

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

'I can't wait', she said. 'Can't wait for what?', I asked. 'I can't wait until the half term.' Familiar words. Familiar feelings. At some point we must all have uttered or thought those exact words – I cannot wait. Whether its waiting for a birthday celebration, a special event and most commonly a holiday, we all experience that impatience that seems to overwhelm us when those longed for days draw closer and closer.

Yet humans seem to be the only living things that have this luxury. Other animals and plants HAVE to wait. The plants have to wait for the bees to return in spring and pollinate them. The hibernating animals have to wait until the long cold winter is over before they emerge into the glorious sunshine. We even teach our pets at home to wait before they have a treat or go out into the garden.

Waiting seems so alien to us now but surely isn't that how we all came to be? Mothers having to wait for 40 weeks or more for their babies to be born, almost a year of waiting. And can we forget the most patient of people, Jesus' disciples, who waited for a promise of the Holy Spirit. They had no idea when this would happen but waited in anticipation and assurance that it would. They lived each day to the full, going about their jobs and spreading the Gospel. They certainly didn't mope around or sigh intermittently 'I can't wait'. They knew waiting was part of the process because it made the Pentecost all the more special.

Fill your days with memories of time spent with your loved ones and the next time you're tempted to say 'I can't wait' remember, the best things are worth waiting!

Mrs Wickliffe—Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

"Common Prayer for Earth and for Humanity"

Loving God, Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.

Be present to those in need in these difficult times,
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

Help us to show creative solidarity as we confront the
consequences of the global pandemic.

Make us courageous in embracing the changes
required to seek the common good.

Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected
and interdependent.

Enable us to succeed in listening and responding to
the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

We pray through Christ our Lord, under the loving
gaze of Mary, Help of Christians.

Amen.

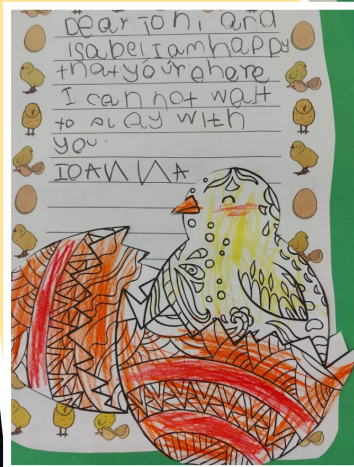
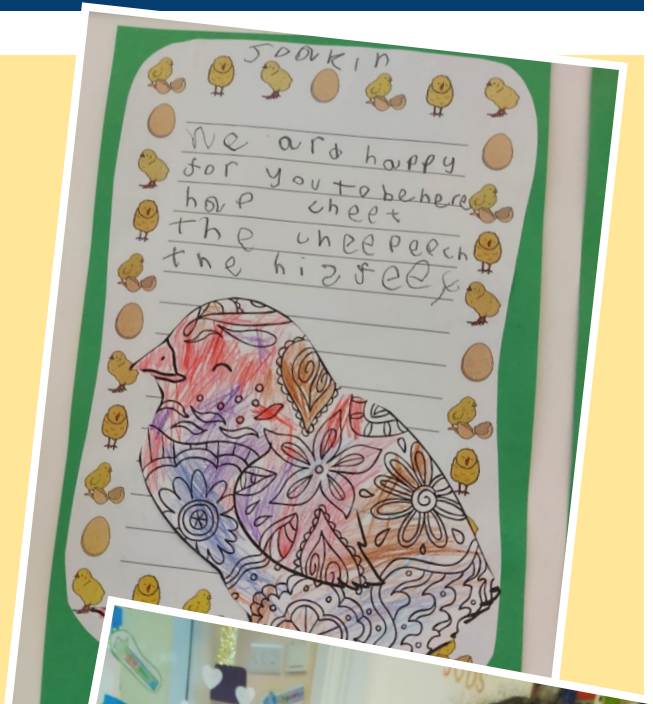


News from the Primary Phase

The Chicks have Hatched!

There is no doubt that the most exciting thing to happen at St Matthew Academy in the last week is the arrival of our fluffy little chicks! They are being cared for by our amazing Reception pupils who were very excited to see them hatch and to hold them for the first time. Check out our Twitter page @StMattAcadEYFS to see their faces as the chicks actually began to hatch. The chicks have definitely been good for everyone's mental wellbeing!

The chicks arrival also prompted our Reception pupils to do some writing. They wrote notes to the chicks to tell them how pleased they are to have them here with us at SMA.



News from the Secondary Phase



Year 8 Donations for Lewisham Food Bank

Y8 did a collection to support pupils celebrating Ramadan by observing charity which is one of the 5 pillars of Islam.

Miss Ahima dropped off their donation at Lewisham food bank who were very grateful for the support.

Serving others through fundraising, raising awareness of important issues and working together in as a community is extremely important to us at St Matthew Academy.

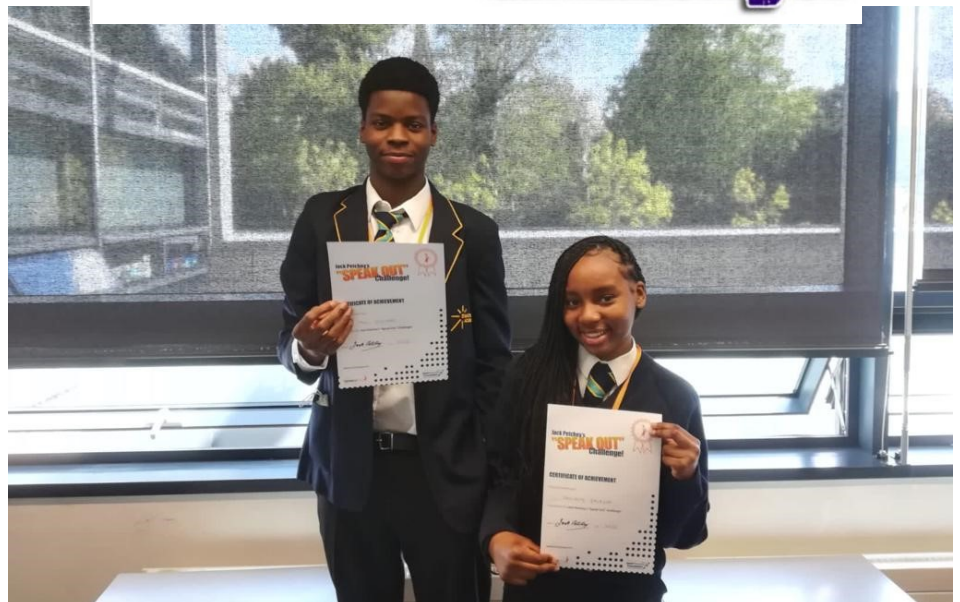
Keep letting your light shine Year 8!



Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Competition Success in Year 10

Congratulations to Tani Soyombo and Parfaite Balande for being selected out of 16 students from Y10 to represent SMA in the Jack Petchey Regional Finals on June 24th. 16 students spent a day workshopping to deliver 2 minutes speeches on topics of their choice. Paddy McQuire - the BBC journalist who led the workshop said he was impressed with the students' work and praised their "confidence, enthusiasm and still finding time to support each other despite the nerves of competition." Great work, Y10. Good luck with the finals!

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!



House News

Achievement Points WB 10th May:

1st Teresa 1723 (10 pts)
2nd Romero 1642 (5 pts)
3rd Mandela 1521 (3 pts)

Attendance WB 10th May:

1st Romero 91.7% (10 pts)
2nd Teresa 91.2% (5 pts)
3rd Mandela 90.2% (3 pts)

Overall:

1st Romero 1234 pts
2nd Teresa 1222 pts
3rd Mandela 884 pts



With our portrait and nature competition over and the votes counted, Romero House continue to hold on to their lead at the top of our House leader board – but only just! Teresa House are only 12 points behind and could easily catch up! Mandela House have managed to close the gap slightly, but only slightly. They have a lot of work to do if they want to challenge the leaders before the end of term!



Sana in Year 8



1st



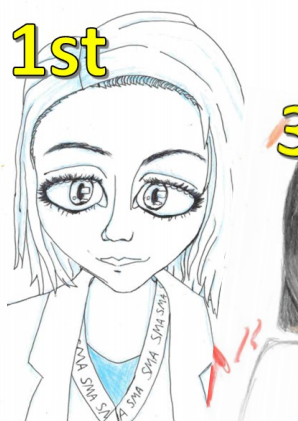
3rd



Matthews in Year 7

Omeyi in Year 10

1st



3rd



Ashani in Y5 Wolves

Bella in Y5 Wolves

2nd



Brianna in Y5 Wolves

1st



Dylan in 8.5

2nd



Moreen in 8.2

3rd



Georgina in 7.4

SMA Extra-Curriculum Clubs

SMA Extra-Curricular Clubs Summer 2021



| | Breakfast | Lunch | | | | After School | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Monday | | Week A Art Enrichment Club Y9 12-12:55 N0.24 EGR | Week B Art Enrichment Club Y9 12-12:55 N0.24 LWR | Week B Y8 DT Stem Club 12-12:55 0.17 LBU | | Athletics Y7 3-4:30 Astro/Middle Field FVA | Table Tennis Y7 3-4:30 Sports Hall NCO | Cricket Y7 3-4:30 Top Field JMU | |
| Tuesday | | Week A Art Enrichment Club Y7 12-12:55 N0.24 LWR | Week B Art Enrichment Club Y7 12-12:55 N0.24 EGR | | | Fitness/Rowing Club 3-4:30 Fitness Suite LSI | | | |
| Wednesday | | Light Bearers Year 8 12:20-12:55 Prayer Room EED | | | | Spanish Club Y7-9 3.05 AMA/AMI S2.14 | Art support and guidance (Drop in) Y10 0.24 EGR | Athletics Y9 3-4:30 Astro JMU AKG | Table Tennis Y9 3-4:30 Sports Hall NCO |
| | | | | | | Food/Photography Intervention Y11 NLI/ETH | Sporting Brilliance Y7+8 3-4:30 Fitness Suite/Top Field LSA/LSI | Drama Club Y7 3.00-4.00pm Drama Studio AMB | |
| Thursday | | Week A Y11 Textiles/Art Drop in LWR 12:55-1:50 Journey to grade 9 | Week B Y11 Textiles/Art Drop in LWR 12:55-1:50 Journey to grade 9 | Light Bearers Year 9 12:20-12:55 Prayer Room EED | | FRENCH Club Y8 (Grammar +) 3.05 AMA/APH E104 | Football Team Y8 3-4:30 Sports Hall THA/JJM | Athletics Y8 3-4:30 Astro/Middle Field LSA / FVA | Fitness/Rowing Y8 3-4:30 Fitness suite LSI |
| Friday | | Week A Y8 Art Enrichment Club N0.24 EGR | Week B Y8 Art Enrichment Club N0.24 EGR | | | Football 3-4:30 Y10 Astro/Grass JMU | Rowing Club 3-4:30 Y10 Fitness Suite LSI | | |

AGED 14-20? JOIN OUR FREE

YOUNG LEADERS

PROGRAMME

STAY CONNECTED
& LEARN NEW SKILLS
THIS SUMMER

Proudly supporting
youth social action

#iwill

Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

COMMUNITY
FUND

Thrive LDN
towards happier, healthier lives

MAYOR OF LONDON

Mental Health and Wellbeing



Mental Health Awareness Nature Competition Entries

We had lots of entries for our **Nature Photography Competition**. To see the winning entries, please see the House Page

We hope that as many of you as possible are planning to visit a new park or green space this half-term! Our local area has lots to offer, Blackheath is just one of many spaces you can visit to **'Connect with Nature'**



SMA Careers Insight

What are they:

- These **2-year courses** have been developed in **collaboration with employers and businesses** so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work and are equivalent to 3 A Levels.
- They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.
- The programme will include a minimum 45 days of industry placement.
- Each programme will include a **common core** followed by **specialisation towards a skilled occupation or set of occupations**.
- The **T Level certificate** will include:
 1. an overall grade for the T Level, shown as pass, merit, distinction or distinction*
 2. a separate grade for the core component, using A* to E
 3. a separate grade for each occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction
- It also **includes confirmation that** the student has:
 1. met the minimum requirements for Maths and English qualifications
 2. completed the industry placement
 3. met any additional mandatory requirements
- T-levels allow 16 to 19-year-olds to study in 15 sectors in subjects like hair and beauty or construction.



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



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Letter to Secondary Schools for Pentecost 2021

Dear Young People,

Pentecost reminds us that everything in existence, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of 'God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth'. God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God's revelation of Himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of His love for us in Christ and in His desire to live in us through His Holy Spirit.

'God's Spirit is always and everywhere "the Lord, the Giver of Life", and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation'. As God's children, we call on the Spirit to 'renew the face of the Earth', and as His children, we are called for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God's creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. Consider this: how have we used this gift? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are very aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth.

The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God's gift to us.

For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the need and demand for energy for the benefit of the very poorest, providing our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which significantly reduces the use of carbon-based fuels.

There must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods and freedoms. Pope Francis encourages us to look beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to businesses and political leaders. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play; each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a big impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-using materials. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change so that we can each reaffirm our vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of great opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the pandemic. Now we have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two of the most important political events this year: the G7 summit in June and the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us to repair and rebuild, provide what is needed for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, 'the Lord, the Giver of Life', whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and 'renew the face of the earth'.