

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits away from the cold, dark and depressing weather of the season. Today in particular, the school looked magnificent, with staff and pupils dressed in all sorts of wonderful Christmas jumpers!

As the term draws to a close, it is with humility and gratitude that I both look back on the term and with barely restrained anticipation look forward to the holidays and next term! I am sure that pupils, parents and carers would like to join with me in thanking all of the staff and governors at St Matthew Academy for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the pupils of the school. Likewise, we the staff, governors and pupils would like to thank all parents and carers for all your support. Last but in no way least we thank our pupils – you are indeed some of the best pupils I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I pray for and wish everyone peace and happiness in all homes and families during this holiday season – may we all be safe and keep healthy. Merry Christmas or Season's Greetings to everyone! Enjoy the turkey, the mince pies, the biscuits and sweets and best of all the lights and carols! See you in January 2021.

God bless

Kevin Umekwe

Deputy Headteacher Primary Phase

Prayer and Reflection

Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy. On the contrary, you will become what the Father had in mind when He created you, and you will be faithful to your deepest self. – Pope Francis

Pope Francis' Prayer intention for December 2020, is 'For a Life of prayer.'

In his video, Pope Francis says:

The heart of the Church's mission is prayer.

Prayer is the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father.

Every time we read a short passage from the Gospel we hear Jesus speaking to us.

We have a conversation with Jesus.

We listen to Jesus and we reply.

And this is prayer.

By praying, we change reality.

And we change our hearts.

Our heart changes when we pray.

We can do many things, but without prayer, it does not work.

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

In silence, everyone, each one in heartfelt prayer.

Watch the December 2020 Pope Video
here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJrVAXYKdLk

Whole Academy News

On the 26th of November, St Matthew Academy launched its first innovation day with a focus on celebrating our cultural diversity and developing a holistic sense of community. As we all know that being a part of a community can make us feel as though we are a part of something greater than ourselves. It can give us opportunities to connect with people, to reach for our goals, and makes us feel safe and secure. It's important for every person to have a sense of community.



Pupils and staff across the academy utilised butterflies to create five promises of how they would ensure they contributed positively to our SMA community. Also, all primary classes were provided an opportunity to decorate slippers linking to inspirational people in their community, what inspires them and linking to their own cultural diversity. Ms Thurston, who led the project, stated 'I would just like to thank all staff for their support, energy and contributions to the planned activities. I am really confident that the outcomes created on this day will not only give the pupils and all members of the community a better sense of ownership over class and community spaces, but it will also be an opportunity for us to come together and celebrate our amazingly diverse and creative academy community'.



House and Charity News

Weekly House Points Week beginning 7th December 2020

Attendance WB 30th November

- 1st Romero 94.7% (10 pts.)
- 2nd Mandela 93.8% (5 pts.)
- 3rd Teresa 93.6% (3 pts.)



Overall:

- 1st Teresa **240** pts.
- 2nd Mandela **169** pts.
- 3rd Romero **146** pts.

Achievement Points WB 30th Nov:

- 1st Mandela 225 (10 pts.)
- 2nd Teresa 212 (5 pts.)
- 3rd Romero 205 (3 pts.)

Teresa house retain their lead this week. However, Mandela and Romero house are catching up, with better achievement points and attendance respectively. Will Teresa hang on to their lead with two house competitions approaching conclusion?



House Donation Drive Update

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to support our three House charities this Christmas. If you haven't had time yet please note the deadline for donation is this Monday 14th of December.

Mandela House

Mandela are supporting Action for Refugees in Lewisham who help refugees in the community to help make the best of their new life in the UK. Mandela team are looking to create donation boxes with:

- Chocolates and Sweets
- Children's Books / Toys / Games
- Stationary
- **Christmas Decorations**



Action For Refugees In Lewisham

Romero House

Romero are aiding Salvation Army to provide food and shelter to the homeless this Christmas. Romero are looking to create donation boxes with:



- Personal grooming products (e.g. deodorant, soaps, baby wipes, toothbrushes etc.)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Socks and underwear
- Gloves, hats, blankets etc.

Teresa House

Teresa are keen to help our fantastic NHS service in Lewisham and bring festive cheer to the children's department this Christmas. Teresa are looking to create donation boxes with:



- Children's Toys / Games
- Soft Toys / Blankets
- Children's and Teenage Books
- Stationary

Pope Paul VI in 'Gaudium et spes 69.' states that "God intended the earth with everything contained in it for the use of all human beings and peoples... goods should be in abundance for all in like manner."

Spotlight on

Key Stage 3

Year 7 and 8 Kayak with Skylark

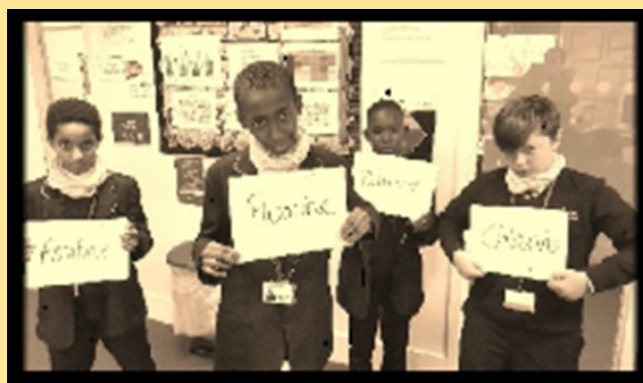
Year 7 and 8 pupils have continued their amazing work with the Skylark program and had the opportunity to go Kayaking at the Olympic park. Their confidence and teamwork skills were built as they paddled on the water.



The Year 7 and 8 pupils are looking forward to their next adventure with Skylark in 2021!

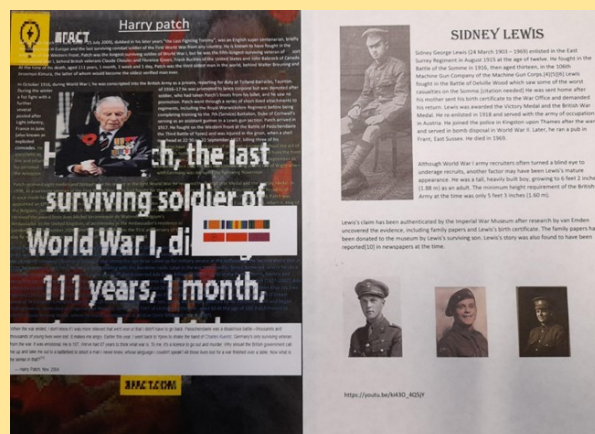
Year 8 Halogens Work

8.8 Created a video to show their understanding of displacement reactions in halogens. It took the more reactive halogen fluorine to break potassium and iodine apart. The boys said they enjoyed making the video, and they'll never forget which elements can create a strong bond.



Year 9 History

Year 9 pupils have been researching the lost stories of soldiers of World War 1. They have sought to make them known to our community and to show they understand that most of those who died in the war were ordinary men who made the ultimate sacrifice. They undertook this research in preparation for a newspaper article they were writing from the perspective of a young soldier in 1916. The article focussed on their experiences of conditions in the trenches on the Western Front.



Spotlight on MFL, Art and Textiles

Key Stage 4

MFL

This term, we celebrated Day of Languages by translating the school prayer into nearly 20 languages to celebrate our language diversity at SMA. Our pupils have also been confidently starting lessons, and sometimes assemblies, with the school prayer in Spanish. We celebrated National Poetry Day by exploring some poems in Spanish and French and Day of the Dead by creating beautiful art work and learning about the traditions of the famous Mexican festival.

Our Year 10 and 11 pupils have continued with their bi-weekly French speaking sessions with our librarian and French speaking assistant Ms Fields to ensure they have one on one support and are confident French speakers.

In Year 11, we have started to look at A-Level material in our Breakfast Club for our linguists who are going to excel at A-Level languages and we cannot wait to hear more about A-Level languages from some of SMA's previous linguists who are now studying French and Spanish at STAC.

Art and Textiles

Year 9 Art and Textiles pupils took part recently in a competition to design the Christmas Cards for the school this year. The Art pupils were inspired by a French artist called Ines Longeval who is famous for her portraiture and use of colour blocking. They researched her painting style and used this to create their own designs in water colour. Some pupils created images of Poinsettia flowers as they are common at this time of year and others designed cards of a more traditional nature.

The Textiles pupils made their own Christmas tree decorations out of felt and found fabrics, inspired by Karen Pleass, which were then photographed to create their card designs. Well done to Edibeth from Art and Jochabed, Shaenah and Kaede from Textiles for their brilliant card designs.



Oración de la escuela

Tú eres la luz del mundo
tengo tu luz dentro de mí
no la ocultaré
pero dejaré que tu Luz brille ante los demás
para que ellos vean mis buenas obras
y dar gloria a ti Padre en el cielo
Amén



Spotlight on Year 9 Geography and Year 11

Key Stage 4

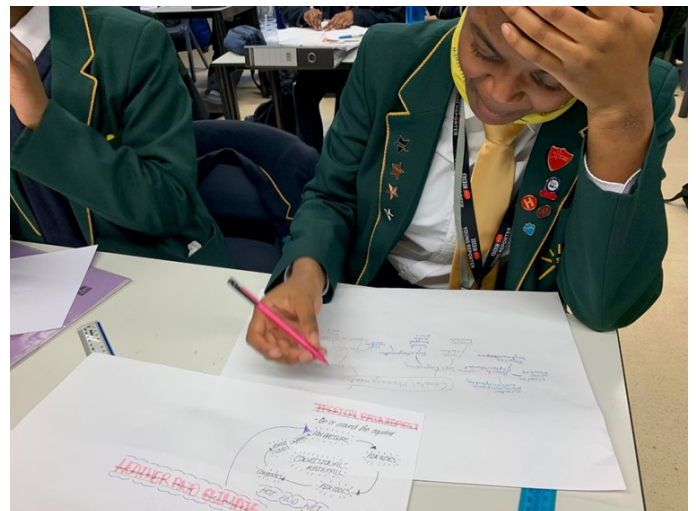
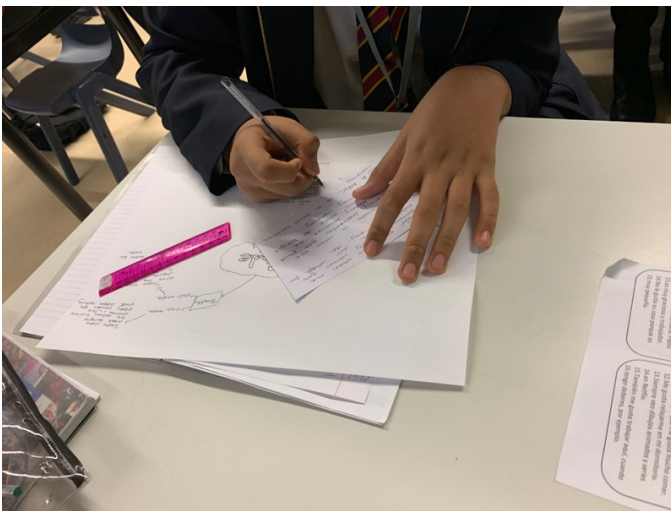
Classroom display - Geography

Year 9 are incredibly proud of their Geography homework project on Antarctica.

The girls, including Jochebed and Jessica, spent their time after school organising this display of 9.2's fabulous work. It has been much admired by students and staff alike. We were just disappointed we couldn't fit *more on the wall!*

Year 11 Pre-Public Exams

This week Year 11 are completing their Pre-Public-Exams. They have been working extremely hard both in and out of lessons in preparation. To support them in this very important year we have been practising metacognition in their PSCE lessons. Metacognition is learning about learning. Pupils have been trying different studying techniques to find out how they best learn, and then applying it to their subjects. They have created mindmaps, flashcards, revision schedules and more.



Catholic World News

How can you fundraise , have fun and make a difference this Christmas?

Many charities continue to support those who are suffering and in living in poverty which has only been made worse by the global pandemic.

On their website CAFOD has some suggestions for how we can fundraise, have fun and raise awareness this Christmas.

1. Fundraise with a Christmassy bake off

Make a Christmas-themed cake, bake-off style, and share it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or WhatsApp. Challenge others to do the same, and invite donations to CAFOD. See how many of your friends and family you can get involved!

2. Get festive by hosting an online carol service

Get right into the Christmas spirit by [holding an online carol service with your family and friends](#).

We have all the traditional carols ready for you to sing along to - why not get started with 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'? [Share the story of Saba](#) and invite people to give to CAFOD.

3. Join our Christmas Fun Run

Take to the streets in your local area on 27 December to run, walk or toddle 5km as part of [CAFOD's Christmas Fun Run](#). This is a virtual event which will be lots of fun, help us all to run off a bit of Christmas excess, and raise vital funds for those living in poverty. You can join us and make a donation or go to [JustGiving](#) and ask friends and family to sponsor you.

4. Test your friends with an online quiz

Missing your local's regular pub quiz, or the parish Christmas Quiz? Find out how to [host your own evening of online quizzical fun](#)! check out our toolkit to find tips, question sheets and those all-important answers.

And why not make it Christmas-themed? What were the names of the Three Wise Men? You could share some of [CAFOD's work](#) and invite donations.

5. Have fun at a mince pie and mulled wine evening

We don't know who would be able to say 'no' to a fundraising event like this! You could hold this event online, gather your friends and family, community and parish to enjoy some time together. Ask people to donate what they might have spent on a Christmas night out.

[Find tips for hosting a mince pie and mulled wine fundraising event](#)



Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

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

Worried about a child?

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

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

Term Dates

Autumn Term

Thursday 3 September 2020 to Friday 23 October 2020
Half Term: Monday 26 October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020
Monday 2 November 2020 to Friday 18 December 2020

Spring Term

Monday 4 January 2021 to Friday 12 February 2021
Half Term: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021
Monday 22 February 2021 to Thursday 1 April 2021

Summer Term

Monday 19 April 2021 to Friday 28 May 2021
Half Term: Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021
Monday 7 June 2021 to Wednesday 21 July 2021

Inset Days – Pupils do not attend school on these days.

Thursday 3 September 2020 , Friday 27 November 2020, Friday 18th December , Monday 4 January 2021

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with us by telephone or email using

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk