



**A MESSAGE FROM
THE HEAD OF SCHOOL -
MS BALDWIN**

It has been another eventful and thriving term at St Matthew Academy. Our pupils, staff and parents have been involved in a range of enrichment, sporting and charity events and we have continued our determined focus on improving the quality of outcomes for all pupils by ensuring high quality teaching and learning takes place every day at the academy.

There have been numerous highlights and for me the ones where our pupils have 'let their light shine' in public have been memorable. At the start of March I had the pleasure of attending the Jack Petchey Awards evening at the Broadway Theatre in Catford. It was an inspiring evening with 8 of our secondary pupils awarded alongside pupils from across the Borough of Lewisham. Three of our Year 10 pupils; Ruth, Sorayo and John were also selected to perform at the event and they stunned the audience with the quality of their singing and keyboard skills – in my opinion they were the star performers!

Another set of star performers that impress the audience on a weekly basis have been our primary pupils in their class assembly. This is a new idea that Mrs Beckley was keen to introduce in January and it has been great to also have parents attend the Thursday afternoon assembly too.



CHAPLAINCY

FUNDRAISING FOR LENT

We were delighted to be asked by SMA Mum, Gemma Morton, to help support the Children's Ward at Lewisham Hospital. The Parent's Room on the Children's Ward was a bit bare and low on resources so over 10 days staff at SMA and Sacred Heart brought in cups, mugs, a kettle, cutlery, plates, toiletries, cushions and pictures to brighten it up and make it more comfortable and welcoming.

Our primary and secondary student councils have also been busy this term having met the governors, presented in assemblies and last week successfully delivering their first presentation to the School Leadership Team. The secondary team have shared ideas for improving the movement of pupils in corridors and are now working on designing a poster and re-introducing pupil monitors, an idea already embedded in the primary phase. Two groups of our pupils were privileged to actually see democracy in action at a national level when they visited the Houses of Parliament recently, watched a live debate in the House of Commons and met Heidi Alexander, our local MP.

I do hope that you will take some time to read this newsletter which showcases many of the fabulous activities that have taken place over the last few months. Next term will see the launch of our new website and one of the features that I am very much looking forward to is the news section. We will be able to add items as and when they happen which will give us an opportunity to celebrate the successes of our pupils immediately and to a much wider audience.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our school community a lovely Easter Holiday although as you know many of our pupils and staff will be in school working over the holidays to ensure they are fully prepared for the up-coming exams. Finally, thank you, parents and carers, for the continued support you give to your sons and daughters and to the academy.

**Miranda Baldwin
Head of School**

Student representatives from Year 6, 7 and 8 took the items to the Hospital and all the gifts were very warmly received, the staff were so grateful and said how much they appreciated the items and felt cared for and supported by the generous variety of donations. The Care Quality Commission have also commented on the Parent's Room on a recent visit.

The children are now beginning their fund-raising to continue to improve resources on the Children's Ward. Lewisham Hospital will be our nominated charity for the season of Lent, the wish list has been created, events are planned and raffle tickets ready ... we look forward to sharing lots of pictures and news of their success in next term's newsletter – watch this space! *(more on page 2)*



CHAPLAINCY - EASTER



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and a time for us to focus on prayer, fasting and charitable giving in preparation for the wonder and beauty of Christ's resurrection at Easter. The whole school attended Prayer Services on Ash Wednesday to mark our commitment to renewing our faith in Jesus during this holy and blessed Lenten Season.

Each week during Lent the students will focus on a special theme: Fasting, Prayer, Charity and Forgiveness and we pray every day for our whole school community:

Living God,
cleanse us of all that
is wrong,
put a new heart and a
right spirit within us,
and so prepare us to
rejoice again at the
wonder of your love
revealed in Christ
crucified and risen.

Amen.



PREPARING FOR EASTER MASS

We return to school during Easter week and will come together to mark the Easter season with the celebration of Mass at 9am on Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th April in the Main Hall.

As we celebrate Easter day at the end of the holidays we take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful and holy Easter and offer abundant thanks to God for His living presence in our school and in our hearts.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION EDALE EXPEDITION 2017

15 intrepid adventurers - a mixture of eleven Year 10, two Year 8 and two Year 7 students left SMA on Weds 8th March for the long journey North up to the lovely Peak District and the village of Edale, just outside of Chesterfield.

Once there, we settled in and met the Instructors for some team building, and then after our evening meal we completed a "night hike" up to the top of highest hills in the valley, before falling into our beds!.

Next day we split into groups and did either canoeing or climbing, back for a healthy lunch at the YHA, and in the afternoon we changed

A BIG "THANK YOU" LETTER!

Parent Gemma Morton has lead a drive at St Matthew Academy in Blackheath for donations to the parents' lounge, and the children's wards at University Hospital Lewisham.

Gemma: "The parents lounge is somewhere people can go and re-charge their batteries. I was in there one evening and all I wanted, more than anything, was a cup of tea. It made me realise just how important those simple things are and that perhaps when people are donating they might not think of. I school spoke with the school teaching staff and they have been so supportive."

The school had donations ranging from a microwave oven to boxes of hot chocolate, cups and cutlery. The pupils also donated their artwork and helped with donations of toys, books and games for the wards while the parent group are talking to local businesses about what might be possible in future.

Gemma added: "Over Lent, the children (supported by teachers and parents) will be organising fundraising

activities – from reception to KS4. This is a whole community coming together to support our hospital."

Robert Cole, Matron for the Children's Wards said:

"It's incredibly thoughtful of Gemma and the staff of St Matthew Academy. Providing a nice, relaxing space for the parents and guardians to take a breather is very important. The donations today have really helped shape that environment, it has been an outstanding team effort from the school, and one we sincerely appreciate."

Mr Wanza, Head of RE: "The schools motto is 'Let your light shine' and we really feel this project has allowed the pupils and staff to let their light shine. The Student Council are already working on creative ideas with their classes and are very excited about helping the hospital more in the future. We're incredibly proud of them all and very happy to be here today to see the difference it will make."

Scott Bartlett

Marketing & Communications Officer
Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust

www.lewishamandgreenwich.nhs.uk

twitter: @LG_NHS

facebook: LGTNHS



groups and activities around. That evening we did some problem solving and I arranged a quiz with prizes about the local area and what the students had learnt so far. The students then had some free-time before another early night.

Next morning we were all up early; we packed up everything into the minibus ready to leave our YHA

accommodation, and made our way to a local bridge for some abseiling.

All students during this trip either cured their fears of heights, deep water or climbing, they gained confidence and a good time was had by all.

Mr Saunders
Outdoor Education
Teacher

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK AT SMA



British Science Week ran from 13-17 March at SMA.

Students had the chance across primary and secondary to take part in a range of science events, with much of it covered by our fantastic reporters at SMA News.

Science-themed topics were discussed as part of Debate Mate. Fifty key stage 3 students joined the science team for an open evening just for students in the main hall, experiencing a range of demonstrations and quick practical activities.



Students from primary and key stage 3 took part in a poster competition on the theme of change. Some fantastic examples could be sent to the national competition!



Miss K held a lunchtime tower making contest. It was amazing to see the heights that could be reached with just newspaper and tape!



40 primary students had an after school practical session in a science laboratory, with Miss K showing them how to make toothpaste for elephants, Mr Bradley showing sparks from our Van der Graaf generator (above) and students getting hands-on making pH rainbows (top).



Our key stage 2 science club had a bumper session to end the week where students made ice cream with Mr A in secondary.

PRIMARY NEWS

YEAR 3 TRIP TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Year 3 had a wonderful time at the Natural History Museum this term. Students investigated and debated about dinosaur fossils like true palaeontologists in a hands-on workshop. They also got the opportunity to explore the interactive dinosaur gallery, sketch their favourite dinosaurs and record scientific facts they learned. It was a great way to wrap up their IPC unit on the 'Age of Dinosaurs'.



YEAR 4 TRIP TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Our Year 4 pupils had successful and enjoyable days out at the Natural History museum which was planned to enhance their IPC learning on 'Footprints from the Past.'

The children became Palaeontologists for the day and also looked at the dinosaur exhibition.

All of the children were extremely well-behaved throughout the day and made their teachers very proud.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

2E have worked really hard in Prayer and Reflection this term.

One of the topics has been finding out where our school prayer and motto come from – The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 14-16 - and how each of us can LET OUR LIGHT SHINE at home, at school and in our community. The children each made a smiley sunshine plate which takes pride of place in their classroom.



Well done Year 2E and thank you for LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE every day.

SMA SCHOOL PRAYER

You are the light of the world,
I have Your light within me,
I will not hide it away
but let Your light shine out
before others
so that they may see my
good works
and give glory to You, Father
in Heaven. Amen.

YEAR 2

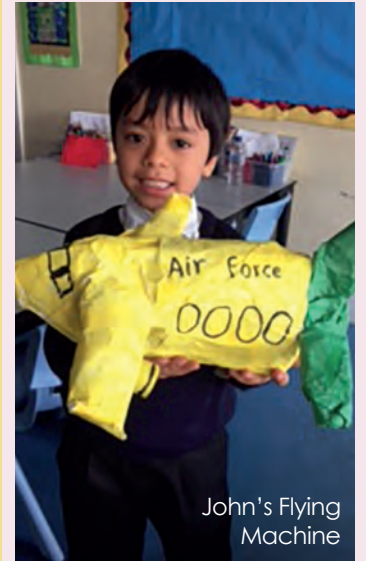
This term Year 2 studied People From the Past. As part of our interesting learning we found out about Mary Seacole, The Wright Brothers, Grace Darling and Florence Nightingale.

We had a visitor from FreshWater Theatre Company who came to help us learn all about Florence Nightingale. She brought lots of historical artefacts with her and we took part in a drama session, which then helped us to write some amazing diaries and letters in character.

We have had a busy term tracing our family histories, building flying machines and investigating materials and their properties.

We are looking forward to an exciting Summer term in Year 2!

Ms Shaw



John's Flying Machine



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

At the beginning of March, we celebrated British Science Week and the children took part in many exciting experiments on the theme of 'change.' The children had a great time learning about Science in such an exciting way.



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

This term we have included individual class performances within our Thursday celebration assemblies.

All classes that have presented their work so far have done a brilliant job and have performed to children, staff and parents with great confidence.



YEAR 2 THEATRE GROUP VISIT

This term year 2 have been learning about Florence Nightingale. To enhance their topic, we brought in a theatre company who performed to the children in an interactive and engaging way.

Many interesting facts about the life of Florence Nightingale were shared, and the children even engaged in role play, pretending to be nurses and soldiers in the hospital.

SPORTS NEWS

This has been another busy period for the PE department with many students from all ages participating in a number of clubs and fixtures both at lunchtimes and after school. We would like to encourage as many pupils as possible to keep attending extra-curricular activities and congratulate all students for their fantastic efforts this term – well done!



Mr Goksel
Head of PE

BASKETBALL

Basketball club has been regularly taking place on a Monday and Thursday after school with our Basketball specialist coach Miss McKoy. The club runs in conjunction with our local link club, Greenwich Titans. All pupils are welcome to attend training and from these clubs, players have been selected to take part in a host of borough tournaments, fixtures against local schools and inter-form competitions!

YEAR 7

The current Year 7 squad played their first game against a strong STAC team. Despite winning the last quarter the boys lost the game and will be seeking revenge in the return fixture! They went onto the borough tournament and came 3rd place overall, showing fantastic team play.

Team captain, Stephen Tiscona was the team's highest point's scorer. SMA 6 v STAC 20
Borough tournament 1:
3rd place – (won 1, lost 2)

YEAR 11

The Year 11s also entered the borough-run tournament in December and despite winning 2 of their 4 group games, were ultimately disappointed to get knocked out in the group stages of a tournament they won last year. Seeking revenge, they attended the second borough tournament and won 3 out of 5 games finishing a respectable 3rd place with a much improved team performance!
Borough tournament 1:
4th Place (won 2, lost 2)
Borough tournament 2:
Joint 3rd place (won 3, lost 2)



NETBALL

The girl's netball club has experienced great success in the past term with several onsite fixtures against other schools in the area. The club consists of a group of dedicated and competitive netballers who attend the club regularly on a Wednesday after school between 3:15 - 4:30pm. There is a professional coach, Mrs Gordon, from our well-established link club, Lewisham Raiders. She has led the club and ensured pupils are getting the best training and competitive experiences possible. There have also been 2 fixtures this term in which the girls played exceptionally well. Even though they lost both fixtures (3-8, 6-7) against older opposition, the girl's

performances have been vastly improved and they look forward to forthcoming competitive fixtures against local schools!

A special mention to Crystal Nelson (Year 8) and Joanna Onilude (Year 10) who have been the outstanding performers at the club and have shown fantastic improvement in their game play.

Finally, Mrs Gordon, together with Miss Toprak, have also been training our Primary pupils on a Tuesday evening and have both reported very positively on the extremely high standard of talent at the club!

TABLE-TENNIS

There has been a huge interest in table tennis for Year 7's and 8s since the launch of the after school club this year. Over 25+ students attend the club regularly and have all shown fantastic enthusiasm and great competitive spirit.

This Academic term, Mr Cole will be hosting a table tennis tournament for Year 7's in which the proceeds will go to charity and we look forward to finding out who will be crowned the table-tennis champion! The tournament will be held between Monday 27th and Wednesday 29th March during lunchtimes. Mr Cole and the PE team would like to wish all the entries luck in this tournament.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has been successfully running at St Matthew Academy since October, 2016. Thirty two carefully selected Year 10 students have started the highly reputable programme and have so far completed part of their 'Expedition' training. Pupils are now either completing the 'Skill' module through first-aid training or the 'Physical' module through BMX cycling. The students meet every Monday from 3-5pm and are also preparing for their forthcoming 'Expeditions' in May.



BMX ACTIVITY

Access Sport have provided free BMX training to pupils at the Academy. The sessions have been taking place on site and at the local BMX track, Hornfair Park. Access Sport have provided all equipment for the programme and all sessions have been led by a qualified level 2 BMX coach, Nathaniel Martin.

The Duke of Edinburgh cohort are benefitting from these outdoor sessions, as are a small number of Year 9 Work Related Learning students and two sets of Year 7 girls, who have participated during their scheduled PE lessons. A selection of ten students have also been selected from the Academy to compete in the forthcoming London 'all schools' spring championships that will be taking place at the famous Lea Valley VeloPark, located in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park! St Matthew Academy will also be the first school to represent Lewisham, a truly fantastic achievement!



FOOTBALL

It has been a great start to the year for all teams at the Academy with every year group playing in competitive fixtures with boys and girls taking part in regular weekly training sessions.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Year 8/9 Girls Football - U14 Girl's Blackheath Cup 2016-2017

The U14 Girl's Football team had a fantastic cup run this year making it all the way to the semi-finals of the Blackheath Cup. They were eventually beaten by Eltham Hill. Mr Lynch would like to congratulate all the girls on a successful campaign and has challenged them to win the cup next year!

R1: Bye, R2: SMA 4-3 St Thomas More

QF: SMA 3-0 John Roan, SF: SMA 1-3 Eltham Hill

U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL SQUAD

Mugbe Charles (captain), Bernadette Nimako, Soraya Nkutu, Kiarah Bennett, Victoria Akinunmi, Nancy Tongbin, Melanie Moreno, Rachael Adiqua, Stephanie Acktokunba, Leonilde Walter-Dabo, Chloe Lee, Michelle George, Chinelle Doyley, Ola Ostrowska, Amiga Harewood, Kemi Omasoro, Clintisha Richards



BOYS FOOTBALL

YEAR 7

The team has restarted training, making huge strides in their team shape, ball retention and overall performance. The team is relishing the prospect of playing both STAC and Thomas Tallis in forthcoming competitive friendlies. Well done to Kwakye Osei, Lewis Green and Omarion Byfield for outstanding performances this season and being chosen to represent the U12 Blackheath District team!

SMA 9v Bonus Pastor 5, SMA 2v STAC 4, SMA 1v Thomas Tallis 3

YEAR 8

The Year 8s have been the Academy's most successful boys' team. They have shown high levels of team cohesion, skill and technique. We have had four Year 8's picked for the U13 Blackheath District team; Tunji Obembe, Richard Chinedu, Tade Olanrewaju and Francis Cole. A fantastic achievement! The team was unlucky to be knocked out in the quarter finals of the Blackheath cup by current holders, Forest Hill in a thrilling encounter. The challenge is for the team to go one further and make the final next year.

R1 Blackheath Cup: SMA 6 v 4 HAAF

R2: SMA 14 v 1 Prendergast QF SMA 1 v 3 Forest Hill Boys



YEAR 9

It has been a progressive start for the Year 9 team. They have shown excellent improvement from last year, recording a couple of convincing wins but were very unfortunate to get knocked out in the Blackheath cup in a thrilling 11 goal encounter. With the spring term in full swing, the pupils are back in training and are playing inter-year matches; ready and raring to play some fixtures against some local schools. Fixtures will involve Sedgemoor and Bonus Pastor. Washington Omenyi and Amari Kpodo have been the outstanding performers, after being chosen to represent Blackheath district and London County at U14 Level, which is a phenomenal achievement!

SMA 6 v Bonus Pastor 1, SMA 5 v HAAF 6

SMA (Yr 8) 3 v SMA (Yr 9) 3, SMA (Yr 8) 2 v SMA (Yr 9) 8



YEAR 10

The current Year 10 team have made huge progress and are now starting to show their true potential as a team. Outstanding performers are John Dada (GK) and Telvin Ajim, who have both been reported by Mr Cole as 'match winners' for their respective contributions to the team. Following a good start to the campaign, the boys were part of a very competitive fixture with Prendergast Vale in the last 16 of the Blackheath cup. The team played very well and dominated the match, but were defensively lacklustre in the second half allowing our opponents back into a game but showed excellent resilience to come out as 5-4 winners! In the quarter final we were drawn away against the current cup holders, Thomas Tallis. The game was a tale of a poor start to which we conceded two very debatable penalties! We entered the second half with a number of positional and tactical changes and were able to pull a goal back but squandered very good chances to possibly get through to extra time. Unfortunately it was not to be but we will hopefully come back stronger next year!

SMA 8 v 2 Bonus Pastor

SMA 5 v 4 Prendergast Vale – Blackheath Cup

SMA 1 v 4 Thomas Tallis – Blackheath Cup QF

YEAR 11

The Year 11 team have had some excellent training sessions in preparation for this season but due to examination commitments, game time has been limited. In the Blackheath cup game vs HAAF, the pupils showed fantastic competitive spirit but were ultimately left disappointed with the score line. The lack of match play and the opposition's clinical finishing in front of goal were responsible for the ultimate demise of the team. A special mention to Samuel Oliveira and Dylan Morris who have helped out with Year 9 and 10 training sessions.

SMA 2 v HAAF 4 – Blackheath Cup

Buy the SMA PE kit by visiting:
www.sportsscenedirect.com/st-matthews-109-c.asp

RE NEWS

It has been a productive term in RE with many exciting opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Our Year 11 groups have been making great progress and after a gruelling series of mock examinations and interventions they are in great

shape to begin the final push towards their GCSE exams. This year's Lenten charity is the Lewisham hospital children's ward and there will be a variety of events taking place in the school to help raise money to support the ward with essential items.

Year 8 have had a range of activities taking place

throughout Lent to tie into their curriculum theme of Holy Week.

Some groups were selected to take part in a cross-curricular lesson with catering on Shrove Tuesday. They will also be visiting the chapel to complete the Stations of the Cross and remember the sacrifice that Jesus

made, reflecting upon the importance of the coming Easter celebrations.

In January 2017, St Matthew Academy also appointed Mr Wanza, Assistant Head leading RE and Catholic Life across the school.



RE and Catering get together with Year 8 to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and promote observance of Holy Week.

DANCE

YEAR 9 FLASHMOB

To mark the start of the new term, twenty five talented Year 9 dancers and singers performed a 'flashmob' to the Primary School. Inspired by the song 'Every Praise,' the performers echoed the ethos of the school to 'let their light shine' to a very appreciative audience.

Thank you to Ms Roberts, our wonderful chaplain, who came up with the idea and worked alongside the dance department to help motivate and support the group throughout the rehearsal process.

YEAR 8 AND 9 CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING WORKSHOP AT TRINITY LABAN

Thank you to Mr Cameron who kindly gave up his time to photograph the Year 8 and 9 dancers at Trinity Laban. The students enjoyed a tour of the award winning building before being put through their paces in a very high intensity and exciting workshop with one of Trinity Laban's leading dance practitioners.

The Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) is an innovative scheme offering young

people with exceptional talent and potential in dance the opportunity to access high quality dance training.

2017 LEWISHAM DANCE SHOWCASE

The Lewisham Dance Showcase at the Cuffold Broadway Theatre celebrates the talents of dancers from across the borough. Run in collaboration with Trinity Laban and the Lewisham Education Arts Network, it provides a platform for young people to demonstrate their choreographic and performance skills. Our extremely talented dancers from Year 9 and 10 danced with exceptional energy and enthusiasm. Our thanks go to Mr Salih and to Ms Brady for their support and to AJ in Year 10 who compered the evening and did such a great job of supporting the dancers.

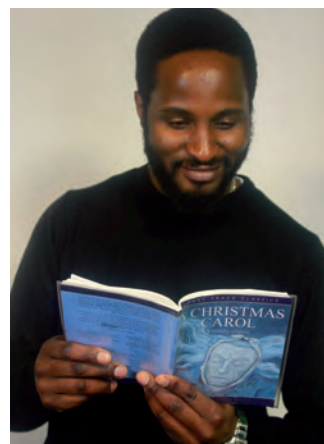
SMA dancers and musicians are currently working hard to prepare for their next major performance as part of 'Live at Trinity Laban.' The programme has been highly publicised and is a wonderful opportunity for students to dance in an internationally renowned conservatoire of dance.

Ms Smith
Dance Teacher



SMA LITERACY CAMPAIGN CORNER

Matron – Ms Manley and Science teacher Mr Anyanwu supporting the SMA Literacy campaign.



ST MATTHEW ACADEMY STUDENT COUNCIL



The School Council giving a Presentation to the Senior Leadership Team

A SUMMARY OF STUDENT COUNCIL (SC) AGENDA ITEMS, SPRING 2017.

(Student Voice led by Mr Salih and Mr Gunningham).

The Student Council has met on a number of occasions this term, giving the students the opportunity to have their say in the shaping of St Matthew Academy's future. Discussions have been wide ranging and impassioned and it is clear that our Councillors really value their chance to contribute and debate the issues raised.

This term, the Student Council have discussed the use of the library, or as we have renamed it, 'The Learning Resource Centre.' We have also discussed the way students move around the Academy between lessons with the emphasis on safe and efficient movement to and from lessons. A small group of Student Council members presented their ideas to each Year Group assembly in the Secondary phase to garner support for their initiative from the Secondary student population.

Charity fundraising has also been an important agenda item with the Children's Ward at Lewisham Hospital being chosen as our Lenten charity for this year. Student Council have been innovative in thinking up lots of ways to raise money for this worthy cause.

Primary members of Student Council presented their ideas about the awarding of Dojo points in the Primary phase and also contributed interesting ideas to the Lenten Charity.

Another discussion worth mentioning was the discussion around enrichment clubs and activities across the whole Academy. Although there is a great deal on offer, Student Council will continue to think of ways to get more pupils involved in lunchtime and after school clubs.

The Student Council look forward to continuing their good work next term!

YEAR 10 CONTRIBUTION TO THE LENTEN CHARITY

During this lenten season, there have been many charitable events taking place in all the year groups. Some pupils have shown true promise in becoming charity leaders so they were invited to attend a Charity Bridge Walk with our partner school, Scared Heart. The pupils, having amassed lots of sponsorship were asked to meet at school

at 8am on Sunday, 19th of March, travelling into London together and walking across eight consecutive bridges which span the River Thames. This event saw Year 10 really getting involved with the charitable drive to support the Children's Ward at Lewisham Hospital.

We hope that this is the first of many such sponsored events

WORLD BOOK DAY IN THE SECONDARY PHASE

For World Book Day 2017, staff and students enjoyed a range of activities. All students received book vouchers in honour of World Book Day, to put towards the purchase of a book from their local bookstores.

Further to this, the Learning Resource Centre hosted lunchtime events on the day, where students could put their knowledge of well-known authors and their books to the test.

Students from Year 7 -11 also had the opportunity to get involved in this year's 'Readathon' which involved friends and family sponsoring them to read books, magazines, newspapers and more. All of this was in aid of charities supporting the drive to provide reading materials for extremely unwell children in hospital and give them something positive to focus on. We are still counting the total amount raised.

Staff in the Secondary phase enjoyed a 'find your matching book character' challenge. This involved staff wearing a character name label and enlisting the help of other staff members as well as the students in order to find their matching pair and collect a small reward. As ever, World Book Day was very well celebrated!

Ms Creary

WBD – A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

On World Book Day, the school set up literary quizzes. Also the teachers had their own name tags of book characters. This meant that if they found the other character from the same book they would win a prize. The students were asked to help the teachers look.

The library was jam packed with quizzes and activities to do. It was amazing, thanks to the Literacy Coordinator Ms Creary. What a great day!

Daniel Adesanya Year 8

for Charity. The whole process has been a very rewarding one for Year 10 pupils - one pupil in particular got sponsored to the tune of £120 which was a fantastic effort. Challenging but rewarding, the whole walk took approximately two and a half hours to complete and Year

10 represented St Matthew Academy with pride. It will be exciting to see when all the sponsorship money is in, how much this event has raised for our school charity - Lewisham Hospital Children's Ward.

Ms Cefai
Director of Learning, Year 10



HAPPY PI DAY!

On the 14th March the Maths department celebrated Pi day. For those not aware Pi (or π) is a mathematical constant used to show the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

The value of Pi can be written to an infinite amount of decimal places but the first three are 3.14, hence why we celebrate during the 3rd month of March on the 14th day.

The department had lots of displays around celebrating the importance of this number and its use in Maths. A number of classes during the day had special activities to take part in surrounding Pi, including competitions to recall the number and tasks to find the ratio for themselves.

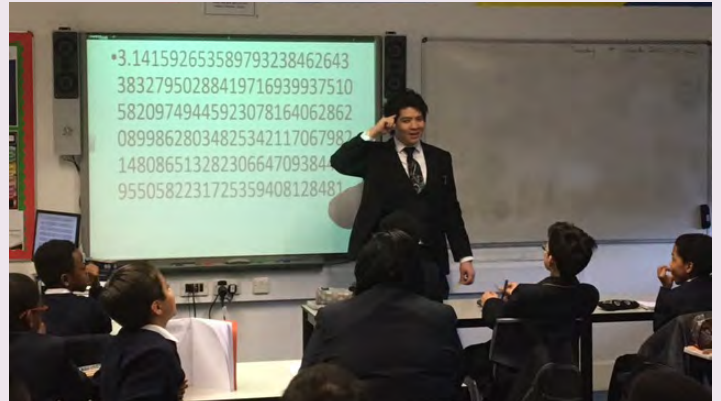
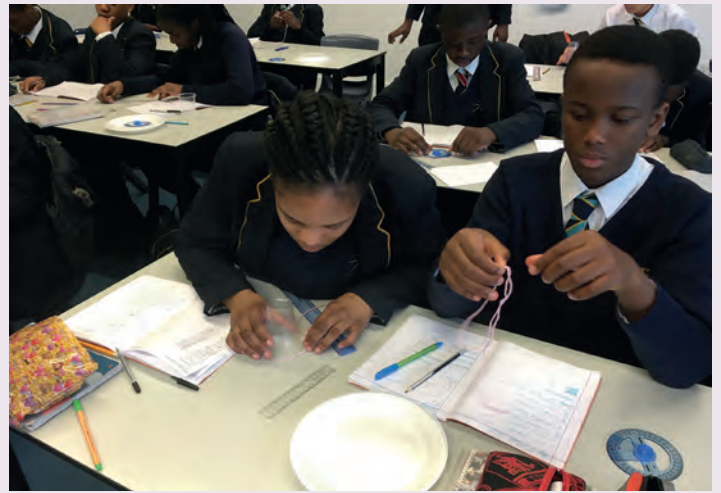
Pupils enjoyed finding out more about this number and how it is used.

"Pi day today was fun because I saw my peers facing each other and challenging each other to recall the number."
Kemarni James Year 8.

Another pupil commented on Mr Le's lesson and learning about the Maths genius Daniel Tammet who can recite correctly over 20,000 digits of Pi.

"Today we learned about the number Pi and everyone had to remember the number, Daniel Tammet knows over 20,000 but what made it more exciting was he sees pictures and not the numbers in his head!"
Lucas Bernardi Moreira Year 8.

Both pupils and teachers helped to celebrate this day in a fun and informative way and to top it off we also served pie for lunch in the canteen!!



LSSA INDOOR ROWING COMPETITION

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have reached that time of year again. Indoor Rowing Competition season.

Although seven other schools dropped out from challenging SMA in the Lewisham Borough Competition – The trials were held on 27th February.

The races began with all entrants putting in a valiant effort leading to try and achieve the elusive place to represent Lewisham in the London Borough Championships in July 2017 at Crystal Palace Sports Arena.

Students entered from All Years and Genders except Year 8 Girls – come on ladies hit the machines!

With the Year Events being held in heats, all students had to wait to find out if they were the overall winner this allowed others to strive to reach the bar that had been set. Many students surpassed the previous metres level set in the last heat... but did someone come in and steal the crown they thought they had just achieved?

NEW RECORDS WERE SET

YEAR 7 BOYS & GIRLS

GOLD (1st)
Ayomide Akinade (518m)
New Record

GOLD (1st)
Elizabeth Obukowho (480m)
New Record

YEAR 10 GIRLS

GOLD (1st)
Victory Etafo (1198m)
New Record



THE CONTEST OF THE NIGHT

YEAR 10 BOYS

This "rivalry" has been hotly contested throughout this year; Amadeusz Mroccka and Ronan Appiah.

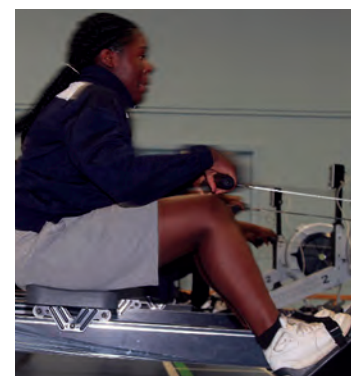
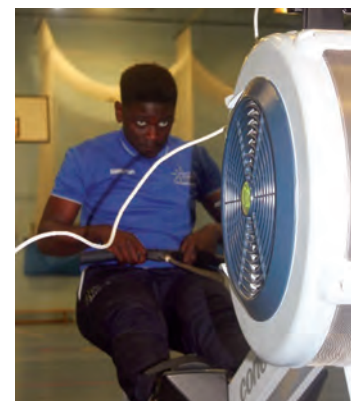
Amadeusz had won his Heat with a comfortable lead of 30m over anyone else and Then Ronan arrived late and "ailing" but proceeded to win by 7m – less than a second!

Everyone else had to settle for aiming at third place when these two sat down to row. Well done to John Adedini-Dada for taking the bronze.

The Winners are now the 2017 Lewisham Borough Champions and have a Year of bragging rights!

All our gold and silver medal winners will be representing Lewisham Borough in their respective categories at the London Schools Championships at Crystal Palace in July.

Bring on the "Oar-someness" SMA Team.



DRAMA

THE PE DEPARTMENT OFFERS A TOTAL OF 10 YEAR 3 AND 4 DRAMA

Wow! The Year 3 and 4 drama students have been having specialist lessons in the drama studio since the start of the year. Both year groups have been learning about how to use your voice and moment to communicate with an audience.

Students have used their newly found drama skills to explore different stories and poems and have even had a go at some Shakespeare, through the re-enactment of Act 1, Scene 1 of 'The Tempest'.



Students love being able to use the drama studio which allows them to use light and sound to enhance their work. Its part an arts carousel of classes which include music, Art and Computer Science, where specialist teachers and classroom are used to engage and challenge students.

YEAR 11 THEATRE VISIT

On 30th November the Year 11 drama group went to the Donmar Warehouse to see 'A night in Miami'. Here is an extract from a play review by Johan Guerrero in Year 11, written as part of his GCSE coursework. Johan only joined the class in Year 10 and at the time had not studied in an English speaking school. To be able to write this type of play review is exceptional! He has received amazing support from the EAL faculty.

The set used in 'A Night in Miami' was very effective in what is a unique theatre space in London. There are only 250 seats and the stage 'thrusts' out into the audience.

There was blue neon lights on stage which suggested the atmosphere of a steamy night in Miami. There was three entrances and three exits but mostly the stage was shaped like a boxing ring. With the story being about the night in which Cassius Clay changed his name to Mohammed Ali, this was an inspired design choice.

Props were used for intention and purpose. Take for example the chair, naturalistically used at times as part of the hotel room set, in some moments it was used as a weapon and also used as shield. The camera that hung from the neck of

Malcolm X, marked the time and the era in which the play is set. This was similar to the use of the phone, fixed in the room and the record player, spinning discs of the time. The props very successfully marked the importance of the historical context of 'One Night in Miami'.



YEAR 11 NEWS

During this very busy and crucial time for our Year 11s as they prepare for their Summer examinations, pupils have been working hard to gain an extra GCSE – European Computer Driving Licence. This qualification has been offered to the majority of pupils in the year and the

response has been great. More than 20 pupils have achieved the qualification at Distinction or better already - definitely a plus when it comes to their progress 8 score!

Of those pupils who have taken part in the ECDL, their confidence has grown and this will stand them in good

stead as they approach May and June.

On behalf of the Year 11 pupils, we would like to thank all Year 11 teachers for their continued support and hard work in the final run up to the examination season.

YEAR 9 NEWS

This term has been really positive for our Year 9 students. They have completed their first round of ranking exams, been involved with outside agencies such as KPMG and seen varying levels of success in a variety of sporting activities.

The Year 9 ranking exams were a very constructive experience for a majority of students and provided them with an excellent platform to familiarise themselves with the rigours and pressures of real GCSE exams which will undoubtedly be beneficial to them in the future.

High praise should be offered to the following students who made fantastic progress from the last ranking exam in Year 8:

STUDENT	PLACES MOVED SINCE YEAR 8
Dare Mensah	113
Madalina Danut	111
Kiarah Bennett	83
Billy Dolan	79
Valencia McFarlane	78

Miss Maquieira has been working fantastically with groups of Year 9 students and KPMG to run mentoring, programming and coding sessions. The students taking part in these sessions have gained a variety of key skills that will aid them in progressing at school and the wider working world.

On the sporting front Year 9 have been successful in both football and rowing competitions. In rowing the gold medal positions of Lewisham Borough Indoor Rowing Competition went to Deborah Oyebamiji and Kofi Taylor-Barrocks. The silver for the boys was won by Amari Kpodo. These students will be representing Lewisham in the London Youth Games in July at Crystal Palace. Lastly praise must go to the Year 9 girl's football team that reached the semi-finals of the Blackheath Cup. They battled valiantly throughout and were unlucky to lose their semi-final. The girls involved are listed below:

Mugbe Charles (cap)	Nancy Tongbin
Melanie Moreno	Rachael Adiqua
Bernadette Nimako	Stephanie Acktokunba
Soraya Nkutu	Leonilde Walter-Dabo
Kiarah Bennett	Chloe Lee
Victoria Akinunmi	Michelle George

BUSINESS STUDIES

VISIT TO PARLIAMENT

MONDAY 20/2/17 YEAR 9 IFS

Year 9 were beautifully behaved on our trip to Parliament. They were able to enter the Houses of Commons and Lords and stand at the places where all our MP's and Prime Minister debating every week. They were also able to see the robing room where Her Royal Majesty gets dressed in on the opening of Parliament and learnt so much about the history of our Monarchy and Government.

They stood just above where Guy Fawkes kept his gunpowder and were shown where all the different committee meetings take place. In the 'making laws' workshop, they debate the introduction of a youth Parliament and considered the impact of Brexit and Trumps visit. This is all vital for the units on Government and Making Laws.

VISIT TO PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 21/2/17 YEAR 10

Year 10 had a totally different experience as Parliament were in session on their visit, so they watched live the debates regarding foreign and commonwealth policies with Boris Johnson and were able to watch the procession of the Speaker into the House of Commons. The MP Heidi Alexander

then joined us for our workshop to answer some very tough questions with reference to education and the new GCSE's. Year 10 were very animated in their workshop with Tori (our Speaker in the House of Commons) having to restore order throughout the heated debate.

VISIT TO CHARLTON FC

FRIDAY YEAR 9/10 BUSINESS STUDIES

What an amazing start to the enterprise experience being delivered by Charlton FC. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the tour of the stadium, having lunch in the youth club and more importantly they fully participated and learnt lots about how a football club makes money other than just on match days.

Pupils were able to ask questions of Mr Ravi Patel regarding cost and profits and he explained all the different variable and fixed costs that the club incurred as well as all the different types of revenue they received. They are now looking forward to the following sessions at school, building on this experience, as am I.

Ms Green
HoD Business Studies

PE EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS FEB-APR 2017

The PE department offers a total of 10 different lunchtime clubs throughout the week as well as the very popular after school extra-curricular programme.

For lunchtimes, two year group are assigned a particular day of the week and students have a choice of either basketball club in the sports hall or to play football on the Astro turf pitch. Students must bring trainers to any lunch-time club they wish to attend.

The after school extra-curricular programme is now on its third rota and we have a number of different clubs running including fitness, basketball, netball, rowing, football and table-tennis. Make sure you bring your PE kit and trainers.

A special thanks to Mr Simmons and Mr Cole for their continuous contributions to the extra-curricular programme.

Mr Goksel
Head of PE

MONDAY

KS3
Basketball Club
Year 7 & 8
Sports Hall
Mr Goksel &
Mrs McKay

Year 10
Football
Club
Astro
Mr Salih

WEDNESDAY

Year 8 & 9
Football
Club
Astro
Mr Lynch
& Mr Salih

KS3 & KS4
Netball Club
Sports Hall
Miss Cefai &
Mrs Gordon
Lewisham
Raiders

THURSDAY

Year 7
Football Club
Astro
Mr Goksel
Girl's Football
Astro
Mr Lynch

KS4
Basketball Club
Year 9, 10 & 11
Sports Hall
Ms Mckoy-
Titans
Mrs Gordon
Lewisham
Raiders

FRIDAY

KS3
Table Tennis
Club
Year 7 & 8
Sports Hall
Mr Cole

School team
fixtures will
continue to
take place

TUESDAY

Primary Clubs
Sports Hall
Astro
Ms Toprak

KS4
Rowing Club
Year 9, 10 & 11
Fitness Suite
Mr Simmons

KS3
Rowing Club
Year 7 & 8
Fitness Suite
Mr Simmons

PARENT PAY

St Matthew Academy is going cashless!

From September 2017, there will be no facility to pay by cash or cheque at school. If you haven't done so already, please activate your Parentpay account.

If you require your activation details, please email:
finance@stmatthewacademy.co.uk



ParentPay®

LEGO THERAPY GROUPS

LEGO® based therapy is a social development programme which helps children and young people to develop and improve their communication skills.

Donated Lego bricks can be brought to Debbie Laker and Fiona Walker's office E0: 04A.

