



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

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends
of St Matthew Academy,

After another extremely busy term, the holidays have finally arrived. As you will see from this edition of the newsletter there continues to be a wide range of activities, visits and events that really enrich the learning experiences and opportunities of all of our pupils. When I see all the articles published in one place, it makes me feel incredibly proud of the pupils and staff in our great Academy. I do hope that you take time to read the newsletter, share it with friends and family and encourage your children to get even more involved in the life of their school. And once you have enjoyed reading the articles can I encourage you to keep up to date with life at the Academy by visiting the News section on the Academy website and following us on Twitter!

Some of the highlights of this term have been:

- Welcoming back our Class of 2017 for Presentation Evening in November and being able to celebrate their amazing GCSE successes with them in front of their delighted families and staff.
- Looking forward to the weekly email from our attendance officer with details of all the classes with 100% attendance for the week. Attendance in the secondary phase is at an all-time high and is a reflection of how seriously the pupils take their learning –and of course they enjoy being able to go to the front of the lunch queue for the week!
- Fundraising continues to be a really strong part of Academy life and all pupils show real commitment to making a difference to the lives of others through their charitable work. The newsletter details all of the charities that we have

CHAPLAINCY

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2017

On Friday 10th November, we honoured the pupils of St Joseph's Academy and the millions that lost their lives during World War I and II in a Remembrance Service. The service was led by Monsignor Rotheron. The Pupil Council took an active role in the service, reading poems associated with Remembrance and offering prayers.

Head of School and the Primary phase; Mr Saunders who represented the armed forces; Head Boy and Head Girl (primary and secondary) and Monsignor Rotheron laid wreaths and crosses at the memorial for the boys of St Joseph's Academy.

Also in attendance was a Year 9 History class currently studying World War II. One pupil commented, 'We're learning about the events of World War II, but attending

this service really helps me understand the sacrifices people made and the importance of learning about those who lost their lives for us.'

At the primary phase, pupils also observed the two minute silence and released balloons with a prayer tag attached. Last year, a balloon was reported to be found in France! This year we're hoping for sightings further afield.

Teachers shared a Remembrance presentation with pupils. Pupils also led collective worship in their classes and observed the two minute silence in remembrance of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us. We would like to thank Monsignor Rotheron and the Student Council for leading the service and all that attended.

Mr Wanza



supported this term. I am especially proud of the huge team effort from parents, staff and pupils that went into our Late Summer Fayre when we raised over £1500 for The Lewisham Hospital Children's Ward.

- Being able to share a celebration lunch with the top achievement points recipients - this is a new idea in the secondary phase based on the weekly 'golden table' lunch that Mrs Beckley hosts with our primary pupils
- Our continued focus on Teaching and Learning across the Academy is having an immediate, positive impact on the pupil's learning experiences. All staff have been regularly involved in high quality training to ensure 'stretch and challenge' results in 'good or better progress for all.' When I speak to pupils about their classroom experiences they talk with confidence and pride about their learning.

- Our new weekly 'Pupil of the Week' reward decided by class and form teachers on a Friday afternoon has been a great success. It has been fabulous watching pupils leave at 3pm wearing their 'orange tie' excited to share their good news with their families at home.

Can I take this opportunity to say thank you to all our parents, carers, staff, governors and pupils for their hard work and support this term.

May the light of Christ shine in all of us as we celebrate the festive season. Wishing you all peace, joy and happiness this Christmas.

**Miranda Baldwin
Head of School**



**YEAR 11 ENGLISH:
'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' PERFORMANCE**

Year 11s beat the Monday blues this week by watching Quantum Theatre's fantastic rendition of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', in preparation for their PPE exams. The stage was set in the main hall and the students were transported back to the snowy streets of Dickensian London.

The musical content went down well, as did the lively dancing at the Fezziwig party! Students' faces lit up as they heard key quotations from the text recited on stage. What a fantastic addition to their Literature revision schedule!



**THE OPENING CHAPTER FOR
SMA BOOK CLUB**

Book Club has launched! Ms Creary and Ms England were impressed with the Year 10 launch of Book Club in conjunction with Book Clubs in Schools.

Our notable Year 10s, Danae, Soraya and Shade led the first session with an elite group of Year 7s and 8s, including Edison, Daniella, Parfaite, Shekinah, Franklina and Joseph. Their first book *What Sunny Saw in the Flames* by Nigerian American novelist, Nnedi Okorafor, 'transports the reader to a magical place where nothing is quite as it seems. Born in New York, but living in Aba, Nigeria, thirteen-year-old Sunny is understandably a little lost. She is albino. And she can see into the future.'



Our gifted Year 10s had us discussing a range of fascinating topics including ideas about identity, bullying, and the European colonisation of Africa. Daniella even got us speaking some Igbo! As with all good books, we were left wanting to read more and can't wait for the next instalment of Book Club in the New Year.

Ms Creary



Thomas on his first day at Oxford University.

**FORMER SMA PUPIL BEGINS
COURSE AT OXFORD
UNIVERSITY**

Thomas Laver, a pupil who left St Matthew Academy in 2015, went up to Oxford this term to begin life as an undergraduate.

Everyone at SMA is very proud of Thomas and his achievements - he is our second former pupil to go onto Oxbridge. We wish Thomas every success over the next three years.

**YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10
MEDIA STUDIES TRIP TO
'LONDON INTO FILM
FESTIVAL'**

On Tuesday 21st November and Thursday 23rd November, the Y9 and 10 GCSE Media Studies pupils were invited to attend a film screening at the Odeon Cinema, Greenwich as part of the 'London Into Film Festival.'

Year 9 were inspired by the film 'Hidden Figures' which depicted the real-life journey of the first Afro American female scientists working for NASA in the 1960s space race. Year 10 were also inspired

by seeing Shakespeare in a modern context in the film 'A Caribbean Dream' which re-told the story of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

Both screenings gave the pupils the opportunity to see the film-making techniques they have been learning about in the classroom come to life on the big screen. All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and definitely enjoyed the popcorn as much as the movies!

Thank you to the Media Studies teachers for organising the trip.

Ms Heywood



**YEAR 9
BEST ATTENDANCE IN THE ACADEMY**



ATTENDANCE EXCELLENCE

As you know St Matthew Academy is committed to enabling all our children to achieve and sustain very high levels of attendance. High levels of school attendance are really important as the more often a child attends school, the more they will achieve. This year we are very pleased to report standards in improving attendance and raising expectations remain ever high. This has resulted in significant improvement throughout the Academy with many year groups meeting government expectations which minimises pupils' chances of underachievement.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their continuing support and all staff and pupils for maintaining our whole Academy drive to improve attendance for pupils from Early Years through to Year 11. We are extremely proud to announce that the year group which has consistently been at the top of the leader board are Year 9 who finish this term on a massive 96.5%. Congratulations to Mr Sel, the Year 9 form tutors and all pupils.

LATE SUMMER FAYRE!

With generosity of spirit, 'The Friends of St Matthew Academy' came together with Academy staff, to lead our community in a traditional fundraising effort: The SMA Late Summer Fayre, on Saturday 16th September.

This event was about the community coming together to raise money for the Academy's chosen charity, the Children's Ward at Lewisham Hospital, a cause for which pupils and staff at SMA have been raising money over recent terms, and to begin fundraising for a new Academy minibus.

Heidi Alexander MP, an enthusiastic supporter of St Matthew Academy, opened the Fayre at noon with words of encouragement and celebration. Heidi referenced the wonderful

GCSE results achieved by our pupils in August - the best in the Academy's history with 70% of pupils achieving Grade 4 or better in English and Maths. Heidi was followed by Serge Cefai, our Executive Headteacher and then Miranda Baldwin, our Head of School, in welcoming the large number of pupils, staff and members of the local community to the event.

Attractions at the Fayre included traditional games; shuffleboard; guess the number of sweets in the jar and throwing wet sponges at the teachers in the stocks; modern activities such as the giant bouncy cockerel slide and the smoothie bike. There was also an eagerly anticipated raffle, barbequed burgers and sausages, face painting, Lewisham Hospital and Metropolitan Police stalls.



Their hard work enthused and galvanised our staff and parents in putting on a wonderful afternoon's entertainment and all for such a good cause!

The final total of funds raised exceeded £2000, a fabulous reflection of the efforts made by two of our Mums and 'Friends of St Matthew Academy' – Gemma Morton and Fiona Forrest – without whom this event simply would not have been possible.

SMA CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEWISHAM FOOD BANK

Again this year, to celebrate Harvest Festival, St Matthew Academy Primary and Year 8 pupils, collected and delivered food hampers to Lewisham Food Bank. This is another terrific example of pupils from St Matthew Academy contributing to our community.



ST MATTHEW ACADEMY CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR LEWISHAM HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S WARD

Staff and pupils at St Matthew Academy visited the children's wards at University Hospital Lewisham (UHL) last week to present a cheque for £1,500! The Academy raised the money at recent events including the Late Summer Fayre. The Primary phase at SMA also raised an additional £182.50 through a '2p Challenge,' in which pupils raced to fill a bucket with 2p coins.

All the money will be put towards the purchase of a COW (computer on wheels) and supplies for the parents' lounge. As well as these cheques, Year 11 pupil Davina Harris, also presented staff with a special teddy bear shaped sign for the Parents' Room. Davina designed and made the red transparent acrylic sign at school using a laser cutter and etcher

(It goes without saying that she's taking a GCSE in product design).

Val Davison, chair of Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, said: 'The dedication and passion for fundraising displayed by St Matthew Academy is nothing short of incredible. I would like to sincerely thank them for helping to make such a difference, and for caring so deeply about our patients and their families. Davina's sign takes pride of place on the door of the parents' lounge and looks brilliant.'

The Children's Ward at Lewisham Hospital will continue to be the main focus of our charitable fundraising at SMA as we move towards Christmas.



ST MATTHEW ACADEMY GIVING TREE

Staff at St Matthew Academy installed a 'Giving Tree' in the Staff Room this year and encouraged everyone who works at SMA to contribute gifts to be distributed to people in our community who struggle at this time of year. As ever, the generosity of staff was evident as many staff kindly donated.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING, 29TH SEPTEMBER



This year £360.30p was raised by parents, staff and pupils at our Macmillan Coffee Morning. St Matthew Academy has been a supporter of Macmillan Cancer Support for a number of years and this was a fantastic effort by all involved!

PRIMARY NEWS

YEAR 4

Back in September, our Year 4 children attended the Horniman Museum to learn about living creatures and their habitats. They attended a workshop looking at the desert, water, arctic and woodland habitats. They also got hands on with animals and bones in an interactive experience.

They explored the Natural History Gallery and Nature Base, where they learned more about different animals, met the famous walrus and even saw a bee hive!



LANTERN PARADE

At the end of November, Year 3 worked with 'Arty Party' to make some special lanterns.

A few weeks later, the children were involved in the Lantern Parade and Christmas Lights switch on in Greenwich. They met at the Old Royal Naval College and travelled around the town centre, ending with the switching on of the Christmas lights by characters from this year's Greenwich Theatre pantomime, Cinderella.

The children were great ambassadors for our school in the way they behaved, which was commented on by several people at the event. They also got the opportunity to meet the Mayor! Well done Year 3!



HEAD BOY AND GIRL

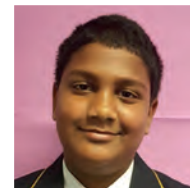
In September we elected our new Head and Deputy Head Boy and Girl and Head Prefects. All of our Year 6 children were encouraged to apply, and the shortlisted children prepared speeches and presented them in assembly in front of the other children in Years 2 – 5.

We then held an election, where each child was given a ballot paper and placed their vote at our polling station in the playground. Each candidate was also called for an interview with the Senior Leadership Team! All children did really well and we are ever so proud of them all.



HEAD GIRL - EMILY

'I was very happy and surprised when I found out I was Head Girl. I really like being Head Girl because I have good duties.'



HEAD BOY - DIMITRI

'I love my role as Head Boy because I think since I have been given the role, I have changed my attitude towards learning. My future aspiration is to inspire others.'

POWER HOUR – CHARITY PLANNING

During 'Power Hour' in October, 5E held an Afternoon Tea in our primary hall for their family and friends to raise money for Lewisham Hospital Children's Ward Charity. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and especially liked eating the cakes!



ROWING CLUB

Two pupils from SMA Primary Rahul and Noah completed their 10,000m rowing badges this term. Congratulations to Noah and Rahul in Year 6. Well done Noah for being awarded the fastest primary boy over 10,000m in Rowing extra-curricular club.



Noah



Rahul

3E RETREAT

In November, 3E participated in a Chaplaincy Retreat to Southwark Cathedral. Here the children learnt about the similarities between Catholicism and the Church of England, and discovered our shared worship of the Lord.

The children had a wonderful time making their very own hand made candles out of beeswax and clay candle holders. After our workshop, we received a private tour and had the opportunity to see candles in action and discuss what they are used for in a religious setting and what they symbolise within Christianity.



YEAR 4 VISIT TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

On Tuesday 5th December 2017, Year 4 participated in a Chaplaincy retreat to St George's Cathedral, Southwark, where there was an Advent Service hosted by Southwark Diocese and led by the Archbishop.

The children took part in singing carols and a few even had an active role in a parade with the Three Wise Men! It was a lovely way for the children to experience shared faith, and it got us all excited for Christmas!

REMEMBRANCE DAY



The Primary Phase children held a special Remembrance reflection, where we observed the two minutes silence, shared prayers and released balloons to remember the members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

It was a lovely tribute and the children were so respectful and enjoyed sharing this special occasion together.

HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

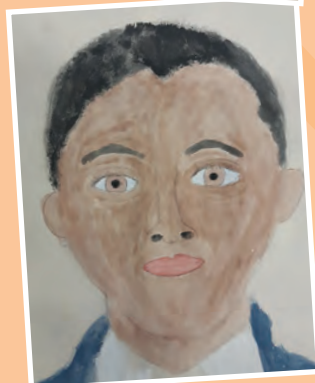
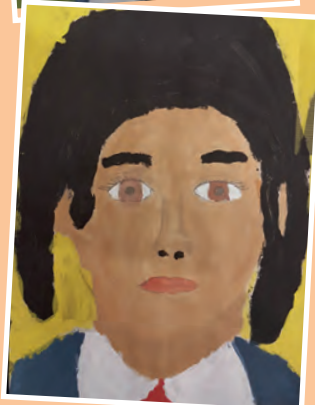


In October, a group of Years 3 and 4 students took part in a hockey tournament. They came third in their pool, with one of our players winning a certificate for being the most honest player of the day.

Well done Tamia, Adam, Emmanuella Moses, Austin, Summer, Nishan and Abraham, We were all very proud of their achievement.

POWER HOUR – PORTRAIT WORKSHOP

During Power Hour this term, year 5 have been working on self-portraits. Have a look at a few examples below. Can you recognise them from their portraits?



PRIMARY SCIENCE CLUB & YEAR 5 WORKSHOP



A selected group of Year 5 and 6 pupils have had the opportunity this term to join Science Club in the secondary science laboratories. So far, they have experienced forces, plant studies on the field and even an experiment involving tea bags!

Year 5 students were given a taste of the excitement of secondary science during a practical workshop on the theme of 'Explosions and Colour.'

Hopefully these budding young scientists will now be looking forward to learning more about science in Year 7!

PRIMARY NEWS

SMA PRIMARY FOOTBALL TEAM

The Year 5 football team played the John Ball Year 6 team in October. As a new team, they played really well and made us proud.

Thank you to Mr Szwejkowski for all of his hard work and effort in creating our new team.

Eryn (right) was presented with the man of the match award.



YEAR 2 FIRE BRIGADE VISIT



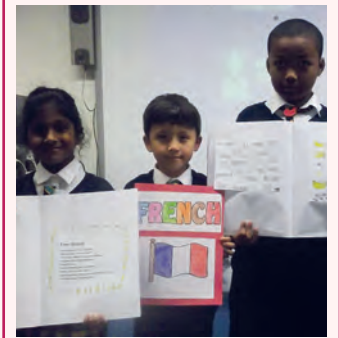
In November 2E had a visit from Lee Green Fire Brigade. The children have been learning about The Great Fire of London, and the firefighters

showed the children their modern equipment and gave some great information about how their equipment is very different nowadays!

Later, the children made their own houses just like the ones from London in 1666, and recreated the Great Fire of London!

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Children are really enjoying all of their extra curricular clubs. In French club, children have learned many French words including colours, numbers up to 20, a children's lullaby and how to say hello and goodbye. Très bon!



FOREST SCHOOL

We are very lucky to have our very own Forest School within the grounds of St Matthew Academy. Dragonfly class had scavenger hunts during their Forest School sessions. They also made stick men, twig towers and worked hard to make the tallest.



YEAR 6 TAG RUGBY

At the end of November, a team of year 6 students took part in a tag rugby tournament. They won their pool against 5 other schools and made it to the semi-finals, where in the last 30 seconds the other team scored a trail. We came joint 3rd out of 18 schools. What a great success!

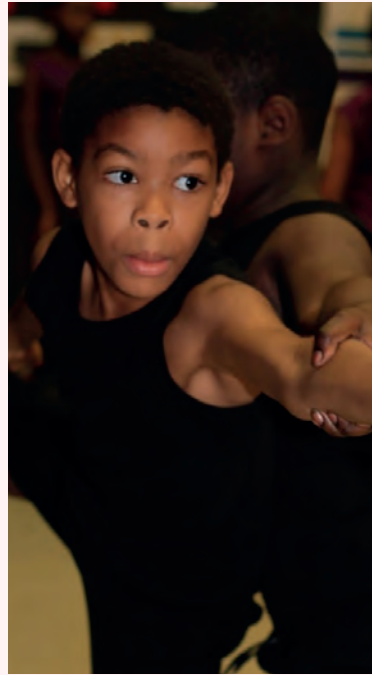


YEAR 4 & YEAR 5 'ONE DANCE' PERFORMANCE

Congratulations to Year 4 and 5 dancers who 'wowed' the audience at the One Dance UK conference at Trinity Laban.

Their high energy contemporary dance drew it's inspiration from African poet Lebogang Mashile's poem 'I Dance to Know Who I Am' and involved some very complicated and dynamic partner work and movement phrases.

Well done to all the children who worked so hard and thank you to Ms Smith and all the teachers who gave up their time to support the trip.



ATHLETICS TOURNAMENT



A team of students from Year 3 and 4 took part in an athletics tournament at the Thunderdome.

They took part in the field & track events throughout the day. Sheena from 3W won an award for having the spirit of team work. Everyone did really well.



POWER HOUR

We are very lucky to have a First-Aid at Work and Paediatric first-aid assessor working in our school and he takes groups of children within our weekly 'Power Hour' to complete a 'Mini Medics' programme.

The children are really enjoying these sessions and are learning important life skills which teach them all about what to do in an emergency. By the end of each course, the children would have covered CPR, the recovery position, treating bleeding, shock, broken bones and small burns.



SPORTS NEWS

LEWISHAM CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION



SOUTH LONDON ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS



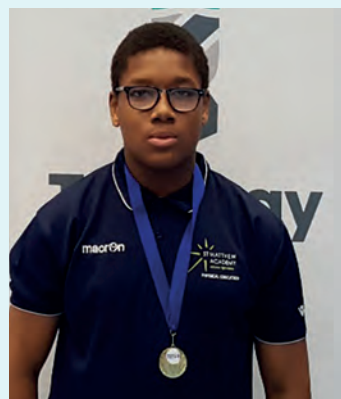
25 students from Years 7 – 10 travelled to South Bank University Sports Centre to compete against their peers on Friday, 1st December. For some it was a new experience, for others it was time to show 'who's boss!' and settle old scores.

Congratulations go to Gideon Hackmann (Year 8) who won gold in the Boys' Category and to Kofi Taylor-Barrocks who achieved

Bronze in a very, very hard fought category.

A MASSIVE 'shout out' to the Boys' Relay Team consisting of Stephen Umunnakwe (Year 7), Gideon Hackmann (Year 8), Francis Cole (Year 9), Alex Burton (Year 10) and Kofi Taylor-Barrocks (Year 11).

This group completely annihilated the other teams, winning by over 150m to take the gold medal!



YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 GIRLS' FOOTBALL



Year 7/8 girls played their first football fixture this season against Bacon's College. The game started well with Kassidy Steeds scoring within the first 5 minutes, shortly followed by another goal scored by Miah Stevens. Bacon's scored just before half term resulting in a 2-1 lead.

All the girls played exceedingly well, considering this was their first match playing as a team. Unfortunately we couldn't keep the lead and drew 2-2 at full time. The girls showed great sportsmanship throughout the game and were credit to SMA.



YEAR 8 BOYS' FOOTBALL

In September, myself and Mr.Cole inherited a Year 8 team blessed with some classy players and an excellent team spirit.

With the light dimming by the day, we have worked hard on playing through the thirds – which we have the technical quality to do - instead of resorting to hopeful 'percentage' football when match day comes. A highlight of the season so far was a resounding 7-2 victory over rivals STAC, in which many players humbled themselves and played in unfamiliar roles to assist the team. One player who epitomises this selflessness is Ian Ceres, who has been playing in goal, bringing his composure and distribution skills to the position.

Huge congratulations to Kwakye Osei and Omarion Byfield who have also been selected to represent Blackheath District this season. Over 100 of the best players from Lewisham borough attended the trials so this was quite an achievement for the boys. I look forward to resuming the football fixtures in the spring term.

Mr Brown and Mr Cole



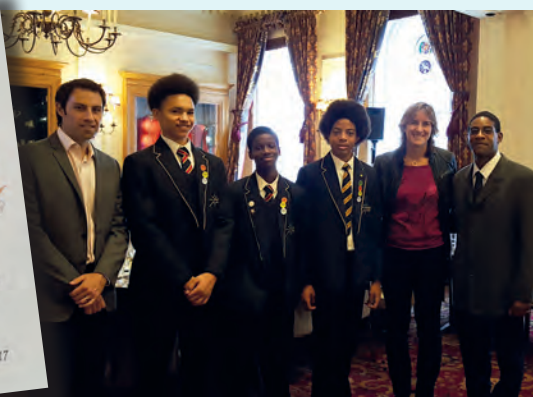
ROWING: AN INVITATION TO THE PRESTIGIOUS WATERMAN'S HALL

Kofi Taylor-Barrocks, Alex Burton & Leonardo Walter Dabo were invited to the London Youth Rowing annual lunch at the Watermen's Club Est. 1555. You might recognise them as those rowers in bright red livery, who navigate the Queen along the Thames on state occasions.

SMA was the ONLY SCHOOL chosen from the 80 schools in the London Youth Rowing program. The 3 boys were commended on their contribution to rowing at SMA, Lewisham Borough, London Youth Games and the London Regatta – by the CEO of LYR Matt Rostron and Dame Katherine Grainger. Mr Simmons was also given a

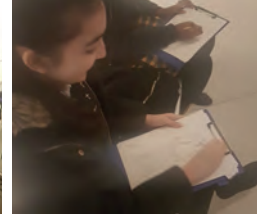
commendation in recognition for his work over the last 4 years by the CEO of LYR and Andrew Triggs-Hodge OBE (triple gold medallist) who he was seated next to through the lunch! Our three pupils represented SMA in an inspiring and impeccable manner, demonstrating their ability to mix well in the circle of Investors, CEOs, Olympic medallists and other notables.

Kofi, Alex and Leonardo also showed how passionate they are about their own rowing and SMA Rowing Club, espousing their achievements so far and talking about their future goals as part of London Youth Rowing. An excellent lunch... even if all those forks were confusing for us to start with! A totally unique experience for our SMA boys and LYR too.



YEAR 10 V&A TRIP

The Art, Design and Technology faculty took 33 pupils to the Victoria and Albert Museum in November. Textiles pupils had the opportunity to visit the Balenciaga Exhibition, they produced some fantastic observational sketches from his collection and took inspiration from other artefacts in the museum.



"The Cristobal Balenciaga exhibit was inspiring and it gave me enlightenment to express more freedom in my designs and to not be so restricted"

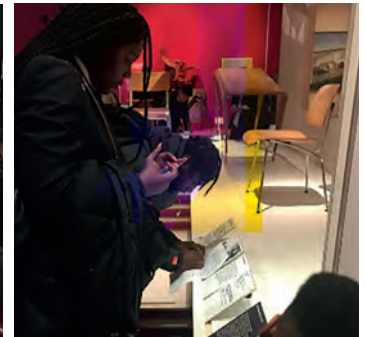
Tasnim Roble

"It was a wonderful experience, where we got to see a different style of fashion in place"

Victoria Akinwunmi

Going to see the Balenciaga exhibition inspired me, I got to see how volume can be used and it showed me a different style in fashion"

Fatma Garip



The museum also exhibited modern products made from plywood which enabled the Product Design pupils to engage in a focused exercise to collate information which supported their GCSE project.

"I think the trip was amazing, seeing all of the things that were made from chairs to tools to the first ever Audi. I have realised that plywood is flexible and incredibly strong"

Bryan Kwefang

The learning experience was extremely successful, pupils were impeccable throughout the journey and were focused on the key objectives within the museum. A huge thank you to Miss Reid and Miss Chen for supporting me and helping with the organisation of the trip.

Miss Louise Wright
Head of Art, Design and Technology

ST MATTHEW ON BOARD WITH HEGARTY MATHS

The Maths department are excited to announce the launch of HegartyMaths for all secondary pupils. This is a fantastic tool at the disposal of all pupils to allow them to engage and improve in Maths. HegartyMaths is an online platform that teaches, assesses and tracks everything a child needs to learn in Maths from Year 7 to GCSE level.

HegartyMaths allows pupils access at home to well-thought out Maths

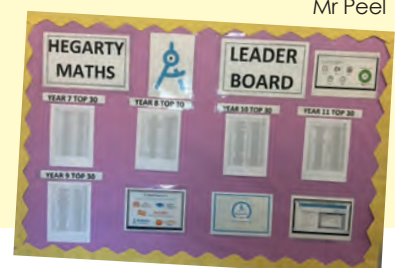
explanations with carefully modelled examples, provides all learning tasks with built in pre-requisite knowledge support and ensures all instructional videos are followed by bespoke assessments.

YEAR 7		
1st: Paris Agyemang	2nd: Samuel Aboagye	3rd: Zakyron Johnson
YEAR 8		
1st: Irma Ridjali	2nd: Dorin Danut	3rd: Christabel Efe
YEAR 9		
1st: Believe Anchebe	2nd: Aaron Lunguma	3rd: Anjola Taiwo
YEAR 10		
1st: Valentina Pine	2nd: Nicholas Alves Rosa	3rd: Jada Douglas
YEAR 11		
1st: Brytanni Burton	2nd: Deborah Molina Panchi	3rd: Ethan Ankra

Pupils are already taking advantage of this great resource with over 500 hours of videos already watched and close to 200,000 questions already answered across the Academy!

The top performing pupils are now displayed on a leader board in the Maths Department and certificates will be given to the most dedicated pupils in each year group. Well done to the pupils shown for having the highest amount of learning hours on HegartyMaths in their year group so far.

Mr Peel



CLASS OF 2017 PRESENTATION EVENING

On 23rd November, we welcomed back the class of 2017 - the most successful cohort of pupils in the Academy's history!

Our former pupils received their GCSE certificates and special subject prizes from Head of School, Ms Baldwin; Chair of Governors, Pat Barber and our guest speaker, former pupil Sengova Kailondo. It was an evening of fun music and celebration as

well as being a wonderful opportunity to catch up with everyone's news whilst celebrating some amazing successes!

- 70% of pupils achieved the Basics measure (English and Maths, L4+)
- 50% of pupils achieved the Basics measure (English and Maths, L5+)
- 20 grade 9s were awarded: 3 in English Language, 13 in English Literature and 4 in Mathematics

- Special congratulations go to our highest achieving pupil Fadekemi Adeleye who gained 3 grade 9s, 6 A*, 2 A and a Distinction*. Fadememi joins a small select club of just 2000 pupils across the country to achieve three grade 9s, the 'gold standard.'

Here's to the Class of 2017! We wish you all well in your future endeavours. Over to you Class of 2018...

DANCE NEWS

Lucy Sam from The Royal Academy of Dance ran an exciting Street Dance workshop with twenty two very capable young dancers from Key Stage 3 and 4. Students enjoyed learning new movements and choreographic techniques. Lucy will be back to support our Street Dance crew who are busy preparing for a Street Dance Battle at Stratford Circus in January.

Fourteen dancers from across the Secondary Phase will be working with students from Parkwood Hall Special School as part of Step Into Dance's 'Step Together' project. The project brings together dancers from mainstream and special schools to share in their love of dance and work collaboratively in a fun, exciting workshop. Professional dancer and Choreographer Zoe Elliot from the Royal Academy of Dance, is working with dancers from Years 7, 8 and 9 to prepare for our Christmas showcase.

Ms Smith



YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING IN THE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

On the 26th of September The Modern Foreign language department hosted a French and Spanish food tasting session in our classrooms. Prospective pupils and parents were welcomed into the department to taste the flavour of continental Europe with French pastries, croissants, pains au chocolat, Spanish tortillas and chorizo. Visitors also had the opportunity to become immersed in the culture of France and Spain through French and Spanish music. Games and quizzes were

also on the menu with Year 8 pupils leading various activities! Parents and prospective pupils also had the opportunity to discuss the MFL curriculum with our current pupils and they were particularly interested to hear about what pupils are learning and what they enjoy about languages in the Academy. Our guests also talked to teachers and saw examples of our pupils' work.

A bientôt! ¡Hasta pronto!
Ms Ntoko



YEAR 10 KPMG EMPLOYABILITY MORNING

Sixty Year 10 pupils will be taking part in our KPMG Employability Morning in December. They will be working in groups with KPMG mentors looking at CV writing, key employability skills, interview techniques and career pathways. All pupils will take part in one to one mock interviews with their allocated mentors.

SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT

A group of ten STAC Year 12 students have been visiting on Wednesday afternoons to attend a photography enrichment class with Ms Thurston.

As part of this programme, the group visited the Now Gallery on the Greenwich Peninsula and were wowed by the exciting contemporary photography exhibition on show. For many students, this was the first time they had ever been to an exhibition however Ms Thurston was

certainly impressed with their ability to have an open mind and critique the work maturely. Watch this space for an exhibition of their photography work at the end of the year!



YEAR 10 VISIT TO THE COURTAULD GALLERY, LONDON OUTREACH PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

A group of keen Year 10 girls visited the Courtauld Gallery to explore the theme of beauty in art. The pupils received an art history lecture whilst viewing key works of Art as they explored the question 'what is beauty?' Pupils discussed and researched media representations of idealised beauty prior to the visit and were able to experiment with their own visualisations of beauty by taking their own photos at the gallery and working alongside artist Marysa Dowling; a great opportunity for pupils to collaborate with a working artist.



The girls will be producing personal portrait photos and working with Marysa Dowling in school. All the girls involved in this project have been able to celebrate their diversity visually and link this to the history of the representation of beauty in art. The final portrait photographs will be exhibited which will form part of a wider mentoring project involving girls at SMA.

Ms Cregan

NEW CLUBS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Several new clubs in Secondary are helping students build their confidence in reading, writing and maths.

WRITING CLUB

"Writing club is about creating brave writers," says Mrs Winstanley.

This is done by exposing students to many different forms of writing and getting them to write in these styles. But it's also about building their confidence. So far, we've experimented with sound poetry, music, melodrama, Christmas advertising and news bulletins. And we don't forget about the basics- grammar and handwriting are also practised. Because it's an after-school club, the atmosphere is fun but focused.



Year 7 students hone their poetry and annotation skills in writing club

"I've never written so much in twenty minutes." A year 8 student after writing a story opener.

"I used to hate poetry, but I love this poem." A year 7 student after a session on *The Eagle* by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

LEXIA CLUB

Ms George and students in the Lexia club working on their reading and comprehension skills.



READING CLUB

Over in the library, Ms Smith takes the reading club. It's more of a book club and students get the chance to read challenging texts in small groups.



Focus on Fiction: Year 7 students keep a close eye on the story.



Reading club is about developing independent readers and discovering great stories.

MATHS CLUB

In the maths department, Ms Ryder and Ms Woodroffe run a maths clubs. If you're interested, please contact these members of staff.

HOMEWORK CLUB

For Year 7 and 8 students who need a quiet place to do their homework, the 'SMA Homework Club' could be just the thing.

Two teaching assistants are on hand to provide support and there's access to computers, large tables and other students to share ideas.

Mr Brown, one of the teaching assistants who runs the club, says the club has been extremely popular:

"Homework club is a peaceful place for our pupils to complete their work. We've had consistently high numbers since September and long may that continue."

Diana, Year 7, is a regular to the club:

"I love homework club. It's a place where I can get on with homework and spend time with my family and friends."

For more information about any of these clubs, contact the Inclusion team in Secondary.

PUPIL OF THE WEEK



This term at St Matthew Academy, we launched the 'Pupil of the Week' initiative in both Primary and Secondary. Every Friday, Class Teachers in Primary and Tutors in Secondary nominate their Pupil of the Week and award that pupil the much coveted orange tie to wear at school the following week.

The pupils awarded might have been chosen for a number of reasons, for example receiving the most achievement points that week or possibly for demonstrating any of our SMA core values of participation, independence, collaboration, versatility, aspiration and persistence consistently. Whatever the reason, every Pupil of the Week has worn the orange tie with immense pride!

CELEBRATING PUPIL SUCCESS IN ART DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

There have been many opportunities within the Art Design and Technology faculty in which KS3 pupils have had the opportunity to demonstrate our five SMA learning characteristics. At the end of nine successful lessons, I have had the pleasure of reviewing pupils work and would like to congratulate the following pupils for demonstrating excellence throughout the first carousel rotation. Well done to you all, keep up the excellent work.

Miss L Wright
(Head of Art, Design and Technology)

NAME	SUBJECT	LEARNING CHARACTERISTIC
YEAR 7		
Shekinah Abuwa	Design and Technology	Aspiration
Parfaite Balande	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Independence
Bethany Chowdhury	Art	Versatility
Daniella Olusanya	Textiles	Collaboration
Ronnie Clarkson	Textiles	Persistence
YEAR 8		
Edison Molina	Design and Technology	Aspiration
Florence Oladimeji	Art	Independence
Leanna Brathwaite-Outschoorn	Food and Textiles	Versatility
Malika Bovell-Chris	Textiles	Collaboration

YEAR 9 & 10 DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh Award mixed Year 9 and Year 10 group are undertaking First Aid training on Monday afternoons in preparation for next years expeditions with Mr Saunders.



LEVI ROOTS VISITS SMA!

'Gimme Sum Reggae Reggae Sauce!'

Business, Ifs and DT students were treated today with a visit from Mr Levi Roots. 145 Pupils were entertained as Levi sang, accompanying himself on the guitar, 'the song.' Levi went on to tell of his journey from being brought up by his Granny in Jamaica, to arriving in the UK and attending school for the first time at the age of 12 in Tulse Hill. He spoke of how he went from making up batches of 67 jars of his famous sauce at a time in his kitchen, to receiving an order overnight from Sainsbury's for 250,000 jars!

Our pupils asked so many interesting questions about his brand; The Dragons Den; entrepreneurship and the qualities any individual should have to be successful. Levi quoted Shakespeare's Julius Caesar; the Bible; his son and his Grandmother who are all very big influences on him.

Levi was very generous in giving out prizes, which he autographed and then spent time meeting and signing planners before pupils were dismissed.

A day I am sure we will all remember, from an inspirational business man and entrepreneur.

Ms Green

