

St Matthew Academy

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

Executive Head: Mr Serge Cefai

Head of School: Miranda Baldwin



7th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing as we are coming to the end of a busy half term for pupils and staff at the Academy. It has been another really successful 6 weeks with lots going on. Last week we had a visit from the Regional Schools Commissioner, Dominic Herrington. The visit was a positive one on all fronts, as highlighted by Dominic's tweet on the afternoon of his visit 'A massive thanks to all at St Matthew Academy for this morning. What great progress! School has improved on all fronts, and a great platform for next steps.' The visit started with a discussion that covered what we are most proud of, the key changes and what next for the Academy. The RSC had done his homework and was fully aware of our excellent pupil outcomes, particularly in comparison to Lewisham secondary schools. We then took him on a tour. As usual the building was calm and purposeful, the classrooms we visited were impressive, with pupils focussed on learning and thoroughly engaged. Lastly he met some pupils and as is always the case when we have visitors they were a real credit to the Academy. They talked a lot about learning and homework, future ambitions and the work of the Academy council.

All pupils in the secondary phase have now completed their first set of ranking exams and I am delighted to report that pupils have taken these assessments seriously, behaved perfectly in the examination hall and have come fully equipped. Parent's evenings have taken place for all primary pupils and year 7, 8 and 11 with the Year 9 taking place tonight and the year 10 evening after half term. I am pleased to report that all of these evenings have been extremely well attended and pupils have made good use of the feedback they have received to accelerate their progress in areas identified for development. During these events we have asked parents and carers to complete a short questionnaire and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has done this. A summary of the feedback is detailed in the table below with full details by year group available on the website in our 'good news' section.

Statement	% of responses 'agree' or 'strongly agree'
My child is happy at this school	91
My child feels safe at this school	90
My child is making good progress at this school	91
My child is well looked after at this school	91
My child is taught well at this school	95
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	93
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	90
This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying)	79
This school is well led and managed	87
This school responds well to any concerns received	79
I receive valuable information from the school about my child progress	93
I would recommend this school to another parent	86

I am delighted to report that the feedback is overwhelmingly positive with the majority of statements having a 90%+ positive rating. There are a couple of areas that we need to address through better and more prompt communication with parents and carers when they have a concern and this is something we are working on with staff. You can support us in this area by ensuring you call or email the Academy to request an appointment if you wish to meet with a member of staff rather than arriving at reception and being disappointed when staff members are not available.

This half term we have seen punctuality continue to improve across all phases of the Academy. In my letter last term I reminded all parents and carers about the importance of ensuring all pupils arrive on time. I am therefore very pleased to inform you that after a series of meetings with primary parents regarding punctuality we have seen a reduction in lates by more than a half since the start of term. This is excellent news and means that primary pupils are able to get off to a much better start in the morning.

Important dates for your diary this half term

Date	Event	Time
Thursday 28 th February	Year 10 Parents Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Tuesday 13 th March	Parents Evening for reception to year 5	3.45 – 6.45pm
Wednesday 14 th March	Parents Evening for reception to year 5	3.45 – 6.45pm
Wednesday 14 th March	Urban Synergy Seminar	6.00 -
Thursday 15 th March	PSHE Day 2	All day
Thursday 15 th March	HPV2 vaccination Year 8	TBC
Tuesday 20 th March	Parents evening for year 6	3.45 – 6.45pm
Wednesday 21 st March	Parents evening for year 6	3.45 – 6.45pm
Thursday 29 th March	Last day of term	All pupils leave at 12pm
Monday 16 th April	Start of the summer term	8.37am
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATS week begins	Various
Monday 14 th May	Year 11 – first GCSE Exam (Computer Science and RE)	All day

Term Dates for 2018-19

Our term dates for the next academic year have been agreed and are detailed below. We do have two more staff training days to be inserted into the calendar and these will be updated on the school website shortly.

Autumn term

- Tuesday 4 September to Friday 19 October
- Half term: Monday 22 October to Friday 26 October
- Monday 29 October to Friday 21 December

Spring term

- Monday 7 January to Friday 15 February
- Half term: Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February
- Monday 25 February to Friday 5 April

Summer term

- Tuesday 23 April to Friday 24 May
- Half term: Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May
- Monday 3 June to Friday 19 July

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Parents Evenings that are taking place over the coming months. Please look out for the next edition of SMA news, due to be published at the end of the Spring term and posted home. It promises to be a bumper edition packed with stories and achievements from all areas of school life here at St Matthew Academy.

Best wishes,



Miranda Baldwin
Head of School