

St Matthew Academy Chaplaincy Autumn 2022

Guided Meditation for All Forms

The children and staff at SMA have now begun to have guided meditation sessions every morning in our Prayer Room with Mrs Ramsammy, the Chaplain's Apprentice. Each form takes it in turns during morning form time to come to the Prayer Room, for a calming and prayerful 20 minutes. It is a wonderful way to start the day and many pupils and staff have expressed how much they have enjoyed the experience. These sessions will continue every term.

Feast of St Matthew

On 21st September 2022 we celebrated the feast of St Matthew our patron saint. We had five liturgy services throughout the morning for all our staff, secondary and primary pupils. The Light Bearers led the reflections and our wonderful Year 10 choir lead us in praise and worship. Many pupils across the academy also contributed by creating beautiful pieces of artwork and writing bidding prayers which were included in our liturgies.

Youth Alpha

During the Autumn term some of our pupils successfully engaged in and completed the Youth Alpha Course which was run by Miss Eduvie, Chaplaincy Team. There were some very interesting and engaging conversations which came from watching the videos and the children were all really keen to share their thoughts and feelings.

Pop in Tuesdays in Chaplaincy

Pop in Tuesdays has continued to be a popular event in Chaplaincy with many more children popping in for breakfast and a chat.

Primary Phase Retreats

Reception, Year 2 and Year 3 have all had the opportunity to take part in retreat mornings or afternoons with Mrs Ramsammy. The theme for each retreat was *"You Are Special. Blessed and Loved BY God."* EYFS children explored their playground environment and were encouraged to identify all of God's creations. Year two children had their retreat in the prayer room where they explored the theme through art and prayer. Year three were taken next door to The Sisters of Saint Andrews Convent where they had a chance to meet and speak to some of the residents. Year 3 pupils finished up their retreat day in the beautiful chapel at the convent where they read scripture, had some meditation and read their bidding prayers. The sisters were delighted with the children and have invited them to come again.

Holy Mass Celebration

Holy Mass is the sacrifice by which the Church not only remembers Jesus Christ, but really brings Him, His saving Death, and His Resurrection into the present, so that His followers might become part of it. During the Autumn Term Fr Victor Darlington and children from Year's 5, 6 and 7 held mass here at SMA to celebrate their gifts and talents. It was a beautiful and lively morning. Many of our children volunteered and participated in the Mass by writing bidding prayers and readings. Mass was also attended by our academy Governors and the sisters of St Andrews Convent. Our cantor for the mass was a past student Zoe who donated her gifts and talents by singing really beautifully.

Christmas Liturgy 2022

Staff and pupils ended the year with a wonderful Christmas Liturgy, the theme of which was called *"Making Room."* The children were encouraged to think about others during the Christmas period and how they could make a difference to them during the holidays. The liturgy celebrated the wonderful diversity of cultures here at SMA as we had Ukranian singing and prayers read in Spanish, Polish, Mandarin, Ghanaian Twi and Portuguese