

# St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



21 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to say that we have finally made it to the end of term. The last few days in school have been enjoyable for everyone involved even in the soaring temperatures we have experienced. Year 6 made us all proud last week with their innovative range of enterprise activities – including organising discos for KS1 and KS2; selling ice lollies during the sweltering weather and tidying a few cupboards along the way! Their week culminated in a beautiful, reflective liturgy on Friday morning and their very own disco on Friday evening. Once again almost 90% of SMA pupils will be continuing their journey with us as they transition to the secondary phase and we wish our year 6 leavers the best of luck in their new secondary schools.

Last night we had the pleasure of welcoming our year 11 pupils back to the academy for their leavers prom. It was a glitzy affair and the drama studio was unrecognisable after being decked out in gold and silver decorations. We were so pleased that our pupils got the proper send-off they deserved after having to cancel the prom back in June when restrictions were not lifted as planned. They now look forward to Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> when they collect their GCSE results – I am confident there will be much to celebrate.

At this time of year in schools we say farewell to staff that are moving on. Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Ms Emma Thurston, Deputy Headteacher. She has worked with passion, creativity and endless enthusiasm over the last 4 years ensuring that teaching and learning is consistently good and better at the academy so that all of our pupils get the very best experience. She leaves a strong legacy in all areas of the school and she really will be missed by colleagues and pupils alike. We all wish her the best of luck in her role as the new Headteacher at Deptford Green and we look forward to continuing to collaborate closely.

Sadly, we will also be saying goodbye to a number of other SMA staff. Ms Kent, Mr Mudge, Ms Rupa, Ms Hutchinson, Ms Brown and Mr Henson have all been with us for just a year but their contribution to school life and positive impact on the pupils they have worked with has been great. Ms Gibb joined us two years ago as a trainee teacher and has now successfully completed her course – she has gained a well-deserved promotion in a school close to where she is relocating to. Mr Mullin also joined us two years ago and has decided the time is right for him to now continue his teaching career overseas in the sunny Middle East. Lastly three members of staff that all joined SMA 4 years ago will also be moving on. Ms Downer, Geography teacher and Head of Romero House is relocating to the south west and will be taking up a Director of Learning Role in her new school. Ms Livingstone, Food Tech teacher, History teacher and Head of Mandela House will be broadening her experience even further by taking up an exciting new post in a college near Bristol and Mrs Burnett, Design Technology teacher will be taking up a role closer to home. We wish all our departing staff best wishes for the next step on their journeys and know they will be missed by pupils and staff alike. Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to say congratulations and farewell to Ms Rose Galvin, primary teacher. Ms Galvin is retiring from the classroom this summer after giving over 43 years of loyal service to education – 30 of which have been spent at Our Lady of Lourdes (the primary school originally on the St Matthew Academy site) and more recently at SMA itself. Our pupils have been very lucky to have such a dedicated and committed teacher and we wish her all the best for an exciting and happy retirement.

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At the end of another successful but strange year I am sure parents, carers and pupils will join me in thanking all the staff for their continuing hard work, resilience and commitment to ensure all pupils '*let their light shine*' and are the best they can be. **Given the current situation and the probable requirement for all secondary pupils to undergo COVID testing on site before returning to class full details of the return to school for will be communicated to you at the end of August.**

I look forward to seeing you in the autumn term at one of our calendared events for parents or joining us at a coffee morning in the library. Very best wishes to you and your families for a restful summer break. You may be interested in the government website pages [here](#) regarding summer activities and catch-up – you will find a wealth of information about ways of keeping your children engaged and active over the break.

Yours sincerely



**Ms M Baldwin**  
**Headteacher**