



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

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends  
of St Matthew Academy,

As we approach Holy Week Christians all over the world take this opportunity to contemplate the sacrifice made by Christ for our salvation. Easter symbolises the renewal of life and we look forward to a chance to reflect on the past year and anticipate spiritual re-growth.

This is also a very important time for our Year 6 and Year 11 pupils. They have been working hard, well supported by their families and teachers. This is their time to 'let their light shine.' We wish them all every success with forthcoming exams and we are confident that they will do themselves and the Academy proud.

It has been a real pleasure to host visits from a number of our feeder primary schools this term. Primary pupils from Torridon, St Josephs and St Mary Magdalene schools have experienced enrichment classes in a range of subjects and have enjoyed working with our fabulous teachers and benefiting from our specialist facilities. This term has also been a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new Year 7 pupils and their families to the first transition event in the calendar and the feedback has been terrific - our Year 8 pupil guides have received many compliments about their confident manner and enthusiasm for their school.

There continue to be many other events at the Academy which you will enjoy reading about in this edition of the newsletter. Highlights include Friendship Afternoon; World Book Day and a variety of sporting events in which SMA pupils have excelled. I am really excited that this edition also showcases the high quality teaching and learning that takes place every day across our curriculum.

**CHAPLAINCY**

During the season of advent, staff and pupils at St Matthew Academy participated in various events which truly encapsulated Christian values of charitable giving.

Pupils made and delivered 75 Christmas hampers to the local community, which included Salvation Army, Age Exchange and elderly care homes Leah Lodge and Mulberry Court. On the last day of term we wore festive attire raising £1000 for Lewisham Hospital Children's Ward and CAFOD.

The Chaplaincy Team asked children on the children's ward of Lewisham Hospital what gift they would like for

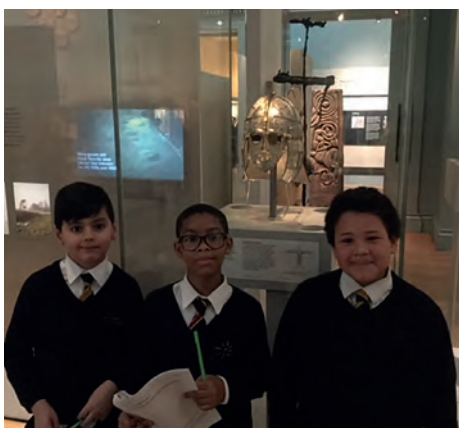
Christmas. Staff were asked to donate one of the items from the children's wish list. In December, the gifts were delivered to the children on the ward.

Year 4 participated in a Chaplaincy retreat to St George's Cathedral, where there was an Advent Service hosted by Southwark Diocese and led by the Archbishop.

Upcoming events led by the Chaplaincy Team will include a pupil Easter raffle, Sport Relief, assemblies presented by the charity CAFOD with a focus on charity and Lent and an Easter service.



Mr Wanza



**YEAR 5 AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

As part of our English topic on Beowulf and the Anglo-Saxons this term, Year 5 visited the British Museum.

Pupils were able to see artefacts found by archaeologists at the Sutton Hoo burial sites which gives us an insight into Anglo-Saxon lives, customs and craftsmanship.

Pupils were able to study artefacts in detail. It was great to see the objects first hand and to see how many survived from ancient times.

The children were well behaved and received a number of commendations for their behaviour - "I have never seen a group of school children so well behaved on the train. Well done!" - by members of the public.

A great day was had by all.

I hope the Easter holiday brings you time for reflection and celebration with your families, as we look forward to the summer term.

**Miranda Baldwin  
Head of School**

**KEY STAGE 3  
INTO FILM**

Pupils in Year 7 & 8 have been working with Mr Cameron and Sophie Burrows from IntoFilm on a four week bespoke animation project.

The pupils started off by creating their own wire armatures and characters. The pupils then focused on narrative structure and what makes a good story. Then, using stop-motion technology, the pupils transformed their plasticine characters into a stop-motion animation, which will be entered into a short film competition during the summer.

Well done to all pupils involved and watch this space to see more fantastic and creative work.

Mr Cameron



**YEAR 5 AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM**

Year 5 had a lovely day at the Science museum to link with our science topic on 'Earth and Space.'

*'I enjoyed my experience at the wonder lab because we got to try out some experiments'*

Eryn 5W

The children had the opportunity to look at exhibits about the history and development of space exploration. They also watched a film at the iMax looking at life on the International Space Station and had the opportunity to visit the Wonder Lab.

*'I enjoyed the 3-D movie, it was mind blowing because it felt like we were in the International Space Station.'*

Papa 5E

*'I found the trip very exciting and eventful.'*

Nadine 5E

*'I enjoyed watching the amazing lives and of the crew members on the International Space Station.'*

Vinayak 5W

*'I loved the IMAX experience, it was very interesting and informative. I learnt a lot.'*

Arjun 5W

*'Our trip was amazing! We got to see what the Earth looks like at night time from the International Space Station.'*

Louise P 5W



**YEAR 9 AT KPMG**

On Friday 16th March, Year 9 pupils went out on a trip to the KPMG Headquarters as part of their professional mentoring programme.



It was a great opportunity to meet their mentors at their place of work, which gave the pupils an insight into the work they do within KPMG. The trip included a light breakfast, a mentoring session, and networking with other professionals at KPMG.

The behaviour of all the pupils was exemplary throughout and many positive comments were received from members of the public regarding their conduct. Year 9 are looking forward to the next trip!



## RE DEPARTMENT

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts, on Ash Wednesday.

The name Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'Shriven' meaning to go to confession to say sorry for the wrongs you've committed. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so people went to confessions the day before. This became known as Shriven Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday.

The other name for this day, Pancake Day, comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent, so that people were ready to fast during Lent. The fattening ingredients that most people had in their houses in those days were eggs and milk. A very simple recipe to use up these ingredients was to combine them with some flour and make pancakes!

The RE department prepared a powerpoint resource for

tutors and primary phase teachers to share with pupils across the Academy to learn about this significant day and events that follow during GREAT Time.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means 'spring.' The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.



## 'DEBATE MATE' SUCCESS AT SMA!

It has been a busy term for SMA's Debate Mate Club -we competed in two rounds of the Urban Debate Mate, where we came 9th nationally out of the 250 schools from all the major cities in the UK to secure our place in the semi finals next term.

In addition we will also be competing in the all-day knock out qualifier of the Debate Mate Cup.

This challenge has a special significance for the team, as we bought the cup home in 2016 so - watch this space!

Ms Purslow



## SMA'S LATEST OUTDOOR ADVENTURE!

On Wednesday, 7th March, fourteen intrepid Year 7 pupils left school for 3 days to visit the village of Edale in the picturesque Peak District.

The pupils stayed at the Edale Village Youth Hostel and enjoyed a series of outdoor challenges. Experienced Instructors at the centre provided activities to challenge our pupils including the leap of faith and crate staking, as well as caving, abseiling, team building and hiking outdoors.

Many of our pupils gained a great deal from this experience, by developing confidence, communication skills, self-esteem and overcoming their fears, especially by abseiling off a 90ft bridge towards a fast flowing river!

All the pupils really enjoyed this trip with many asking about a possible return sometime in the future.



# TEACHING & LEARNING

## ENGLISH

### Let's tackle Priestley!

'We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other.' 11EN1 fully embraced this mentality when they agreed to take on my challenge of producing an abridged performance of 'An Inspector Calls' for use as a revision tool for their own, and future, cohorts.

Despite regularly achieving high grades in their literature assessments, 11EN1 struggled to remember to view the play and its characters as constructs, as a mouthpiece to deliver the writer's intentions. It was with this in mind that I asked them to divide into two groups: actors and Priestleys. The actors would be responsible for preparing a performance of the play, whilst the Priestleys were responsible for

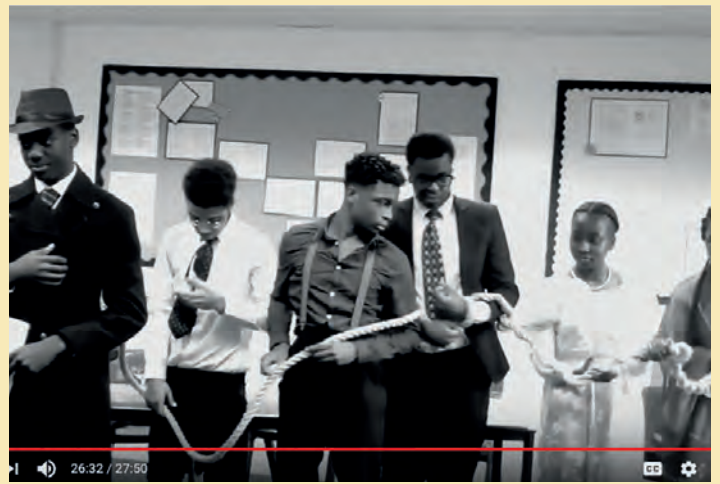
deconstructing the play, and analysing set moments for Priestley's intentions.

After only 3 lessons, the class were filmed (costumes and all). They really did themselves proud; they fully embraced my challenge, and the benefits of this slightly unconventional approach to exam preparation can be seen in the marked improvement of their recently completed mock papers.

Thanks to Mr Cameron, the performance can be viewed on youtube so others can benefit from their hard work: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn32xof4\\_KQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn32xof4_KQ)

'We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other.'

Well done 11EN1!

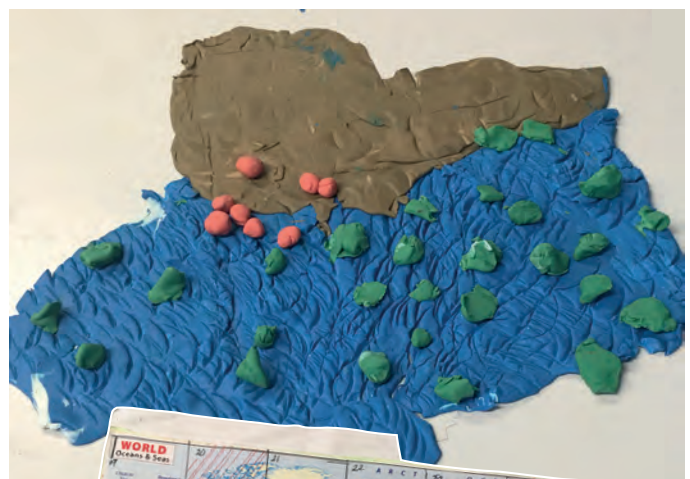
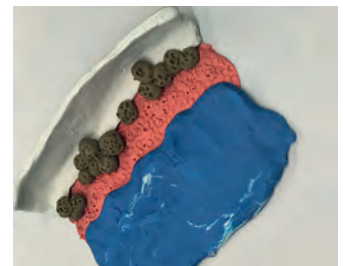
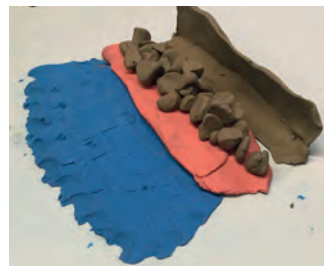
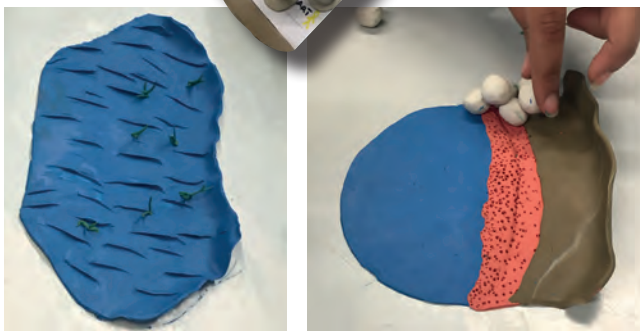


## GEOGRAPHY

Creating coastal defences out of plasticine left a lasting impression on the Year 10's. It allowed the Year 10's to be creative and imaginative through kinaesthetic learning, and consolidated their understanding of how different strategies work.

The pupils really enjoyed the lesson, and have a solid understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of coastal erosion defences.

Mr Baines



## MATHS

### UKMATHS Challenge

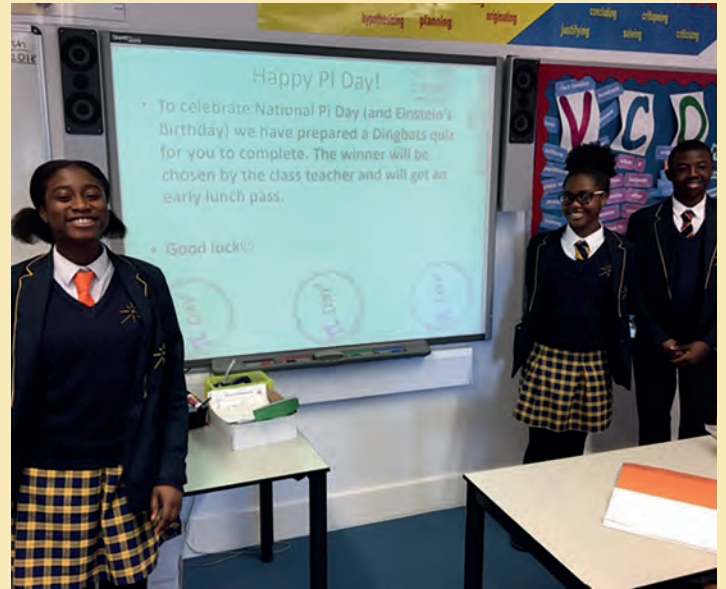
The maths department would like to congratulate all the pupils involved in the recent UK Maths challenge.

Our top Y10 and Y9 pupils sat the test and did brilliantly. We must however mention the certificate winners who when compared nationally have been able to achieve at the highest level. These fantastic mathematicians are, in Year 10, Peter Babatunde, Johan Herrera Galvez, Michael Aranopozo, Jaybie Chandrasegara and in Year 9, Jack Morrin.

Extra praise must go to Peter Babatunde though as he achieved the highest in the school and received a Silver award certificate. Well done



## Pi Day



Pi day, celebrated on the 14th March (3/14!!), turned into a quite a poignant day for the Maths department as it is also Albert Einstein's birthday.

We also remembered Stephen Hawking who sadly passed away on this day, this year. In honour of this day and the great people mentioned we ensured that all lessons included some fun Pi activities for all the pupils to enjoy.

Pupils competed against each other in fun games but also took time to understand the history behind Pi and how it is used in maths and everyday life.

In the photos see if you can work out the "Pi" related phrases hiding in the pictures.

## HISTORY

### YEAR 8

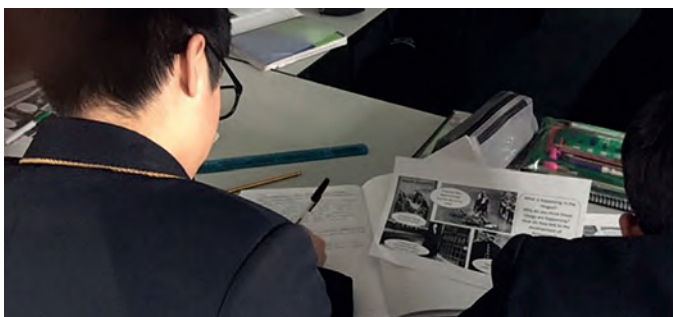
The pupils are studying how Britain changed between 1750 and 1900 and were focusing specifically on the development of democracy during this time period. They had previously looked at what democracy was like in 1700s Britain, the events of St Peter's Fields in Manchester 1819, actions of the Chartists and asking why democracy matters to people as part of developing awareness of citizenship.

The lesson was focusing on the campaign for the vote for women which also happens to coincide with it being 100 years since women first won the right to vote in Britain. The pupils were able to use the work done in previous lessons to

help develop knowledge of what women did to win the vote and very importantly, why they wanted to get the vote in the first place. Pupils also examined arguments about whether the use of militant actions were justified; they were asked whether they agreed with the view of Tony Benn MP who was a keen supporter of the actions of the suffragettes and who cheekily put up a plaque in one of the cleaning cupboards in the Houses of Parliament.

Overall a very engaging lesson which many participated in and which has also helped pupils become more aware of the importance of our democratic institutions.

Mr Quigg



## Hegarty Maths

Hegarty Maths continues to grow in popularity and is being used more and more by pupils to help them with their maths studies. We have just reached a staggering 400,000 questions answered by the pupils since the October launch and pupils have logged on to the site for a combined total of an amazing 8500 hours! This means that in terms of learning hours per pupil we are ranked in the top 40 of all the schools in the UK using Hegarty Maths.

Well done to the following pupils who are showing real commitment to their studies and using Hegarty maths to support their learning.

Below are the top three pupils in each year group ranked by the number of skills tasks completed, 100% correctly.

### Year 7

Shekinah Abuwa, Sami Ahmad, Samuel Aboagye

### Year 8

Dorin Danut, Irma Ridjali, Syrio Ramator

### Year 9

Christine Despabiladeras, Daniel Adesanya, Anjola Taiwo

### Year 10

Madalina Danut, Raveena Ravira, Dare Mensah

### Year 11

Erica Appiah, Zain Cheema, Timi Kalejaiye

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN ART DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

In Art Design and Technology we have been stretching and challenging pupils, to ensure that they are making the progress necessary to produce the best possible outcomes. After two carousel rotations, there have been some fantastic products produced by pupils in Years 7 and 8.

Pupils have designed and realised various items demonstrating high levels of skill and accuracy when using media, tools, materials and equipment.

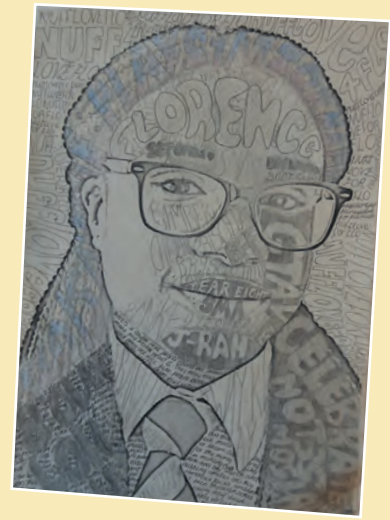
It has been wonderful to see pupils actively involved and engaged, demonstrating levels of independence and persistence throughout their learning experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the amazing products and artwork created by pupils which demonstrate the versatile curriculum offered in Art Design and Technology at St Matthew Academy.

Year 7 pupils have been focusing on producing still life pieces in Art. They have designed and made their own boxes in Product Design and created tote bags and cushions in Textiles. Year 8 pupils have produced their own Typography artwork; made linkage toys in Product Design and designed and made their own pencil cases in Textiles. Both Year Groups have produced several dishes in Food Preparation and Nutrition.

Let me take this opportunity to remind pupils to embrace the challenges that you are faced with, these will bolster your knowledge and understanding of the creative subject areas.

Remember that there will be an opportunity to improve your ranking position with every carousel change. Continue to work hard and commend yourself on everything you have learnt so far this year.



Miss L Wright

Florence Oladimeji



Lilly-Rose Lewis

Dorin Danut



Beth Chowdhury

### MFL: YEAR 8 SPANISH

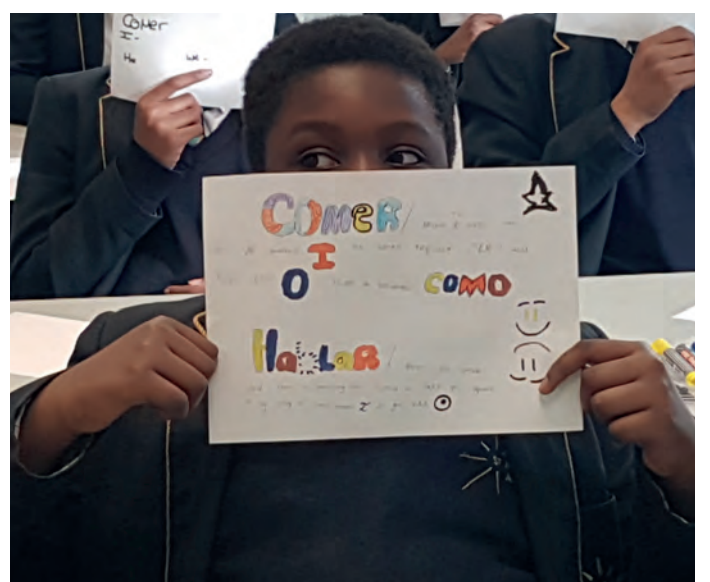
During the last week of term, Year 8 Spanish pupils have been creating visual revision materials to consolidate their learning and help memorise the rules for the present and past tenses. Using both past and present tenses allows pupils to work towards a grade 3!

The pupils were required to create either a poster or a leaflet explaining to other pupils how to form these tenses. The best poster was from Elias, which will be displayed in the Modern Foreign Languages corridor.

Elias will also receive a prize from Miss Ntoko. Pupils engaged with the activity and were challenged by the time frame in which they had to design the material: 10 minutes! Pupils also made a short video recapping how these tenses are formed. The video is available on the school Twitter account.

Well done, Year 8 Spanish!

Ms Migon



## FRIENDSHIP AFTERNOON & PRIMARY OUTREACH

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our friendship afternoon where many of our September Year 7 intake came together to enjoy a diverse range of exciting, inspiring and engaging workshops which included:

- CSI crime scene investigation
- Bag printing and making
- Cupcake baking
- African experience drama and music session

The feedback from parents and pupils was overwhelmingly positive. Many parents were astounded by the quality of the workshops and their children are very excited about joining us here in September. Check out the SMA News Team's report on our website and twitter account.

Our staff have been wowing our visiting primary schools with the Primary Outreach Projects we have offered to three primary schools this term. Year 5 pupils from Torridon and St Mary Magdalene primary schools have been developing their creative writing through an immersive murder mystery experience developing the following skills:

- Character development
- Plot development
- Vivid setting
- Underlying theme
- Point of view
- Dialogue
- Anecdotes
- Metaphors and simile



St Joseph primaries Year 5 pupils have been incredibly fortunate to be developing their key dance and movement skills working with the ever talented Miss Smith in our state of the art dance studio. Watch this space for more workshops and master classes in the summer term as part of Outreach Programme.

Ms Thurston



## THE DIANA AWARD



The Diana Award is a mentoring project founded in 1999 as a legacy to Princess Diana and her belief that young people have the power to change the world and inspire those around them.

Over 45000 young people have been celebrated with a Diana Award, in recognition of their positive contribution towards their communities.

Here at St Matthew Academy we are very fortunate to have 25 pupils from year 8 and 9 taking part in the programme. There are 12 sessions in total, developing areas such as 'leadership and team building', 'enterprise and public speaking' and 'social action project planning'.

Ms Dunne

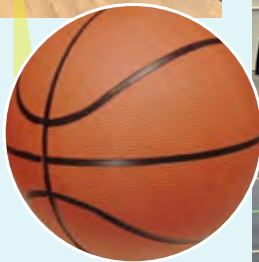


## BASKETBALL INSPIRATION MASTERCLASS

As part of the #shebelieves basketball programme, a group of Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to participate in a Basketball Master Class ran by 'London Thunder Basketball Club.' St Matthew Academy, along with 2 other schools took part in a range of different skills in which our pupils honed their dribbling, shooting and match play skills. Pupils also got the chance to try out the basketball wheelchairs.

All our pupils were fully engaged and enjoyed every second with two pupils even winning NBA merchandise for their effort and positive attitude.

Ms Jones



## YEAR 8 BASKETBALL

Nearly 30 Year 8 pupils were involved in a BASKETBALL fixture on 23rd February, between St Matthew Academy and St Thomas the Apostle College.

All the pupils participated for large parts with games consisting of 3v3 and full court 5v5. There was some fantastic performances on show and a strong STAC team came out overall winners.

Well done to all pupils involved!

Mr Goksel



## YEAR 6 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The year 6 girls' football team took part in a Lewisham borough football tournament against 30 other schools. The girls did exceptionally well, with great determination and skill they came 2nd overall.

Fanta Sheriff was recognised as being an outstanding goalkeeper in the way she was able to save most of the shots that came her way. Suria Nelson was also recognised for her football control and speed. It was a successful afternoon with a supportive atmosphere.

Well done girls!

## YEAR 5 BOYS' FOOTBALL

This term has been of mixed fortunes for the Year 5 football team but one thing I cannot question is their commitment or effort. I have been and continue to be very proud of them all. They have been professional and have shown respect to their opponents and officials which has been commented on by the organisers.

The matches this term have been hampered by the beast from the east. The round of matches since the

Christmas period showed an example of all what has been mentioned already. Year 5 were unfortunate to lose 2:1 to a team much higher in the league table. They then played a friendly and were given a master class by a team who had been together for the last three years. The score line was immaterial but we did score, so that was very pleasing as this trend has been consistent since last October. The coaches of that team came over and spoke to us all and commended us on every aspect of their performance

as well as their fair play and attitude and to continue this for the future. The cup is the next adventure.

A huge thank you must be given to all the support the team has received from staff at the Academy, who have braved the conditions on a Saturday up on Blackheath Common. The next chapter with regards to the football is to expand, with a football festival that will be for all children and parents. This is an exciting venture where enjoyment will be for all.

Mr Szejewski





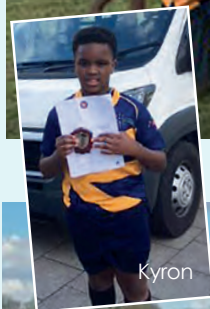
## RUGBY

### LEWISHAM BOROUGH U13 BOYS TOURNAMENT

On a Friday, 16th March, 10 Year 7 pupils left SMA for old Colfiens and the Lewisham Borough U13 Boys Rugby Tournament.

With a small squad, made up with a few loan signings, the boys went down valiantly in the opening match against Bonus Pastor. In the second match, SMA earned victory against Thomas Tallis with Kyron Johnson showing excellent tackling skills.

Our final match was unfortunately a loss against Harris Greenwich but our star player Kyron was presented with a 2 day training camp experience with Saracens RFC! A true SMA sporting ambassador – well done Kyron!



Kyron



### SMA GIRLS RUGBY AT LONDON YOUTH GAMES

SMA Girl's U13 and U15's have been selected to represent Lewisham Borough at the upcoming London Youth Games. This is a big achievement for the Academy and our PE Department and this is entirely down to the participation, enthusiasm and excellence of our pupils in Rugby.

This is a demonstration of our persistent commitment to the Rugby Football Union 'All Schools Programme' that was started 3 years ago. SMA has become one of the leading schools for rugby within the borough; both on a curricular and extra-curricular basis. As well as the Girls, we have festivals for our Year 7 and 8 Boys' teams within the next few weeks.

### SPORT RELIEF 2018



## HANDBALL

St Matthew Academy's first handball match ended SMA 16 – 11 Sedgehill. Amari Kpodo and Kofi Taylor Barrocks were outstanding competitors of the day.



Tuesday 20th March was SMA Sport Relief day. Pupils and staff were given the opportunity to take part in physical activity. We had a mixture of sporting activities happening in both Primary and Secondary throughout the day, as well as a 'Mindfulness' session run for staff by Ms Thurston after school in the chapel.

Activities were run either during PE lessons, before school, break time or after school and of course all in the name of Sports Relief. Getting fit and raising money - another fantastic effort by everyone at St Matthew Academy!

Ms Jones

## ROWING

### SMA @ NJIRC 2018

The SMA Rowing Team (SMART) pupils competed on the 9th of March at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships (NJIRC) for the 5th consecutive year. Pupils have been attending the after school Rowing Club once or twice a week to prepare for the largest Junior Indoor competition, where over 3,000 pupils compete for a national standing and of course bragging rights! (Look out for the 'oar-ful' rowing puns!)

After a fraught initial start to the day – was the coach to take us their EVER going to arrive – and a long journey through heavy traffic to the venue, we arrived.

It was straight into racing for the Year 7 Girls; competitors race in Heats of 30 and there upwards of 8 heats per category. Alexandra Mena produced a fantastic Top 40 result, attaining 37th place. Unfortunately, due to our late arrival the Year 7 boys had missed their slot but still took part via the 'Bull Pen.'

Next up were Year 8s and in the first Heat 2 non-SMA boys produced 950m & 892m: Who Does That? – Superman? Well, Gideon Hackmann gave an 'oar-some' performance and landed him in 4th place in the whole of the UK!!! With the Year 8 Girls following 'in his wake,' this was a hard standing to



gave a great performance to achieve a Top 30 place, coming in at 28th. Now it was time for the highlight of the day the Blue Ribbon Events - The RELAYS!

#### THE BOAT RACE:

(16 minutes 19s – the fastest time for the Oxford – Cambridge Boat Race). The Year 10 Boys (a crew of 8) were up against other crews ranging up to Year 13 and some were extremely professional. The boys gave a well coxed performance reaching the Top 15, coming in at 13th place.

#### THE SPRINTS:

For Year 7 - 9 Boys and Girls: (2000m in teams of 4). The three of Year 9 Boys teams, a Year 7 Boys team and a mixed Year 7/8 Girls team all lined up to race in this fast and challenging event where the change overs are absolutely key - take too long and you are left in the wake of other teams. Our Year 9 Boys Crew 1 (Francis Cole, Agyenkwa Osei, Luke Bayrev & Daniel Nosa) reached the

Class of 2016) and the Girls mixed team (Alexandra Mena, Chloe Ahnert, Aniyah Hanson, and Cheyanne Fearon (8), also set a new SMA record. Go SMART!!

With a short recovery, the Year 9 Boys had to compete for their individual glory. The Year 9 Boys races are the most hotly contested individual category.

Turning in an 'oar-inspiring' performance, Luke Bayrev brought it home to gain a Top 20 place, coming in 19th in the UK; an amazing achievement in his first competition.

Lastly our Year 10 Boys took their turn on the 'river.' Kofi Taylor-Barrocks, a veteran of NJIRC (4th time) pulled in a Top 30 place, to come in at 27th position and our very recent Newcomer Jarome Ricketts squeezed into the Top 60 with a Personal Best too.

The SMA Kids also amassed 7 other PBs and cemented our position in the Top 15 in the country, for the 5 consecutive year. Congratulations to ALL the participants for reaching national standards in order to compete and for giving your 'oar-ll' at the Championships.

A big THANK YOU to Mr Brown and Mr Olayemi for assisting throughout the day, without whom our pupils would not have had this opportunity to compete in this echelon of the sporting world.

**NEXT UP:**  
Borough Championships and the London Youth Games - Summer '18. So, Be a SMART Kid and you end up 'Oar-some!!'



### SMA COMMUNITY LINKS



On Monday afternoons, Years 2 - 6 take part in 'Power Hour', where they are involved in a variety of different enriching activities that they would not normally have the opportunity to experience within usual curriculum time.

In January, a group of Year 5 pupils made their first visit to our local care home, Leah Lodge. The children told the residents all about themselves, asked questions that they had already prepared and listened to fascinating stories.

The children were particularly interested in stories of what life was like when they were young, and a story from one resident about the time she met Princess Diana!

In the coming months, children will be working with the residents to plan a D-Day party, including learning wartime songs, making decorations and invitations and baking.

We look forward to sharing with you how they get on.

The Year 5 Team



## DRAMA

There is so much currently taking place in the Performing Arts faculty, it has been an exciting time as the Performing Arts are attempting to take over St Matthew Academy with finesse.

### AGE EXCHANGE

On the 6th March, 10 Year 9 GCSE Drama pupils started to work alongside a company called 'Age Exchange' to create a piece of theatre based on 'The First World War'. Age Exchange in Blackheath Village has worked to raise the profile of older people through creative projects including intergenerational activities and to improve the understanding between the generations for over 35 years. If you would like to find out more about the work at Age Exchange our website [www.age-exchange.org.uk](http://www.age-exchange.org.uk). Age Exchange has recently been funded by The Noel Coward Foundation and Unity Theatre to work on a short project exploring the legacy of The First World War through drama and personal stories called 'A Home Fit For Heroes.'

### GCSE DRAMA EXAMS

Year 11 have completed their unit one practical exam in January. For their exam they were able to go into the West End to see a production of 'Wicked' at the Apollo Theatre in Victoria. The pupils enjoyed the experience and have already requested to see another production in May.

They are all working hard rehearsing for their unit two exam on the 27th April. There will be an evening performance of the examination pieces on the 26th April in the Drama studio, details will be on the school website.

### AUDITIONS: 'LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS'

Over the last few weeks, auditions have been taking place for the 2018 summer production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. There have been some outstanding auditions and it is going to be a fantastic show. If you have not auditioned, you are still invited to be a part of the ensemble or help out backstage. On the 28th March Drama Club will be taking place in the studio, where we will be working on 'LSH' for two performances in July. Tickets will be on sale from reception as of May, it would be great to see you all there.

### 'SOUNDS LIKE CHAOS'

On Tuesday the 13th March both Year 9 and 10 were delivered a workshop on 'devising' skills by a Drama company based in Deport. Pupils explored a variety of skills and were able to produce mock videos for a singing artist. Every student was engaged and enjoyed being taught new skills. 'Sounds like Chaos' is a free theatre company for pupils, who would like to perform. Check out twitter for photos of the sessions.

Miss Stewart

## DANCE NEWS

Congratulations to the St Matthew Academy Street Dance Crew who took part in and won the 'Mixed Crew Battle' at the '2018 Step Into Battle' competition at Stratford Circus in January.

St Matthew Academy's team of 6 dancers (Year 7 - 11) had the edge on the other groups and beat Uxbridge Sixth Form College in the final.

The students wowed the audience with their impressive high energy and dynamic

performances. They were impeccably well behaved and danced with passion and confidence. A big thank you to Step Into Dance and to Lucy Sam for their continued and much valued support.

Gifted and Talented dancers from across the Secondary school enjoyed working alongside a professional dance artist from Trinity Laban.

The dancers explored and develop their choreographic skills and learnt more about the opportunities offered by Trinity Laban to

promote dance to young people living in Lewisham. Congratulations to D'jon McTernan in Year 11 who has recently been offered a place at the highly renowned and much celebrated BRIT School in Croydon. In addition to this fantastic achievement, D'jon has also been accepted as a Dance Ambassador with the Royal Academy of Dance Step into Dance programme.

Dancers from the Primary and Secondary schools 'let their lights shine' in a cross-phase performance at the

Lewisham Dance Showcase at Cafford Broadway Theatre. This annual and inclusive dance platform celebrates the talents and creativity of young people from across the borough in a celebration of dance and creativity. We are extremely proud of the dancers who performed with great energy and professionalism.

St Matthew Academy would like to thank Trinity Laban and the Lewisham Education Arts Network for their hard work in organising such an inspiring and memorable evening.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

The Learning Resource Centre was extremely busy on Thursday 8th March, hosting part of St Matthew Academy's World Book Day. The LRC was filled with activities, competitions and workshops. Bumblebee, Frog and Dragonfly classes all collected their free World Book Day Book. Plus, story time for Early Years and Key Stage 1, led by Mrs Fields, and activity sheets for Key Stage 2, led by Mr Blakemore. Numerous visiting staff across the Academy and primary pupils also added to the excitement by dressing up as characters from their favourite books.

Georgina Brown of the Wilbur-Niso Smith Charity Foundation also visited to promote their adventure writing competition and a chance to both be published and win £1,500. She held a seminar to select Year 10 pupils to

help hone their narrative and characterisation skills which was both insightful and aspirational. It even motivated some pupils to submit their expertly written stories of between 1,500 and 5,000 words.

Unable to pack in all of the excitement into just one day, esteemed children's author, Sophia Bennett, came to St Matthew Academy on Wednesday 7th March. She gave pro writing tips to Years 5, 7 and 8 through highly engaging visual presentations and book readings, as well as a catered writing workshop to select pupils from Year 10.

She also stayed in the Learning Resource Centre over lunch to meet and discuss how she got into writing with some very enthusiastic secondary pupils.

Mr Blakemore & Mrs Fields  
Librarians



Sophia Bennett

