

# 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

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 9 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.

Pupils have shown an exceptional level of dedication and enthusiasm towards their lessons. They have eagerly embraced the challenges of new option subjects and set high standards for themselves. I have received many reports from their teachers expressing how much they have enjoyed witnessing the motivation of Year 9 to excel and their eagerness to learn.

Furthermore, I am delighted to report that pupils have been actively involved in many extracurricular activities, it was brilliant to see the largest number of Year 9 pupils we have ever had auditioning for the school production and new opportunities such as KPMG mentoring and the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. They are not just excelling in the classroom, but also demonstrating a strong commitment to personal growth, leadership, and social responsibility.

## Celebrations

I am delighted to take this moment to spotlight and celebrate the outstanding achievements of some of our pupils. 50+ Achievement points this half term and therefore entered into the Head teacher's Raffle:

Teresa		Mandela		Romero	
Pupil	Points	Pupil	Points	Pupil	Points
Rickael Clarke 9T1	75	Alanya Kouroma 9M2	74	Uri Bonnelame 9R1	64
Wahkare Black 9T1	59	Michael Traore 9M3	74	Aarib Qaisar 9R2	64
Nathaniel Knole 9T1	59	Eldi Berisha 9M1	60	Malchy Cox 9R1	63
Alpha Diallo 9T1	58	Racheal Adediji	60	Annie Bradley 9R2	59
Mercy Omekara 9T2	57	Sheikh-Oumar Ouattara	56		
Sienna Rose Benincasa 9T2	57	Tariq Konkobo 9M2	58		
		Maria Traore 9M3	57		

Pupils who wore the orange tie proudly this half term:

Racheal Adediji	Soufiane Labrouzi	Sheikh-Oumar Ouattara	Nancy Eka
Mamadu Bah	Josiah Mahony	Ademide Oyeleye	Roshawn Ellison
Sienna Rose Benincasa	Lieselotte Maurer-Smalley	Zakariya Said	Thusanth Gowriswaran
Eldi Berisha	Raymond Mugema	Callum Shine Casey	Monet Hamm
Uri Bonnelame	Symera Nelson	Michael Traore	Joshua Kamara
Annie Bradley	Ikenna Ohagi	Jessey Umunnakwe	Nathaniel Knole
Jess Carroll	Abdulquayum Oladejo	Prince Wuni	Tariq Konkobo
Rickael Clarke	Mercy Omekara	Alanya Kouroma	

The Maths department are celebrating the following pupils for the most amount of XP points on their Sparx. Every time a pupil completes a task or wins a 'minigame,' they earn Sparx Experience Points.

Festus Challe	Diana Nwadike	Sienna Rose Benincasa	Abraham Wilson
Samiyah Adebawale	Racheal Adediji	Nana Owusu-Donkor	Ademide Oyeleye

Finally, a shout out to these pupils who have spent the most time reading on SORA:

Aarav Nair	Gary Zhou	Yoshua Kouadio	Liesel Maurer-Smalley
Churchill Kinge	Domonic Watson		

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@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:parentapp@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) to register for an account.

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 A Barallon**  
**Director of Learning**