

Autumn 2018



It is with great pride that I introduce the last newsletter of 2018, that provides the perfect opportunity to celebrate a fantastic year and reflect on the growth of our academy, pupils and staff, and appreciate another successful term.

As the first term draws to a close, I am delighted to share with you the many successes, triumphs and victories many pupils and staff alike have shared in their journey at St Matthew Academy. As a collective body, we look forward to building on these and continuing on our upward journey of success, as pupils develop into well-rounded, high achieving learners, who grasp every opportunity with both hands, fulfil their potential and play an active role in their community.

We are thrilled that we have enjoyed a highly successful open event season this term, as we welcomed many new faces through the door to visit both our primary and secondary phases. We hope to see many of these faces again soon in September, to join us at St Matthew Academy and become a part of our success story. Many of these successes, from sports and subject excellence to celebrating our GCSE alumni and our strong enrichment offer are shared within this newsletter.

As always, our dedication to encouraging our pupils to let their light shine, through an outstanding education and a range of enriching experiences remains at the forefront of all that we do. I look forward to embarking on a new year when we return, where I am certain these many successes and our dedication to pupils, will continue to grow stronger.

Lastly, I wish all of our pupils, staff, families, friends and local community a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. From everyone at St Matthew Academy we wish you a restful and peaceful break.

**Miranda Baldwin    Head of School**



### GCSE Pupils Let Their Lights Shine!

In November, we welcomed Janet Daby MP for Lewisham East and parents, staff and governors to congratulate the Class of 2018 on their GCSE results. It was a wonderful evening of celebration for the pupils who achieved the best GCSE results in Lewisham!



The 2018 cohort of GCSE students all attained fantastic results, and in our first year of 9-1 GCSEs, we say a big "well done!" to all of our Class of 2018 who achieved grades 7-9. We are exceptionally proud of Erica Appiah, who achieved three grade 9s in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We wish her every success as she pursues her aim of studying medicine at an Oxbridge university.

## Successful, confident learners



# Spotlight on...Primary Phase

## Celebrating our Values

In Primary we celebrate our pupils' successes on a weekly basis in our Friday assemblies. This term we have had many classes with 100% attendance and they have been rewarded by receiving first lunch and sitting at the golden table. Our new initiative this half term is awarding those pupils who have tried really hard in their writing and produced outstanding pieces of work. Our 'Wonderful Writers' receive a certificate, small prize and their picture on the Academy website. Every week we nominate our 'Star of the Week' for demonstrating our learning characteristics of persistence, collaboration, independence, aspiration and versatility. We look forward to the New Year when we can award many more children for letting their lights shine.



A warm welcome to  
Miss Chick  
Acting Head of  
Primary



'Daily Mile' in action!

## Our Captivated Readers

Pupils in Year 4 were so intrigued and engaged by their reading book this term that they decided to put together a list of questions that they would like to ask the



author, should they get the chance. The primary team were thrilled that they enjoyed their book so much that they decided to write a letter to author Jill Murphy, adding pupil's questions. We look forward to her response in the New Year!

## New Sporting Ventures!

This year the Academy has developed new partnerships with other schools across the borough. One of the latest has involved a more competitive aspect, through sporting activities including football, tag rugby, quick cricket and athletics.



We have been lucky enough to forge a strong relationship with St Margaret's in Lee, who have warmly welcomed us and all year groups look forward to participating in fixtures over the next year.

In November, Year 3 had their first taste of the project and very much enjoyed it. Both schools had two teams each and played three matches each on a round robin. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and all of the pupils involved were a credit to the Academy, showing St Matthew Academy in its true light by displaying every

aspect of the values in which they represent. St Matthew lost two close matches but still scored in each, before grabbing victory in the last match, winning 3:2. We look forward to seeing Year 4 in action in the New Year.

High expectations, outstanding achievements





### Charity Champions!

All primary pupils have been collecting non-perishable food for our local community food bank, as part our efforts in supporting our local community. At the end of October, pupils and staff took 13 crates of food to Lewisham Food Bank and had an opportunity to see the process of how the food is stored and what other services are provided in the community to support those in need.

"My stand out moment this term has been watching the children become more excited about their learning".

Mr Umekwe

Deputy Head of Primary



### Greenwich Christmas Parade

Back in November, Year 3 classes had the exciting opportunity to take part in the Greenwich Market Christmas Parade. Pupils got creative and crafted sheep lanterns which they proudly carried around before taking part

in the count down to the turning on of the Christmas lights. They even got the chance to meet with the Mayor of Greenwich afterwards – who was very impressed with their artistic lanterns!



### Enrichment Opportunities

As an all-through school, we are lucky to benefit from having secondary specialist facilities on the same site, that supports and enriches our pupils learning, preparing them for the next stage of their educational career, well in advance. Ms Adonri has been leading our exciting KS2 science club in our secondary laboratories this term, as we try out many exciting experiments! Pupils in the secondary phase working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award have also been helping out at the sessions as part of the volunteering aspect of their award.



This term, Years 4 and 5 have studied the African artist 'Gakonga' with the specialist help of the Secondary Art Department. Pupils enjoyed learning about the style and techniques that the artist uses to bring his colourful work to life and produced their own piece of work based on these attributes.

Each lesson gave an insight to the stories behind the images and a chance for the class to discuss their own feelings, emotions and moods based on the colours used in each image. The experience was very enjoyable and the pupils are now looking forward to studying the works of other artists.







# Spotlight on...Sporting Brilliance



What a fantastic term it has been for the PE department here at SMA. The whole team are super proud of our pupils who have worked incredibly hard and shown real commitment and determination.

Firstly we need to congratulate two pupils who stormed it at the Lewisham Schools' Cross Country Championships.

They will now go on to represent both Lewisham and St Matthew Academy in the London Schools Cross Country in 2019. Congratulations to Richesse Year 9 - 3Km race 12mins 07 secs (1st place winner) out of 7 Lewisham schools and Kofi Osei Year 10 - 3km race 14 mins 10 secs (4th place finish)

Basketball has been a very popular choice for many pupils this term and we have seen some real successes. Our U14 girls were the champions at the London Youth games, it was a thrilling day and our girls worked together exceptionally well showing real team spirit and were delighted with their victory

The U16s boys' basketball team were also victors in the Lewisham schools games. It was difficult to nominate a player of the match as all of the boys who participated showed real strength and supported the rest of the team to secure a win.

In other sports highlights our Year 8 boys won the Lewisham Handball Competition and will progress to join the Year 11 boys' basketball team in representing Lewisham in the London Youth Games.



It has been a busy period for the boys' football teams, with highlights including the London Cup. Years 7, 8 and 10 are all through to the last 16 of the London Cup, and Years 8, 9, and 11 have all progressed to the quarter finals of the Blackheath Cup!

Year 7 girls enjoyed a change to their PE lessons recently, by entering a three week-long outdoor education programme. The programme has allowed the pupils to experience many new opportunities and develop next skills, including

first aid, team building, orienteering and outdoor fitness. The sessions tested and challenged the girls physically and mentally and were received well by all. Next up - year 8 girls!

**Watch this space next term for more sporting success.**

PE Department



## Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition



# Enrichment Opportunities This Term

Another busy term across the academy in terms of enrichment. There are far too many to mention in this one space so please do check out our Twitter account for more details.

The SMA Rowing Team got off to a great start this year, achieving our first award this academic year from London Youth Rowing for the students Excellence. We then entered the London Fixed Seat Rowing Championships for the first time.

This involved rowing on the Thames, fighting the strong current and battling the other schools. The team won all of their races to win the coveted new trophy made from the clay, (230, million years old), dug out from the very heart of London!

The Performing Arts faculty have been very busy this term also, Year 10 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit to see the amazing show 'Wicked' in London Victoria. The same group have also been lucky enough to attend a series of workshops with the London Youth theatre where they were able to think more deeply about physical theatre. Our dancers have been equally busy this term, many pupils have enjoyed working alongside Trinity Laban and Step Into Dance to increase their understanding of choreography and performance technique. Fifteen Year 8, 9 and 10 students were fortunate to travel to Trinity Laban where they took part in an energetic workshop with leading dance practitioner Lucy Evans.

**A huge thank you to all of the staff who have led these trips and provided a rich experience for our pupils.**

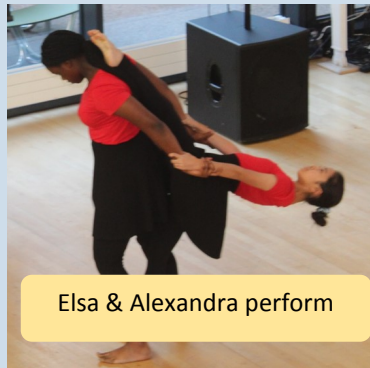
## Artist of the Month



Kristiana - year 7



YR 10 pupils achieve DoE Bronze Award



Elsa & Alexandra perform



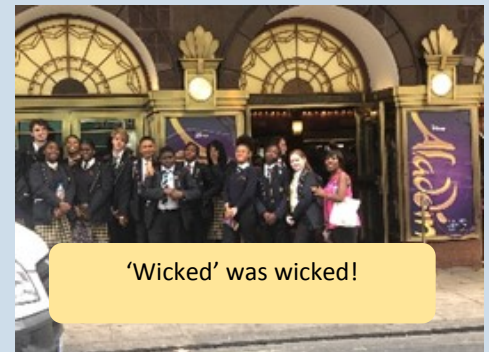
YR 9 Photographers visit CTK darkroom



Y10 Film pupils attend the Into Film Festival



Chef 'Jean' visits the Academy.



'Wicked' was wicked!

Letting everyone's light shine



# Spotlight on...Outdoor learning

ST MATTHEW  
ACADEMY  
Let your light shine



Here at SMA we are all about learning and we recognise that pupils are switched on by real world learning that does not always need to take place in the classroom. Many teachers have embraced



this theme during the Autumn term as these photographs demonstrate. Mr M was keen for his class to grasp the concept of ecology through using quadrats to measure the population of grass.



The enthusiastic Year 9 Photographers were totally inspired by their day out in Brighton to visit the contemporary Biennial photo festival. They were photographers for the day snapping their way through the town.

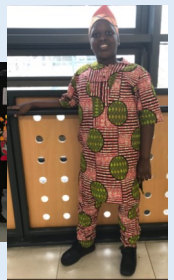


The Primary pupils were thoroughly engaged and immersed in the poppy hunt led by Mr Saunders in our very own Forest School and also through carrying out live science experiments in the playground. Meanwhile the Year 10 geographers learned about coastal defences during a field trip to Margate earlier this term.



## Romero House are the Autumn Term Winners!

At the time this article went to print, Romero House were still ahead by a nose! The House Competition has been fiercely contested by our three houses from September with individual competitions including weekly Achievement and Attendance points round ups; a House bake off and more recently the International Day. So, Romero are currently ahead but Mandela are closing the gap with Teresa bringing up the rear in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. All could change over the coming weeks so watch this space and look out for updates posted weekly on our website!



On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November Years 7 and 8 celebrated All Saints Day at St Margaret's Church Lee. Reverend Goode led a beautiful service. Rev Goode's accordion also made an appearance as he delightfully played the accordion as 'When the Saints Go Marching In' was bellowed by staff and pupils alike. At the core of the service was the key message that we are made in the Image of God (Imago Dei) and as such, should show love to one another. We pray that the all the saints can help us exhibit God's love and mercy in all that we do.

Christmas is such a beautiful time of year. Family, friends, and neighbours are welcomed into our homes with loving arms as we anticipate the birth of Christ. He is the reason for the season, and we need to be sure to celebrate his birth appropriately. "Glory to God in the Highest! May the blessings of God's special gifts be yours this Christmas and in the New Year." On behalf of all staff and pupils at St Matthew Academy we wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**From all at St Matthew Academy**