

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Last week marked the year 'anniversary' of the first lockdown, when our Prime Minister announced to the nation that we all must stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. At St Matthew Academy, we played our part by closing our school gates to the majority of pupils, and offered our keyworker provision to those families who needed it. A year on, we have closed our gates a second time and have all had to re-align our lives both in and out of school. This has tested many of us in so many ways, and throughout, we have drawn on our Academy values of kindness, helpfulness, understanding and respect. We would like to offer our prayers to everyone who has been affected by the events of the last year, especially praying for those families in our community who have lost loved ones.

In spite of all this, our pupils at the Academy continue to let their light shine. This month, we celebrated International Women's Day with a series of events, across primary and secondary. The Year 6 boys even treated us all to a choreographed performance of the song 'independent Women' with a cameo appearance from Mr Kolhbeck and Mr Henson. Furthermore, across the Academy, pupils have been tested by teachers who have been encouraged to 'take a risk teaching' by trying out new and innovative teaching and learning strategies to really stretch and challenge our pupils. KS3 pupils have been starting all of their lessons this week with a 'thunk' challenge which has really got their brains working! This culminated in our Innovation Day, where all pupils experimented with creative and exciting projects focusing on their identity and role in their community.

As we reach the end of term, we look forward to a restful and peaceful break and wish all of our families a Happy Easter from all of us here at St Matthew Academy.

Ms C Heywood
Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection



As we have reflected recently on the first anniversary of the first lockdown, we think of all those who have been a daily presence for many quietly getting on with their work and being a support for those around them. And as we look forward to Easter we pray:

God of love,
we thank you for your tender compassion.
You are our guiding light and our constant companion
on the journey of our lives.
In the face of our troubles,
help us not to be discouraged,
but to fix our sight on you
and the hope of the resurrection.
Amen.

"Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders . . . Will we bend down and help another get up? This is today's challenge and we should not be afraid to face it"

Pope Francis

Whole Academy News

Innovation day- Friday 26th March

We were super excited to host our second Innovation day across the academy on Friday 26th March. Our Innovation days complement our curriculum, it is an opportunity for the SMA community to come together, do some big thinking on a global or national issue and use the arts to fully immerse all pupils in discussion and creative thinking and making.

The theme of this innovation day was 'I am'- the focus was on introspection, looking at ourselves within our community and aspects of our own identity.

The day began with an amazing performance from visiting Spoken word poet, Kenny Baraka, he wrote a piece especially for SMA pupils entitled 'I am' This was streamed live to the whole academy. The Year 10 music pupils then were lucky enough to spend the rest of the day working with Kenny and they performed their piece to the academy at the end of the day.

The sense of personal identity and uniqueness that a **name** gives us is at the heart of why **names** interest us and why they are **important** to us as individuals and to **our** society as a whole. During lesson 1 ALL pupils and staff engaged in an activity titled 'The power of name' Pupils were asked to research the meaning for their names, this led to really lively discussions about our own names and what they mean to us. Names were then designed and decorated ready for a public art piece which will be shared very soon so watch this space!

Pupils in Years 7&8 participated in exciting workshops in their carousel lessons, these included;

- Spoken word workshops in drama
- Collaborative music piece using the song 'I am giant' as a stimulus
- Capoeira and street dance workshops with Step Into dance
- T shirt printing and design in textiles
- Protest boards designing and making in DT
- Cultural food challenge
- Face collage in Art
- Name animation workshop in Computer science

Our media scholars were busy bees all day and have gathered a huge amount of footage that we will make into a dynamic video which we will share later this week.

Check out our twitter feed for more images and videos!

So... what does your name mean? Why don't you find out?



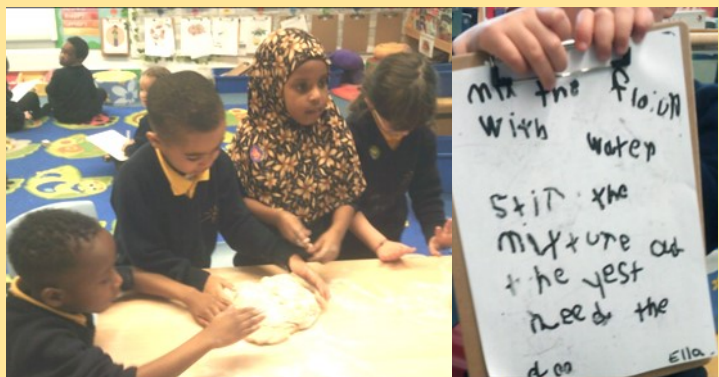
EYFS and Key Stage 1

It's been an exciting time in Early Years and KS1 over the last two weeks. Both Reception classes and Year 1 had the West End come to classroom last Friday!

The children in Reception took part in and showcased their interpretation of the story of the Gingerbread man. Year 1 performed Pinocchio!



While learning the story of the Little Red Hen the children learned to write instructions and made their own bread rolls. Children discussed the fairness of the characters behaviours and how much better it is to help one another.



Years 1 and 2 have enjoyed reading The Paper dolls by Julia Donaldson and were able to watch the author herself reading the story to them. We were all very excited and couldn't wait to make our own paper dolls.



Every morning the children come into class to an environment of calm and tranquillity. They arrive to relaxation music and carry out a mindful activity.



For PHSE they have talked about changes in life including changes in their own situation and changes in the four seasons. They have also talked about feelings, gratitude and kindness.



For Innovation Day the children investigated the meaning of their names, here are some Year 2 children with their name cards.



Key Stage 2

What a wonderful return to school LKS2 have had! In Year 3, the children have been studying the Ancient Mayan civilisation. As part of their learning, they have been studying masks the Mayans wore. Take a look at some of their designs!



In their RE learning, the year 3 children held their own press conference with Jesus, Judas and the Disciples. They came up with questions they would like to ask and interviewed them regarding the events of the Last Supper.



In Year 4, as part of National Science Week, they made the contents of the stomach in a human digestion experiment. As well as this, they have designed their own t-shirts for their topic, Fashion.



House News



The Feast of Oscar Romero took place on Thursday 25th March

Attendance WB 22nd March

1st Mandela 94.5% (10 pts)

2nd Romero 94.2% (5 pts)

2nd Teresa 94.2% (5 pts)

Overall:

1st Romero 1001 pts

2nd Teresa 985 pts

3rd Mandela 746 pts

Achievement Points 22nd March

1st Teresa 1552 (10 pts)

2nd Romero 1484 (5 pts)

3rd Mandela 1419 (3 pts)

Charity News

We are aiming to raise £1000 for CAFOD and the Catholic Children's Society by the end of term through our Easter Egg Raffle, Krispy Kreme sales, Easter Celebration Activities, Trainers Day and support the CAFOD 'Walk for Water' campaign. We are on target with over £500 raised by Wednesday 31st March! 2021



TRAINERS DAY
Thursday 1 April 2021

Don't forget your £1 Donation, which goes to...

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Careers and Post-16

Christ the King, one of our local sixth form colleges, will be running Headstart on A Level sessions for Year 10 and 11 students who are interested in studying History, Geography, Religious Studies or Film Studies at A Level. Use the links on the attached poster to book a place on the session that you are interested in.



CTK AQUINAS
A CHRIST THE KING SIXTH FORM

CTK AQUINAS HEAD START

Are you a talented Humanities student in Key Stage 4 who would like to make a head start on your A Level studies? This Easter join our virtual sessions to meet our outstanding teachers and like minded students. The sessions will introduce you to some of the key concepts needed to be a successful humanities student at A Level, supporting you to be top of your class!



Click on the subject to sign up:

Thursday April 1st 5:30pm -
[Geography](#)

Monday April 5th 12:00pm -
[Film Studies](#)

Wednesday April 7th 12:00pm -
[Religious Studies](#)

Thursday April 8th 12:00pm -
[History](#)

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Boys don't cry?

Mental health affects us all, irrelevant of race, background or gender. However, research shows that men have a harder time opening up about their feelings and emotions. Boys and men are less likely to reach out for help and feel that they have to conform to masculine stereotypes: being strong, independent, in control.

- Men are around 50% less likely to access talking therapies to help mental health than women
- Nearly three-quarters of adults who go missing are men.
- 87% of rough sleepers are men.
- Men are nearly three times as likely as women to become dependent on drugs or alcohol
- Men make up the vast majority of the prison population.

Men report lower levels of life satisfaction than women according to the Government's national wellbeing survey.

(<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/m/men-and-mental-health>)



A message to young men.

Strength comes in so many forms: physical, emotional, mental, social.

We all have a unique and individual way of recognising our own strengths.

What makes us who we are is wonderfully ours.

It cannot be compared to our father's, uncle's, brother's or cousin's.

It is our strength and, by making efforts to connect with our most vulnerable strength, our emotional strength, we can go on to reinforce and encourage the growth of ourselves.

A society grows through diversity, and we as young men should hold our heads high in the knowledge that, by allowing ourselves to confront issues regarding our mental health, we are stepping away from an oppressive and ignorant mindset and ensuring the future empowerment of other young people.

We make these attitude changes not only for ourselves, but to benefit everyone in society.

Be proud. Be hopeful. Be assertive. Be respectful.

Enjoy the things that make **YOU** a man, and do not tolerate any suggestion that we must all behave in a certain way to fit the male stereotype.

Words by – **Henry Bullock** Youth Advisor, Boys in Mind, May 2020

Boys in Mind (Girls Mind Too) is a national strategy aimed at getting boys and young men talking about their mental health and well-being, honestly and without fear. They also work with arts organisations such as the Holburne Museum Education Department, to create arts projects to reduce stigma, challenge stereotypes and engage boys and young men.

Check out some of the Boys in Mind videos on their website for more information:

Primary: <https://boysinmind.co.uk/film-page/#primaryschool>

Secondary: <https://boysinmind.co.uk/film-page/#>



Catholic World News

Year of St Joseph



'Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.'

(Pope Francis)

Why does the Church have years dedicated to specific topics?

The Church observes the passage of time through the liturgical calendar - which includes feasts such as Easter and Christmas, and seasons such as Lent and Advent. In addition, however, popes can set aside time for the Church to reflect more deeply on a specific aspect of Catholic teaching or belief. Past years designated by recent popes include a Year of Faith, Year of the Eucharist, and Jubilee Year of Mercy.

How has Pope Francis proclaimed a 'Year of St Joseph' and why is it in 2021?

In his new Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* ('With a Father's Heart'), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a 'Year of St Joseph' from 8 December 2020 (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020) to 8 December 2021.

Why did the Pope declare a Year of St. Joseph?

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden

sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus. He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, 'Our world today needs fathers.'

Why does the Church honour St Joseph?

Catholics do not worship saints, but ask for their heavenly intercession before God and seek to imitate their virtues here on earth. The Catholic Church honours St. Joseph as the foster father of Jesus. He is invoked as the patron saint of the Universal Church. He is also the patron of workers, fathers, and a happy death.

What do we know about St Joseph?

Jesus, as we know, was the Son of God and Mary was his mother. All four Gospels also refer to Jesus as 'the son of Joseph' because Joseph was his earthly father, his foster father, and Jesus would have been known as 'Jesus, Son of Joseph' as they did not have surnames at that time. Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God's providence.



As St Pope John Paul II said:

"The Evangelists describe him as the caring guardian of Jesus, an attentive and faithful husband, who exercises his family authority in a constant attitude of service. Nothing else is said about him in the Sacred Scriptures, but this silence contains the special style of his mission: a life lived in the greyness of everyday life, but with steadfast faith in Providence."

It's good
to talk...

You can always talk to your Form Tutor, Director of Learning, Mr Young or Ms Laker if you have any worries, or alternatively you can email wanttotalk@stmatthewacademy.co.uk to seek advice and support from a member of the inclusion team

Shout / Young Minds – A free, confidential, anonymous 24/7 text support service. Anyone can text SHOUT or YM to 85258, anytime.

Papyrus – Supporting young people who struggle with thoughts of suicide 0800 068 4141.

Beat Eating Disorders – 0808 801 0711.

Child Bereavement UK – 0800 028 8840

kooth

Kooth is a free online service offering emotional and mental health support for children and young people

www.kooth.com

YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health



NSPCC

E-SCOOTERS AND THE LAW

What is the law on e-scooters?

Currently in the UK, you can legally buy an e-scooter, but you cannot ride it on a public road, cycle lane or pavement.

The only place it can be used is on private land.

The reason for this is that e-scooters are treated as motor vehicles by the Department of Transport and are subject to the same legal requirement as other vehicles, such as MOT, licencing, tax and insurance. Because they don't always have number plates, signalling ability or visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads.

What happens if I am stopped by the police?

The police will advise you on the law and may ask you to take your e-scooter home. They may, however, still penalise you depending on the seriousness of the offence. If caught riding an e-scooter, fines you may receive can include:

- a Fixed Penalty Notice for no insurance, with a £300 fine and six penalty points
- a Fixed Penalty Notice for no driving licence, up to £100 fine and three-six penalty points

Other offences which may result in penalties include riding on the footpath, using a mobile phone, riding through red lights and drink driving offences.

To find out more, visit www.met.police.uk/e-scooters

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to someone face-to-face.”**



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by young people**



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kooth

www.kooth.com

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

Summer Term 20/21

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

Autumn Term 21/22

Friday 3 September 2020 to Friday 22 October 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October 2020 to Friday 29 October 2021

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 21/22

Tuesday 4 January 2022 to Friday 11 February 2022

Half Term: Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 1 April 2022

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk