

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Ms Agorioge – Director of Learning for Year 7. I trust this letter finds you in good health. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of your child and staff at St. Matthew Academy throughout this half term.

The Year 7 pupils have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability as they embarked on their secondary school journey. Transitioning from primary to secondary education can be a daunting experience, but our Year 7s have embraced this change with remarkable swiftness and grace. It is truly commendable to witness how they have seamlessly adjusted to the new learning environment here at St. Matthew Academy. They have formed strong bonds with their form tutors, class teachers, and have cultivated new friendships with their peers. Pupils have shone brightly across the school, actively participating in extracurricular activities, representing the academy in sports fixtures, and even auditioning for the school production.

At the beginning of the term, the entire Year 7 cohort visited Aylesford Priory alongside their respective houses (Mandela, Teresa, and Romero). This experience provided a valuable opportunity for our Year 7s to bond with their tutor groups, reflect on their journey thus far, and set goals for the academic year ahead.

During open season for prospective Year 7 parents, we were privileged to hear inspiring speeches from two of our Year 7 pupils, Barima Obeng-Sabah and Zainab Diallo, who shared their positive experiences and expressed their enjoyment of being part of the SMA community. I have had the pleasure of speaking with many Year 7 pupils, and they all echo these sentiments.

## Celebrations

As we come to the end of this first half term of the year, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the remarkable start our Year 7 pupils have had. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I share some of the exciting developments and achievements that our young learners have already demonstrated in this first half term of the academic year.

## House Representatives

The pupils listed below are esteemed members of the St. Matthew Academy Pupil Leadership Team and have been chosen as House Representatives for their respective forms. We commend them for their outstanding leadership abilities and for using their voices to effect meaningful change.

7M1	Nathan Sesanga	7R1	Nosa Eghi-Guobadia	7T1	Alyssia Johnson
7M2	Iona McVey	7R2	Barima Obeng-Sabah	7T2	Maleek Sesay
		7R3	Kashaan-Amari Bartley		

## Rowing

Congratulations to the Year 7 pupils listed below for accomplishing an impressive 10,000m in rowing – a truly extraordinary feat!

Edward Pearce 7R2	Nosa Eghi-Goubadia 7R1	Erol Mehmet 7R3	Roman Churakov 7T1
Ozioma Eke 7R3	Kibafory Coulibaly 7T1	Daniel Otepu Etafo 7T2	Joyce Ba 7M2

## Achievement points

Our rewards philosophy recognises rewarding pupils for effort, academic achievement and behaviour conduct is important as part of the development of the individual through encouragement and praise. Please see our bronze, silver and gold star reward structure.

Achievement Points	Rewards
1 point	Form Tutor recognition
10 points achieved in one week	Form Tutor postcard given to pupil
50+ points in a half term	Golden Ticket for the Headteacher Raffle
Net Achievement Point Thresholds	
40 points	Form Tutor phone call
75 points	Director of Learning Phone call Home
100 points	SMA Bronze Star presented by DOL
200 points	SMA Silver Star presented by Head of Key Stage
300 points	SMA Gold Star presented by Deputy Headteacher
400 points	Ambassador Badge presented by Headteacher

Congratulations to the Year 7 pupils listed alongside who have earned over 50 Achievement points this term and are now entered into the Headteacher Raffle – Keep up the exceptional effort!

Romero				Mandela				Teresa			
JACOME ASQUI, Abigail	7M1	50		ZALDIVAR, Yumiko	7R1	66		MARGAI, Elijah	7T1		
FERREIRA NEGRI, Flavio	7M1	72		WILLIAMS, Naomilee	7R1	59		BAILEY, Kairos	7T1		
IRABOR, Peculiar	7M1	61		BRADLEY, Paddy	7R1	56		OTA-OGIE, Levi	7T1		
OLUREMI-ONOJOBI, Zion	7M1	54		TEZISSON, Opoule Chicochick	7R1	52		JINADU, Goriola	7T1		
ELHUSSEINE, Yousef	7M2	52		AMASSE, Joshua	7R2	66		EWENIGHI, Reiss	7T1		
IRABOR, Precious	7M2	78		LOHOURIGNON, Ethan	7R2	60		MACHADO, William	7T2		
OYEWUSI, Bolu	7M2	65		FILHO, Wesley	7R2	54		O'CONNOR, Ashlee	7T2		
ANTWI, Achiaa	7M2	60		PEARCE, Edward	7R2	50		DOW, Edward	7T2		
BA, Joyce	7M2	60		REYES ROA, Nayeli	7R3	67		NEWTON OSAGIE, Praise	7T2		
APAU DANSO, Giovanni	7M2	51		MEHMET, Erol	7R3	61					
		50		CSONKA, Andras	7R3	59					
				SASU, Jude	7R3	51					
				EKE, Ozioma	7R3	51					
				WILLIAMS, Taeasia	7R3	50					

## Sparx Maths

By now, every Year 7 pupil should be adept with the Sparx Maths online homework platform. Sparx homework is issued every Thursday and are due the subsequent Thursday. We appreciate your continued collaboration in ensuring your child's consistent homework completion. A special commendation goes to Elijah Margai, Edward Dow, Peculiar Irabor, Dhiren Senanayake, Precious Irabor, Giovanni Apau Danso, and Gabriel Kitara for surpassing 10,000 XP boost points this half term.

Concluding our celebrations, I would like to take this opportunity to share some reminders and new information.

## Attendance and punctuality

Firstly, I would like to ask parents and carers for your continued support with ensuring that pupils arrive punctually to school every day and are mindful of their attendance. Regular school attendance is the foundation of academic success. Each school day offers a unique opportunity for your child to learn, grow, and engage with their peers and teachers. Punctuality and good attendance teach pupils responsibility. Arriving at school on time not only creates a positive habit but also mirrors real-life expectations in the workforce. This skill will serve pupils well as they progress on their educational journey and later in their careers.

## Facemasks

We continue to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19 and follow guidance from health authorities. Having considered this guidance carefully, we have concluded that facemasks are no longer permitted at the Academy however; we will continue to keep an eye on this situation in order to prioritize the safety and well-being of our pupils and staff.

### Primary Siblings and Detentions

Additionally, we have introduced a new policy concerning detentions at St. Matthew Academy. In the event that a secondary phase pupil receives a detention, it will no longer be permitted for primary siblings to accompany them to the detention. Instead primary siblings will be required to attend one of our primary clubs or go to the library, where a designated Teaching Assistant will supervise. The expectation is that secondary phase pupils will escort their siblings to one of these two venues.

### SIMS Parent App and Home Contact

To ensure that communication with parents and guardians remains efficient and seamless, we kindly request that you take a few moments during the half-term break to ensure that you are set up with the SIMS Parent App and that your contact details are up to date in our records. Please email [parentapp@stmattheacademy.co.uk](mailto:parentapp@stmattheacademy.co.uk) to register for an account.

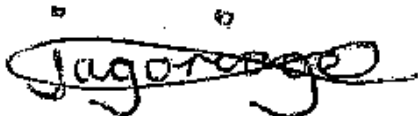
If you have any questions or concerns please contact the following:

Ms Agorioge – [jag@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:jag@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) Mr Magar – [fma@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:fma@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)

Mr Charlery – [jec@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:jec@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)

Once again, I extend my sincere thanks for your ongoing support and I look forward to further opportunities to share more good news with you later this academic year.

Yours faithfully



**Ms J Agorioge**  
**Director of Learning**