has many benefits on our mental health: it relieves stress, elevates our mood and, the best part is, it's contagious!

Learn more about our diverse community!

We live, work and are educated in a diverse community. Sadly, due to a range of factors, some groups of people or individuals may feel excluded from this community. The more we learn about each other, the more likely all groups of people will feel seen, heard and included. On Tuesday, 31st January, a number of pupils and all staff attended a workshop led by the METRO Charity. Our involvement in these workshops has resulted in our collective increased knowledge of how to avoid discriminating against people, including those within the LGBTQ+ community.

Connect with your child in everyday ways!

Moments of connection (and re-connection) are really important in child-caregiver relationships. For example, when you pick them up from school, or come in from work, try to give them your full attention and see if this helps you feel better connected as you hug, talk, smile and hear about their day. With your older child, you may find times such as car journeys a good time to talk. It is important to be accessible to a teenager when they need to talk.

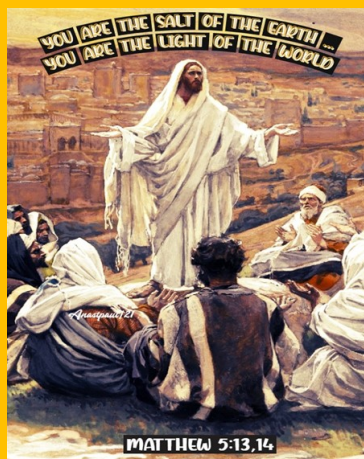
Consider how we all have a part to play in improving our children's mental health and how we can do this when we connect!

Ms V Bryan
Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

Last Sunday's Gospel we heard Jesus referring to his disciples as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. With this in mind we share the following prayer which encourages us to follow in the footsteps of the disciples.

Lord Jesus, You have said that your followers must be the 'light to the world. Light propagates itself, dispels darkness. It sows rays of joy and hope. It is life-giving. Help me, Lord, to be a light to this world, so that my life radiate your message of love, hope, and joy. May I be the beacon leading to You those who seek truth. You also said, Lord Jesus, that your disciples must be the salt to this earth. Salt gives taste to food. It retards spoilage. It is also a healing agent. Lord, may I be the salt that takes away the blandness in the routine of living, that prevents the rotteness of hatred and greed from expanding around me, that brings compassionate healing to anguished souls I encounter. Lord, help me to be "worth my salt." And infuse your "saltiness" in me, so that I do not become "flat" and useless. Amen



Secondary News

Brilliant Club Launch Event

We were delighted to take 14 of our Year 9 pupils to the launch for this year's Brilliant Club Scholars Programme. The Brilliant Club aims to raise the aspirations of pupils from state schools to consider applying for top universities in the UK so we were fortunate that pupils could visit Brasenose College, University of Oxford.

The day was hosted by the Brilliant Club and pupils were given a brief talk about university life before going on their guided and extensive tour of Brasenose College. Current students from the college showed many parts of the college and explained how Oxford University operates; they saw student accommodation, leisure facilities available and the social opportunities open to students. The pupils were also shown around the centre of Oxford including the famous Radcliffe Camera, part of the Bodleian library where some of the Harry Potter movies were filmed.

We are once again, incredibly excited about the programme and fully expect to build on the success of the last three years with all pupils completing the final assignment and successfully passing the course.



Business Events

Year 9 pupils were visited by a local entrepreneur - Eugene Tsyklevich, founder and CEO of Parkopedia. Pupils were able to hear how the business idea came about and the risks and struggles that Eugene encountered.



Year 10's started their year with a visit from the Bank of England. Pupils were able to look at the role of the Bank of England on economic policy and ask questions about the day to day running of this institution. Their learning will be further supported by a visit to FTI Consulting in June. Then at the beginning of this year Year 10's went to Chelsea FC, to attend "The business of football" workshop. Pupils were treated to a tour of the stadium, had a chance to host a media interview post match and explore all the decision making that goes hand in hand with running a major sports club.



Last week Year 10 completed their Mosaic Enterprise Challenge run by the Princes Trust. This is a nationwide competition held every year, where pupils run a business online and the top scoring teams compete in a final held in London for prizes. We are proud to announce that St Matthew Academy is currently number one in the competition and we look forward to the finals May 22.

Sports Fixtures

Indoor Athletics

The Year 7 and 8 Indoor Athletics squads took part in the Borough tournament this term with the hope of representing Lewisham in the London Youth Games. All pupils showed fantastic teamwork and effort throughout the event. There were standout performances from Cassidy and Jonathon in the longer distance events, they paced themselves for a sprint finish with both of them taking first place!



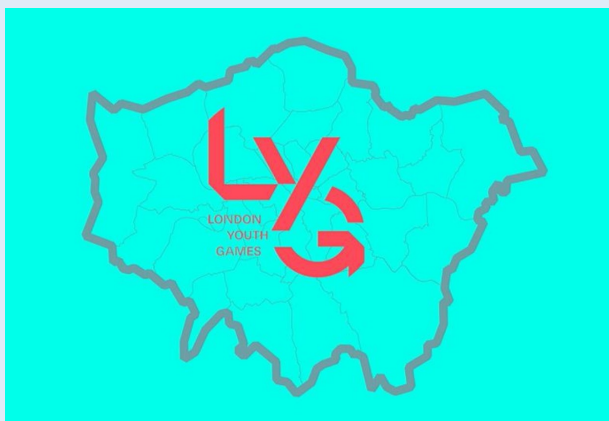
The Year 8 girls narrowly lost out to St Dunstan's by two points to take 2nd place and the Year 7 girls came 3rd after some fantastic field events sent them up the leader board.



The Year 7 and 8 boy's teams came 1st and will go onto compete in the finals on February 10.

Basketball

Earlier in the year, the year 9 basketball team won the Borough competition and are currently representing Lewisham in the London Youth Games. They started their campaign with a thumping victory over Langley Boys (Bromley) 35-14 and will now face the representative school from Lambeth in the next round!



Primary News

Year 5

The children have been writing poems about inspirational black women, they researched them individually and then created lovely poems using metaphors and similes. In this unit the children have had the chance to learn more about the history of black people and some major events that have made an impact through generations of history.

The children have started recorder lessons with Mr Garrick which they are thoroughly enjoying! They are really starting to grasp an understanding of how to read music and following beats and rhythms.

Kidzania in Westfields was where the children went on their school trip, this was part of the "*dreams and goals*" unit in PSHE. The children have the chance to take part in different career workshops, which included: sales assistant, news broadcaster, courier, radio presenters and many more! It was such a wonderful experience for the children and teachers.



After School Clubs

Cooking club have been making some delicious fruit pies!



In Maths club Year 6 have been interpreting data and representing it in pie charts.



Look at these amazing umbrella crafts made by our talented arts and crafts club!





LITERACY CORNER

Congratulations to Martha in year 7 and Nana in year 8 on the successful completion of our Reading Bingo challenge. They were both rewarded with an Amazon voucher for their wonderful effort. In fact, it's double congratulations to Nana, who is our winner of the House Christmas Literacy Competition. Through Nana's fantastic literacy work he collected 72 house points for Mandela and another prize for all his hard work.



Well done to our Sora Superstars for December. Avika in year 7, Aarav (not pictured) and Adekunbi in year 8 and Edesiri in year 10. Between them they read 11 books totalling a combined 22 hours on Sora last month!

Children's Mental Health Week:



Commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day in the LRC:





BOOK REVIEWS

Primary

Alleyan, Joyce and Deneise from Year 6 reviewed three books from the Agent Zaiba Investigates series by Annabelle Sami.



Alleyan read 'The Smuggler's Secret'. This book is about a school trip to see a shipwreck. Zaiba goes along with her best friend Poppy and her brother Ali to identify the mystery artefact found in the shipwreck. But then the artefact goes missing and so Zaiba has to start using her investigative skills. This book is suitable for children in years 3 and 4. I would recommend this to someone who likes investigation. I gave this book 3.5 stars out of 5.



Joyce reviewed 'The Poison Plot'. Zaiba can't wait for the summer fair so she can show everyone her mystery trail. But when the head teacher is poisoned, Zaiba's skills are put to the test. I would recommend this book to people who like to investigate because this whole series of books is dedicated to solving crimes. I gave this book 3 stars.



Denesie reviewed 'The Haunted House'. Zaiba investigates at a housewarming party where she tracks down a troublesome ghost and keeps the Booker family safe. This book is suitable for those age 8 and over and those who enjoy investigations. I gave this book 4.5 stars out of 5.



Secondary

Nana, Liesel, Phoebe and Sienna-Rose from Year 8 reviewed Nisha's War by Dan Smith



Summarised in three words, Nisha's War is hopeful, mysterious and emotional. These three characteristics combined together make an excellent story. This book contains drama, suspense, friendship and historical content. The story talks about how Nisha conquers her fears in memory of her loved ones, makes new friends at the loneliest of times.

Nisha is a young Anglo-Indian girl who lives in Malaya. She flees the Japanese invasion with her parents and goes to live on a haunted island off the coast of England with her Grandma. People judge the new arrivals due to their skin colour. What we enjoyed most about this story is how it uses the technique of delayed revelation. We really liked reading it since it gave us knowledge about Malaya during World War Two. This book beautifully mixes in the concepts of family relationships, world war, fear, as well as spiritual revelations. Overall, Nisha's war was a breath-taking book which reveals the wretched and wicked life of people during the second world war. But as Nisha's grandmother always says, "You must always have hope." Overall this book was an interesting read and we highly recommend it to those over the age of 11.



House Points Update

Week beginning 10/2/23

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: 12068
2nd – Mandela: 10295
3rd – Romero: 10200

Attendance:

1st – Romero
2nd – Mandela
3rd – Teresa

Overall House Points

1st – Teresa: 210
2nd – Mandela: 205
3rd – Romero: 200

Nearing the end of the term and Teresa is taking the lead, but Romero has had a massive jump of 20 points and are closing the gap.

Well done to the Pupil Leadership Team who have been fantastic helping in assemblies, visiting tutor groups in their houses and fulfilling their duties during lunch time.

Voting for the next Young Mayor of Lewisham is currently taking place at SMA! We hope that the next mayor would be one of ours. Good luck to David and Samuel.

The winner of the House Table Tennis Tournaments was Juan who represented Mandela house.

Events to look out for after the half term break are the Lent house event, the SMA big quiz. Details will be revealed soon, so keep your eyes peeled!



Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during January

Year 7	Temani WILKS-HAMID 7M1	Year 8	Mamadu BAH 8M1
	Souleymane SOW 7T1		Festus CHALLE 8T1
	Adam EL HARI 7M2		Nitin SRI PADMANABAN 8R2
	Yaw NYANTAKYI 7T1		Tyiana AGUTOR-WHYTE 8T2
	Niya AKINFOLARIN 7T1		Churchill KINGE 8T1
Year 9	Wilson ZHOU 9R2	Year 10	Kemahri TAYLOR-BAILEY 10R2
	Kiara CASE-WALLACE 9R2		Abena HAYLES 10M1
	Jodelee OWUSU 9R1		Layla AKINFOLARIN 10T2
	Nowoyenko KANU 9T1		Danny HERRERA GALVEZ 10T2
	Sophia MINNOCH 9M2		Nick DOAN 10T2
Year 11	Danielle SALAMI 11ABA	Moyin SOLAJA 11EED	
	Princess MARTINS 11ABA	Arifa JAHAN 11MEN	
	Christel MASASU 11ABA		

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Ms Opoku



"For being so patient and allowing the facilities team to use the DT prep room."

Ms Creary



"For being an incredibly supportive team leader and colleague. Never flustered; completely reliable and nothing is ever too much trouble."

Ms Eduvie



"For all the hard and great work that she does with the Light Bearers."

Mr Gunningham



"A great colleague, helpful, understanding, very caring, a great friend and an excellent role model."

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Young supported by Mr Gunningham (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), and our Child Protection Officer is Ms Dryden. Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child?

You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

- Lewisham MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) **020 8314 6660**
- Or call **999** or **101** if you believe a child is in immediate danger
- Childline **0800 11 11** www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk

Term Dates

Spring Term 22/23

Wednesday 4 January 2023 to Friday 10 February 2023

Half Term: Monday 13 February 2023 to Friday 17 February 2023

Monday 20 February 2023 to Friday 31 April 2023

Summer Term 22/23

Monday 17 April 2023 to Friday 26 May 2023

Half Term: Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023

Monday 5 June 2023 to Friday 21 July 2023

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk



ST MATTHEW
ACADEMY
Let your light shine

OWN CLOTHES DAY THIS FRIDAY

Friday 10th February

**BRING £1 TO WEAR YOUR OWN CLOTHES AND
RAISE MONEY FOR THE EMERGENCY SYRIA-
TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**

