

## Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Welcome to our first “Weekly News” newsletter. Mr Umekwe and I will be keeping you up to date with all of the latest news and events at St Matthew Academy with our fortnightly newsletter from now on.

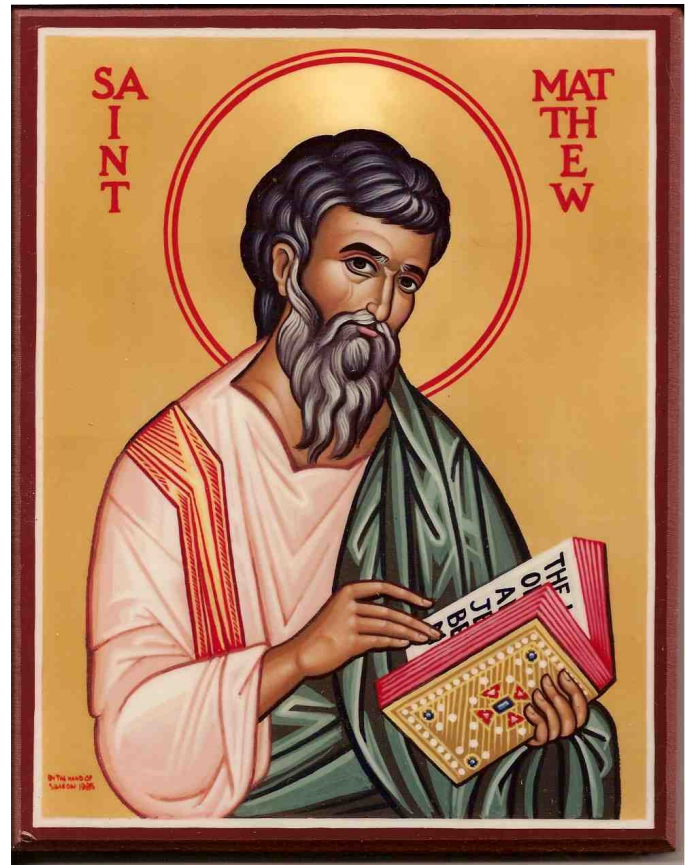
I would just like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. I was delighted to join the academy in September as Deputy Headteacher in charge of Catholic Life and thoroughly enjoyed my first half-term getting to know all of the pupils and staff. Since joining I have been able to share in a number of school events and celebrations. We were able to share together as a whole school our Feast of St Matthew Liturgy by streaming it live back in September, our pupils collected well over a 1000 items for Lewisham Foodbank as part of our Harvest collection and on the last Friday before we broke up for half-term we stood united in support of the Black Lives Matter movement when everyone in school was invited to wear black for the day.

I have worked as a Deputy Headteacher in a previous post for a number of years and in a Catholic school. I already know after a short time here that we have a strong community at St Matthew, all of whom worked together in the first half-term to face the changes that the new school year has brought as a result of the Corona Virus and we will continue to work together to face any challenges that this new half-term may bring. We are thankful for our wonderful pupils, amazing staff, and supportive parents. We keep all our pupils and their families in our prayers

God bless

Mrs Guest

**Deputy Headteacher**



## Prayer and Reflection

All Soul's Day and throughout the month of November, is traditionally the time in the Church when we remember our loved ones who have died. We pray for all those in our community who have lost a loved one.

*Bless those who mourn, eternal God,  
with the comfort of your love  
that they may face each new day with hope  
and the certainty that nothing can destroy  
the good that has been given.  
May their memories become joyful,  
their days enriched with friendship,  
and their lives encircled by your love.*

Amen.

*Vienna Cobb Anderson, from Prayers of Our Hearts (1991,  
Crossroad Publishing Co*

# Whole Academy News

## Feast of St Matthew Liturgy

In September we celebrated the Feast of St Matthew. We celebrated together as a whole school community with a Liturgy which was streamed to every classroom at 10am. We were able to celebrate together as a whole school for the first time. Pupils across the academy from both the primary and secondary phase helped to prepare and took part in the Liturgy, leading the readings, prayers, reflection and singing. Students and teachers also contributed to our video as part of the reflection, responding to the question "How can we intentionally contribute to caring for our precious school community this year?"

Pupils from the primary phase drew pictures as part of our reflection which we shared in the liturgy and Shameemah from Year 8 and Lucy from Year 11 both sang solos, beautifully. This was a special day for the academy, we gathered together to reflect on God's call. Jesus said to Matthew "Follow me" and he did. How can we follow Jesus? How are we called to serve our community and others? We finished with a prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to follow your call and to put faith into action. Let reflection on your word lead to action in our world. Amen.

## Black History Month and BLM

In support of the message of the Black Lives Matter movement and others – equality, justice and anti-racism, on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, staff and pupils wore black clothing to show a visible gesture and stand against inequality, injustice and racism.

During Black History month, we have reflected upon the contributions black people have made to



our world history, whilst celebrating modern day black excellence.

The various events throughout October serve as part of our work as an Academy to ensure issues relating to race and equality remain at the forefront.

The Art department challenged all pupils to a competition to design a logo for a t-shirt that in their opinion best encapsulated the importance of learning about, learning from and celebrating Black history. The winning design will be printed and worn by all staff members.

Miss Ahima led the 'Familiar Faces' competition which encouraged pupils to identify and research some familiar, and perhaps unfamiliar, faces of people from the BAME community that have made significant contributions to our society. Pupils that were able to identify all ten faces and produce credible research were awarded a prize – the best being knowledge and informed understanding of the work of people in our wider community who are often overlooked.



# Whole Academy News

## Remembrance Service

On Wednesday 11th November at 11am as a whole school community we observed the 2 minute silence in remembrance of all those who served and have sacrificed their lives as members of the armed forces.

A Remembrance Service was held in front of the war memorial at the front of the school and we were very pleased that Monsignor Rotheron from St Mary's (Our Lady Help of Christians) in Blackheath was able to lead the service for us. Mr Saunders represented the armed forces and prayers and poems were led by our Year 9 Light Bearers, Joel and Wendy and Miss Barralon's Year 9 Drama class. Thank you to all those who took part in preparing and leading the service.

An equally beautiful and reflective service was held at the same time in our primary phase with all of our primary pupils taking part in the service on the primary playground, led by our primary pupils and Ms Toprak.

Thank you to all those who helped to prepared and lead the services including Mr Charlery and Miss Butterworth who both played the "Last Post" as we observed the 2 minute silence.



Shortlisted  
English teacher or team of the year

We are very excited that our English Department has been shortlisted for 'English Team of the Year' at the national [Tes Schools Awards](#). The Tes Schools Awards, celebrates the extraordinary commitment, quality and innovation shown by teachers and school staff across the UK.

The awards ceremony will take place virtually this evening, 13th November. We are so proud of our amazing English Department and are looking forward to the awards night.

# House and Charity News

## New Pupil Leadership Team

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November we virtually announced our new Pupil Leadership Team. We appointed 6 pupils to the House Leader and Deputy House Leader roles in both the primary and secondary phases. The secondary pupils now wear the coveted green blazer. A further 28 secondary pupils were appointed Prefects of Mandela, Romero and Teresa Houses. Pupils were thrilled to receive their gold ties and badges which they can wear with pride as they prove themselves as excellent role models and great examples of our SMA values in action!

A special well done needs to go to all our applicants for House Leader, who went through a challenging interview and virtual campaigning process to demonstrate their suitability for the role. To see the final list of our fantastic new pupil leadership team please turn to the next page.



## Fundraising and Charity Events

Last half-term pupils in the primary phase baked cupcakes for the **Macmillan Coffee** morning and pupils across both the primary and secondary phase collected food for the Lewisham Food Bank as part of our Harvest Festival. #Justbring1 was our message this year and huge number of donations were collected. A huge thanks to everyone who supported our Harvest Festival donation drive for Lewisham Foodbank we kept a record in the secondary phase of the various items donated and there were an impressive 910 items including over 580 tins and 80 bags of pasta! Congratulations to Teresa House who collected 310 items and won our House Competition, closely followed by Romero House and then Mandela House.

Our new House Leaders and Prefects are choosing charities for their Houses to support as the period of Advent begins in addition to those we always support at this time of the year. Keep an eye out for our next charity event led by our new Pupil Leadership Team!



# Pupil Leadership Team

	Mandela	Teresa	Romero
<b>Primary</b>	<b>House Leader</b> John John-Okoro <b>Deputy House Leader</b> Minnesota Uju	<b>House Leader</b> Fodun Olanewaju <b>Deputy House Leader</b> Dammy Smith	<b>House Leader</b> Abraham Wilson <b>Deputy House Leader</b> Kiril Ognyanov
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>House Leader</b> Lucy Grund <b>Deputy House Leader</b> Sebastien Whitehead	<b>House Leader</b> Abigail Olabode <b>Deputy House Leader</b> Mollie Forrest	<b>House Leader</b> Kwakye Osei <b>Deputy House Leader</b> Elizabeth Obukohwo
	<b>Prefects:</b> Joshua Whitehead Kamron Lawal Thias Lopez Orbegoso Oprah Taiwo Kadina Charlton Cheyanne Fearon Denesh Thavaraja Franklina Sesay Kai Shaw Demilade Alabi Priscilla Mitange Jadesola Oladapo	<b>Prefects:</b> Charley Spaulding Mira Richard Carmel Masasu Radu Dragut Temiloluwa Adebayo Edison Molina Jethukulan Prabakaran Allayah Pryce	<b>Prefects:</b> Alisha Aikoroje Daniel o Christopher Syrrio Mashrie Ramator Kimberley Willson-Owusu Shemmy Adepoju Eva Torres Lopez O'Mari Chambers Vedish Gurung

## New St Matthew Academy Prospectus

We are delighted to be able to share our new academy prospectus [here](#)

Which we hope will be able to give you a real flavour of everyday life here at SMA.

You will be able to see how very proud all of our teachers and pupils are of our warm, friendly and caring academy where every light is able to shine.

## Spotlight on EYFS and Key Stage 1

Our reception classes have fully utilised a holistic approach to motivate their curiosity to learn and explore. Every day they happily access available resources like our writing centre, creative workshop, investigation tables and STEM area.



Children are encouraged to learn naturally and creatively through different learning styles like 'helicopter stories' to recreate an ancient Indian tale about Rama and Sita or STEM activities by constructing The Leaning Tower of Pisa and learning about All Souls' Day through cultural literacy sessions about Felipa and the Day of the Dead.



The EYFS team have taken every opportunity to visit and explore Forest School, looking for leaves and worms. In addition, Ladybirds class have utilised their creativity to access 'maths' everywhere across the provision.



In year one, pupils took part in Circus School to launch their new topic. They performed their own circus acts in the hall. In religious studies lessons they also made their own rainbows following the story of Noah and the Flood.

## Spotlight on Key Stage 2

It has been a busy couple of weeks in Key Stage 2 with lots of exciting and interactive learning going on!

In Year 3, they have been doing some hands-on investigating of 'flint knapping' to make Stone Age tools whilst in Year 6, they have been exploring the Gospel Value of Justice in RE with some role play and debating on age restrictions of social media in the English lessons.



This week has also been maths week and the whole phase has been putting their mathematical skills to the test; from planning a 5-star holiday to Turkey (Y6) and budgeting a Luna theme park (Y5) to researching the school's favourite ice-cream (Y3) and investigating numerals and clock faces (Y4).



There has also been an influx of personal success stories today: Taurez in Jaguar class created a wonderful Ludo board celebrating the life of actor Chadwick Boseman for Black History Month, Michaela and Matia in Cheetahs have BOTH managed to get their pen licences this week and Sophia in Tiger class who made a functioning homemade guitar!

# Catholic World News



CAFOD are an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Roman Catholic Church in England.

They reach out to people in poverty with practical help, whatever their religion or culture. Through their global network, one of the largest in the world, they have the potential to reach everyone. And they campaign for global justice so that every woman, man and child can live a full and dignified life.



## Light a Candle

You can light a candle for a loved one on the CAFOD website this month and make a donation to CAFOD.

## #Cancelthedebt

Coronavirus is causing devastation right across the world.

Many of the world's poorest nations are not only dealing with this health emergency but are also facing unimaginable financial hardship as a result of the global economic slowdown.

CAFOD say the quickest way to deal with this worrying financial outlook is to keep money in developing countries by cancelling debt payments now.

Check the CAFOD website to find out how you can support their campaign <https://cafod.org.uk/>

## Pope Francis' new encyclical, Fratelli Tutti

On 4th October, the feast of St Francis Assisi, Pope Francis released his new encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* ("All brothers and sisters")

*Fratelli Tutti* is a radical challenge, offering a blueprint for a world after coronavirus. It turns the world upside down, placing human dignity at the centre. And it links back to the message of interconnectedness which was also at the heart of *Laudato Si'*.

The Gospel story at the heart of *Fratelli Tutti* is the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus's provocative story of the foreigner who acts as a true neighbour to the man robbed and beaten by the side of the road offers the "criterion for judging every economic, political, social and religious project" (FT, 69). This moves us to respond to our sister or brother in need, whoever they are, wherever they may come from (FT, 72). We are challenged to turn outwards, to act as neighbours, and to reach out to all those who are in need.

This encyclical calls for the creation of a new kind of solidarity to tackle the crises the world is currently facing. Pope Francis calls on us all to play our part in building peace, and to focus on becoming a neighbour to others – in particular to welcome migrants, and to resist racism, prejudice and discrimination.

It is clear that we cannot return to the 'old' normal where there were already "dark clouds over a closed world". Instead *Fratelli Tutti* calls us to work together to develop a true understanding of progress.

## Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are Mr Young academy, Ms Wickliffe (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), and our Child Protection Officer is Mrs Lake. 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](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://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](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)