

St Matthew Academy

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

Executive Head: Mr Serge Cefai

Head of School: Miranda Baldwin



25th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Enclosed with this mail out is the second edition of our SMA newsletter this academic year. It is an exciting edition celebrating a wide range of pupil achievements and talents and showcasing teaching and learning across the Academy. Please share the highlights with friends, family and neighbours – it is important that all of us take every opportunity to remind others about how great our pupils are and the amazing opportunities that are on offer at SMA.

Year 7 parents will also find enclosed details about the SIMS Parent App which we are trialling next term. This is a convenient new way for the Academy to share information with parents and carers about their child's school life and is something that has been requested by parents this year. We plan to launch the App in two phases as this will give us an opportunity to listen to feedback before rolling out the App with all secondary year groups by September 2018.

Can I take this opportunity to remind everyone about our policy on mobile phones and other electronic items and ask for your support in ensuring this is followed by everyone. Pupils in primary are expected to hand these items in to their teacher at the start of the day and secondary pupils are expected to ensure all items are out of sight and switched off before they pass through the Academy gates. If a pupil is seen with a phone or electronic item then it will be confiscated and locked away and the incident recorded. Items will be returned to the pupils after one week unless the parent/carer of the child arranges to meet the member of staff, and in this case it can be returned after 24 hours. Any phones or electronic items that are confiscated a second or further time will always be kept for one week and then returned to a parent/carer only.

It seems that every letter I write I have to mention our ongoing concerns regarding the conduct of a very small minority of pupils on their way to and from the Academy. It is such a shame that the reputation of the Academy is being tarnished by these incidents because as you all know behaviour and conduct whilst at school is very good and is commented on positively by visitors. I would like to remind all parents and carers to ensure their children go straight home from school. As already stated in previous letters **pupils are not permitted to be in Lewisham town centre after 3.45pm** and this is for their own safety and as recommended by the local police. Senior staff from the Academy continue to maintain regular patrols within the local area and any pupil found to be in Lewisham after this time will be sanctioned. Some parents will be aware there have been a number of recent incidents of anti-social behaviour in Lewisham town centre and this has led to the shopping centre banning groups of pupils from entering. Staff from the Academy along with other schools are working closely with all community stakeholders including the police to review CCTV, identify individuals and take the necessary steps to tackle this behaviour. We are also working hard to ensure pupils better understand the impact of their actions, particularly when in large groups and we require all parents and carers to support us with this endeavour to ensure public spaces and public transport are safe for all users.

We say goodbye to two longstanding members of staff at the end of this term both of whom have secured well deserved promotions. Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you Mrs Shchedrova who has been a member of our outstanding English team for the last 8 years. In her role as Co-Head of English she has been instrumental in ensuring all year 11 pupils secure GCSE results to be proud of. We wish her luck in her new Head of Department role. We also say goodbye to Mrs Cregan, Head of Department in Art who will be moving to a bigger school to lead a large team of Art teachers. She will be missed by staff and pupils alike after 3 years working at the Academy. We will also be welcoming a new member of staff, Mr Umekwe who is joining the Academy as Deputy Headteacher in the primary phase. He will take on responsibility for Teaching and Learning across the primary phase and also Behaviour for Learning and is keen to get to know pupils and their parents and carers as quickly as possible.

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Important dates for your diary this summer term

Date	Event	Time
Monday 16 th April	Start of the summer term	8.37am
Monday 23 rd April	Year 7 ranking week begins	
Monday 23 rd April	Primary phase Parent curriculum meetings	3.30- 6.00pm
Monday 7 th May	Year 8 ranking week begins	
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATS week begins	Various
Monday 14 th May	GCSE Exams start	All day
Monday 21 st May	Year 9 ranking week begins	
Wednesday 23 rd May	Year 7 Parents Information evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Monday 28 th May – Friday 1 st June: Half term		
Wednesday 6 th June	Year 8 Options evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Monday 11 th June	Year 10 ranking week begins	
Monday 2 nd July	Year 6 Residential to Wide Horizons	Until Wednesday 4 th July
Wednesday 4 th July	Year 10 Parents information evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Wednesday 11 th July	PSHE Day	All Day
Wednesday 11 th July	Primary Phase Sports day	
Tuesday 17 th July	Secondary sports day	9.00am-1.30pm
Friday 20 th July	Last day of term	All pupils leave at 12pm
Tuesday 4 th September	Start of new academic year – Year 6 & 7 pupils only	8.37am
Wednesday 5 th September	Start of the academic year for all other pupils	8.37am

As we reach the end of term I am sure parents, carers and pupils will join me in thanking all the staff for their commitment and hard work, enabling St Matthew Academy students to '*let their light shine*' in a wide range of endeavours. Can I also take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support and partnership work with the Academy. This support is crucial as we continue our journey to '*excellence for all*'. I am really pleased to announce that next term the Interim Management Board will begin the process of converting to a full Governing Body ready for September 2018. The Governing Body will require two parent governors as well as a staff governor to join the foundation and community governors and this represents a fabulous opportunity for parents to get more involved in the governance of the school and shaping its future. Please look out for further details early next term about the nomination and election process that will take place.

We return to the academy for learning at 8.37am on Monday 16th April. As usual we expect to see all students on time, wearing their full uniform smartly and correctly equipped for learning. Next term is a very important one for all students across the Academy with external exams to be sat by many year groups; internal exams and assessments for others; year 8 pupils will be making important decisions about future GCSE pathways and year 6 students beginning their transition to the secondary phase.

Very best wishes to you all for a restful Easter break.

Miranda Baldwin
Head of School