

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

I am really pleased to welcome you to the second edition of our new fortnightly newsletter, SMA News. There continues to be a lot of things going on in the Academy and the newsletter will give you a flavour of some of those things as will our daily Twitter feed that can be found [here](#).

Last week was Anti-Bullying Week and all pupils experienced a couple of activities and assemblies related to the national theme for the year "United Against Bullying". This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge. Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together.

Yesterday at the Academy we were all involved in the launch of our first ever Innovation Day – the theme was My Community. This was an opportunity for everyone across the school to make contributions to our class and community spaces that celebrate our amazingly creative and diverse SMA community. Activities included all pupils and staff creating 'Together we can fly' art work for classrooms; quilt making; dance workshops; poetry performance; questions walls and a film on community made by our Year 8 Media Scholars.

Finally, I do hope that you are managing to relax and use your weekends for some quality family time. Whilst the things that we can do are currently restricted, we are lucky that we have several wonderful outdoor spaces in the area we live.

God Bless,

Miranda Baldwin, Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection



Advent is a season of waiting and expectation, as we prepare the way to a meaningful Christmas. In contrast to the busy commercial preparations for a consumer-driven Christmas, Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord and gives us a wonderful opportunity to bring Christ more fully into the centre of our lives as Christmas approaches. We are reminded that no one is beyond the reach of God's love.

We wait with joy for the Lord, the hope of the world. We are called to reach out with love to our sisters and brothers in need, sharing our hope for a world transformed.

Light up our lives


*Christ, come into our world of darkness
Light up our lives with your coming.
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world
And to share the hope of your birth that each
Advent brings.*

Hope "We must accept finite disappointment,
but never lose infinite hope"
~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Peace "Peace begins with a smile"
~ Mother Teresa

Joy "When the mind is pure, joy
follows like a shadow that
never leaves"
~ Buddha

Love "Love yourself. Then forget it.
Then, love the world"
~ Mary Oliver



Whole Academy News



We are so proud of our English department for being shortlisted for the 2020 TES English Teacher or Team of the Year at the recent TES Schools' Awards. The accolade is a national recognition and schools from across the country are nominated. Although the awards ceremony was not quite the glittery central London event it usually is, as we all watched virtually from home, the celebrations were still just as exciting!

TES shortlisted them for their dedication and passion for teaching English, having overhauled and redesigned what great English teaching looks like in a 2020 classroom, leading the way not only for the rest of the school, but also for other English departments across London. Led by our passionate and talented Head of English, the team have worked collaboratively to develop a new awe-inspiring, rich curriculum that will enable our pupils to gain core literacy and oracy skills; cultural capital; love for the subject and achieve fantastic outcomes at GCSE - the highest out of all the schools in the borough and the highest in the school's history. It's not just about the outstanding results this team get either – TES commended them for their incredibly successful enrichment programme, which has enabled pupils to win the national Debate Mate league, and to place first and second in the Jack Petchey Speak Out regional finals, for the last 2 years in a row. Well done Team English!

Spotlight Religious Education

Year 9 in the Prayer room

Year 9 are nearly one term into undertaking their GCSE course in Religious Education. Pupils have recently been learning about forms of popular piety - non liturgical worship. One such form is Eucharistic adoration which is the adoration of Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. Eucharistic adoration is an opportunity to be still, reflect and take time away from the busyness of life.

Whilst pupils did not engage in this form of piety, they were afforded the opportunity to experience being still, to reflect and take time away from busy school life.



House News

Our new Pupil Leadership Team has been very busy organising Christmas activities for our whole school and we are very pleased to announce our two house competitions below! The first is a donation drive to create Christmas Gift Boxes to give to three charities chosen by our students. The second is our charity card competition winners, and how you can support our fundraising campaign to also raise money for our partner charities and make a real difference to individuals and families in Lewisham.

Donations will be gratefully received Monday 30th - Thursday 10th 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



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.
- Sweet treats

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
- Chocolates and Sweets

Charity Christmas Cards

Last week we also launched a charity Christmas card competition with primary and KS3 and were super impressed with the submissions! We have chosen a winning cards for each House which will be printed and available to order on Parent Pay from Thursday 26th of November to Wednesday 2nd of December.

Cards will be distributed the following week.

All profits will go towards each of the house charities and support our local community!

Well done to all who entered!

1st Prize



By Sophia in Year 4



By Samuel in Year 4

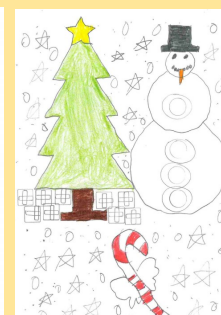


By Jennaya in Year 1

2nd Prize



By Drane in Year 4



By Louise in Year 4



By Miqdad in Year 7

Spotlight Key Stage 2

Hands on Learning

In Year 4, there has been some brilliant hands-on learning with electricity. The children investigated whether circuits would work based on the drawings provided. There has also been some superb home-learning going on as well; just look at the projects linking to the Romans the children have made!



Bikeability

Well done to Year 5s Ashani, Devontae, Donzel, Zephan, Jayden, Luca and Juan this week, who all passed Level 1 and 2 of Bikeability.

The instructors were so impressed with their behaviour and how quickly all of them picked up new road safety skills.



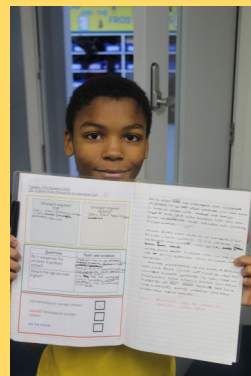
What a fantastic fortnight we have had in Lower KS2! In Year 3, pupils have begun learning about the Annunciation of Mary in Religious Education. They role-played the conversation she had with the Angel Gabriel and explored different words to describe how she must have felt – take a look at the faces we thought she might have made!



As well as this, we had a really exciting lesson about the Houses of Parliament, delivered by UK Parliament Learning.



Our Year 6 pupils have been busy working on Anti-Bullying art work, exploring feelings and emotions underneath the mask everybody sees. There have been some really thought-provoking ideas and concepts coming through. We also like to congratulate Romario, who wrote a fantastic piece on his thoughts about WhatsApp for primary school children.



Spotlight on Debate Mate

Key Stage 3

Debate Mate

In Year 7, our pupils have enjoyed a balloon debate: structuring and sharing arguments as a team. Whereas our Year 8 pupils are re-capping points of information using examples and counter examples and thinking on their feet.

Bess, in Year 8, stated *“In Debate Mate I have learnt how to phrase and develop my opinions, as well as how to present my opinions. I have done this in an engaging way, through games and activities. I have enjoyed learning how to develop my views and find my voice, as well as better understand opinions of others. It has been fun to work with others during the Debate Mate activities and to collaborate when expressing my ideas”*



Papa said *“In debate mate so far we have learnt techniques to help with debating, we have learnt how to project our voices and not to stutter when speaking. I have found it enjoyable as it is a very fun topic and it helps me to step out of my comfort zone and to be myself when debating. This is my second year doing the Debate Mate so I am used to it and I hope it will help me with my school work and my future.”*

Year 7 and 8 in the forest school with Skylark

In Year 7 & 8 we have been utilising our forest school and open spaces in the local area to give an amazing opportunity for some of our more vulnerable pupils to form friendships, learn all important social skills and enjoy learning new practical skills. Take a look at some of the activities they've enjoyed so far.



Spotlight on
Option subjects

Key Stage 4

Food Technology GCSE

We are proud to celebrate the success of our Year 11 Food Technology pupils. This term they have been working extremely hard on their Street Food projects, and achieving some amazing catering feats! Pupils have demonstrated skills with a variety of foods, such as hand-made pasta, filleting fish, de-boning chicken and more. Not only are they creating delicious food, the teamwork and collaboration taking place in the catering room is wonderful to see; helping share skills and advice to any who need it. Watch out Jamie Oliver!



Business Studies GCSE

Year 11 have been studying Communication in Business recently and looked at barriers to effective communication and to illustrate all this had great fun playing "Chinese Whispers" – the usual outcome of how a message got completely miscommunicated the more hierarchies it passes through was certainly achieved. The class concentrated on how to efficiently communicate, the different methods and skills required by having to describe a drawing in front of them to their partner who had to reproduce it - the results were surprisingly accurate – what great communicators Year 11 are!

Catholic World News

Today's Gospel in Art - My words will never pass away

Gospel of 27th November 2020 - Luke 21:29-33

Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Think of the fig tree and indeed every tree. As soon as you see them bud, you know that summer is now near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that the kingdom of God is near. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but **my words will never pass away.**'

Reflection on the precious stone inset Sacramentary

Our Gospel reading today ends with Jesus's words 'my words will never pass away'. This mirrors the example we are looking at: The Berthold Sacramentary, which is named after Berthold, the abbot of Weingarten from 1200-1232, who commissioned it. It is one of the most luxurious German manuscripts and a major monument of Romanesque art.

The book still retains its original tooled metal and precious stone inset binding, which includes representations of the abbey's patron saints (Martin and Oswald) and Abbot Berthold himself. Not many treasure-bound manuscripts, whether Gospel or

Sacramentary writings, have survived the centuries. Like anything in this world, many have disappeared... *only 'the Word itself will never pass*



Pope Francis: 'The Church is the work of the Holy Spirit'

In his address on 25th November, the Pope said that the four fundamental qualities were present in the early Church as described in the Book of Acts. They were listening to the apostles' teaching, the safeguarding of mutual communion, the breaking of the bread, and prayer.

"Any situation needs to be evaluated in the light of these four coordinates. Whatever is not part of these coordinates lacks ecclesiality, it is not ecclesial," he said.



"It is God who creates the Church, not the clamour of works. The Church is not a market; the Church is not a group of businesspeople who go forward with a new business. The Church is the work of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent to us to gather us together."

In his audience address, the pope continued his cycle of catechesis on prayer, which he began in May. Speaking via livestream from the library of the Apostolic Palace due to coronavirus restrictions, he noted that the first Christians did not neglect prayer, even though they were "on the move." He continued to state "We find here four essential characteristics of ecclesial life: listening to the apostles' teaching, first; second, the safeguarding of mutual communion; third, the breaking of the bread; and fourth, prayer."

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Young supported by Mrs Wickcliffe (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, 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