

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As you are aware, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, GCSE examinations have been cancelled for this year. We understand this is a potentially stressful time for Y11 pupils and their families, so the support of the school community is paramount at this time. Perhaps during the month of May we can turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary for help. It is a centuries-old custom of Catholics to dedicate the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month of May is always part of the Easter season, the fifty days we celebrate in the liturgy after the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time of awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The celebration of May as a Marian month fits well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary's great joy in her Son's victory over death as well as her presence with the apostles in the upper room prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Pope Francis has advocated that the Month of May should be dedicated to the praying of the rosary each day for an ending to the Universal Pandemic.

So when the new normal is change, how can we as a school community sustain ourselves during the last term of an academic year which seems to have flown by? Well perhaps the warm sunshine and sense of happiness that we tend to associate with the summer season may offer a solution. Prayer can also provide us with the sustenance we need – Our Lady can pray for us. However, the summer term offers so much promise that we cannot only be excited about what the summer at the Academy has to bring. The Key Stage 3 Awards, Celebration Assemblies have returned in the Primary Phase, KS3 Creative Arts exhibition, Innovation Day, liturgies including our Year 6 leaving liturgy and Windrush Day celebrations are just a few mouth-watering events that await us during this term.

Let us continue to let our light shine throughout the summer term continuing to strive for excellence in everything that we do.

Mr Wanza

Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

"May is Mary's Month," began the great poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, in "The May Magnificat." For centuries, the Catholic Church has emphasised the month of May as a time of honour and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parishes and families often celebrate with special pilgrimages, devotions, or placing a crown on a statue of Mary, traditionally called a "May Crowning."

Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.

Amen.



Stephen Lawrence Day

A short poem from Kia, Year 5



Pupils across the Academy had lessons to reflect on Stephen Lawrence Day in English and RE. This is Kia's poem.

Racism can lead to pain and violence and sometime death. This happened to Stephen Lawrence and that is why we should not be racist or you could possibly harm someone which is not what we should not do. It doesn't matter that we are different colours, we should all be treated equally no matter what.

Racism can lead to violence,

racism can lead to hurt,

It's as silly as hating the colour of someone's shirt.


Stephen was someone just like me,

and now he no longer lives free,

I wish for the day we no longer see colours,

and we all live together like a big bunch of flowers.

Year 8 RE: reflecting on the legacy of Stephen Lawrence

**STEPHEN
LAWRENCE
DAY** 

In Years 8 RE lessons, pupils reflected upon the legacy of Stephen Lawrence on Stephen Lawrence Day on Thursday 22 April. Pupils learnt about the importance of equality, justice, peace and community whilst remembering the harsh reality of racial discrimination that unfortunately led to the loss of life of a young man with a promising future. Pupils in Year 8 listened attentively to Benjamin Zephaniah's poem 'What Stephen Lawrence Has Taught Us' before they wrote their own poetry.

Year 8 pupil reciting his poem on the theme of justice in a RE lesson having listened to Benjamin Zephaniah's poem 'What Has Stephen Lawrence Taught Us?'



EYFS and Key Stage 1

Springtime at St Matthews and the Reception children are planting beans and watching them grow!

In Mathematical Development, the children are ordering numbers from 1-20 and adding their numbers to Jack's beanstalk.

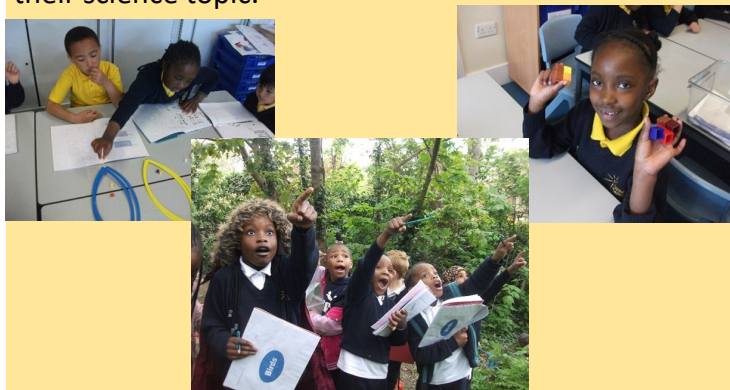
In their writing work, they have been applying their understanding of phonics to write sentences for their retelling of Jack and The Beanstalk.

In their creative development work they are building their own castles and painting them.

They are growing kitchen paper caterpillars by adding water through a dropper. They are really enjoying watching the caterpillars develop!



In Maths, Year 1 are working hard to solve division problems. They have been consolidating their understanding of odd and even numbers and they have been bird watching in the Forest School as part of their science topic.



Key Stage 2

Our Year 4 pupils have been mastering the art of creating healthy meals using healthy and affordable ingredients. This week in our Cooking club, children made healthy sausage rolls! They substituted pork and pastry with Quorn and a wrap! Children were encouraged to foster their creativity, communication and responsibility in the kitchen. The children had so much fun and enjoyed the feeling of fulfilment from cooking.



Year 4 have also been busy creating their own Anglo-Saxon weaves! This links in with their Topic 'Invaders and Settlers' where children have been learning about what life was like in Viking Britain. Children were given a piece of card, wool in different colours and a blunt, thick sewing needle. They have been learning the skill of making a garment by simply weaving the needle in and out of the parallel strings and just like the Anglo-Saxons they created their very own weave!



Key Stage 3

A focus on Mental Health in Year 8 English

Y8 have started a non-fiction unit focusing on mental health. Their homework project this week was to create an informative video about a mental health issue. These are some examples of the few amazing projects by pupils in the year. Well done to Jade, Louise and Maryam!



Key Stage 4

Year 10 have recently been learning about Islamic beliefs, teachings and practices. There are no images of Allah in Islam so how do Muslims understand the nature of God? Through the 99 names of Allah, Muslims are able to appreciate the nature of God. In many respects there is power in all of our names. As part of the Academy's Innovation Day, pupils were asked to research the meaning behind their name. It was very interesting to learn about the meaning behind the names of some pupils. Some names included religious significance.

The name Khadijah takes on a significant meaning in Islam. 'Khadijah' was a wealthy merchant who was the wife of Muhammad. The name also means 'God's work is great' and even 'trustworthy'.



Mental Health Awareness



During Mental Health Awareness Week 2021 the Mental Health Foundation is asking us to

- **Experience nature**
- **Share nature**
- **Talk about nature**

We will be encouraging all of our pupils this week to really 'Connect with Nature' and exploring the benefits of doing this through assemblies and our PSHE lessons.

The Mental Health Foundation has produced 'A Nature Guide for Parents/Carergivers' and one for pupils. It has lots of information and ideas to help you work with your child(ren) to find ways to connect with nature. The parent/carergiver guide will be emailed and the pupil guide will be shared in the Google



Mental Health Apps

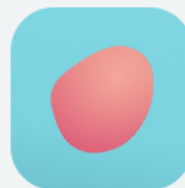
The NHS Website has a useful app library with a range of apps which have been assessed for use by the NHS. All of the apps below are listed in the NHS App library using the 'Mental Health' filter.



Thrive

Category: [Mental health](#)

Free



Cove

Being tested in the NHS

Category: [Mental health](#)

Free



ThinkNinja

Categories: [Mental health](#), [Covid](#)

Free during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis



MeeTwo

Categories: [Mental health](#), [Online community](#), [Child health](#)

Free



eQuoo: Emotional Fitness Game

Category: [Mental health](#)

Free, with in-app purchases

Extra-curricular Success

SMA Debate Mate Club Success!

'Congratulations to our brilliant Debaters from Y7: Stephano, Arune, Sam and Alex M and Y8: Paapa, David, Bess and Hawa who won **both rounds** of the **Debate Mate Cup finals** and came third in the **National league**, arguing the motion: *This house believes that fake news is a threat to global health.*

They were supported by amazing team members notably: Daksh, Gracie, Jhett, Salvijus, Jolene, Alex E. A major achievement - especially for our novice teams during this difficult year.'



Our Brilliant Club Scholars graduate!

Congratulations to our pupils who have graduated from this year's Brilliant Club (Scholars Programme). It has been our most successful cohort with 11 pupils from Year 9 completing the entire course.

The Brilliant Club aims to raise the aspirations of pupils and awareness of the opportunities available to them at the UK's top universities, and to develop the confidence and skills to apply to these institutions in the future.

We are delighted with the outcome for the pupils; the assignment was marked using university style marks. In total 9 of the pupils received the second highest possible grade, a 2:1, so we congratulate Angelima, D'Angelo, Joel, Cassandra, Kavin, Melissa, Rupertas, Vieric and Wendy on their results. Special congratulations go to Abdul and Naomi who achieved a 1st, the highest possible grade showing the effort and progress that all pupils made as a result of the programme.

The pupils celebrated their achievements at their graduation, they were treated to some pizza and had their own mini celebration with each other. They also attended a webinar with the Brilliant Club CEO that included a by Hannah Chukwana, a graduate of Oxford University followed by a session with the University of Southampton, one of the Russell Group universities in the UK.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and hope it inspires them to pursue their goals in the future assured that they can overcome any challenges with confidence and resilience. A special thank you to the parents and carers who support was vital in ensuring the success of our Year 9 pupils.

House News

Achievement Points WB 26th April:

1st Teresa 1865 (10 pts)
2nd Romero 1769 (5 pts)
3rd Mandela 1674 (3 pts)

Attendance WB 26th April:

1st Romero 94.2% (10 pts)
2nd Teresa 94.1% (5 pts)
3rd Mandela 94% (3 pts)

Overall:

1st Romero 1106 pts
2nd Teresa 1088 pts
3rd Mandela 786 pts

Well done to Romero house who continue to retain their lead! However, the battle for first place remains very close, with Teresa house only 18 points behind!

Can Teresa house regain their lead or will Mandela house manage to close the gap in our nature and photography competitions?

Nature Photography Competition



Portrait Challenge

Today is the deadline of our portrait challenge. Pupils across the Academy are challenged to complete a portrait of a teacher in any chosen media. Pupils will be voting on the best portraits next week. On the right is our 2020 winner.



As part of Mental Health Awareness Week we have launched a competition to get budding photographers outside and enjoying nature. We want to see your photo's of anything related to wildlife and nature, whether taken in the countryside, a park or your own back garden! From mammals, bird, insects to flowers, trees and landscapes, and everything in between!

All entries will be displayed and the winners will be voted for by students and teachers. Winners will receive prizes and points for their House! Please send all entries to Ms Downer via email with your full name, tutor group and house by Friday 6th of May.

SMA: Focus on Uniform

It is expected that all pupils will come to the Academy every day in neat, clean uniform, as specified in the Uniform Policy, giving the clear message that our pupils take pride in belonging to the Academy. The support of parents in ensuring this is expected.



Appearance

- **Foot wear Primary Phase:** Plain black trainers or shoes
- **Footwear Secondary Phase:** Appropriate shoes are defined by black leather dress shoes. Shoes should be clean and polished. Trainers, Ugg-type boots, plimsolls or any type of sport or canvas shoes are not acceptable. . Boots, open sandals, open-toed and sling-back shoes are not permitted for reasons of safety
- Outdoor coats should be smart rather than casual. Coats should be navy blue or black. The coat may only be worn outside of the Academy building
- Hair should be clean and tidy and no extreme hair colouring is permitted. Long hair should be tied back for safety. Hair ornaments are limited to a simple hairband. Large flowers and bows are not allowed
- Pupils are not allowed to wear scarves at any point during the Academy day, inside or outside the Academy building
- Obvious make-up is inappropriate and should not be worn. Coloured nail varnish is not permitted
- Jewellery should not be worn, except for a wrist watch
- Lapel badges are not permitted.

All secondary phase pupils must wear a school lanyard with an identification to and from school at all times. Lanyards are colour coded and for this academic year are: Year 11 grey, Year 10 orange, Year 9 blue, Year 8 purple, Year 7 green.

Catholic World News

Catholics asked to pray in May for an end to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic.

The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world.

Pope Francis opened the Marian month of prayer on 1 May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms from the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 PM Rome time from the various Shines taking part in the initiative.



Eid al—Fitr

Muslims around the world celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the festival (Eid) that celebrates the many blessings that Muslims believe come from fasting throughout their holy month of Ramadan. According to Islam the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad in this month, and Muslims are guided to fast throughout it from sunrise to sunset, to reflect on their lives and build stronger bonds with God, discovering His will for them.

A Prayer for our Muslim Brothers and Sisters

We pray for our Muslim brothers and sisters, who celebrate the completion of their holy month of Ramadan all over the world this week and for all of us, that we may find the time and the discipline to use every opportunity to deepen our faith, and to remember God's will for our lives.

Amen



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