

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



22nd April 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and the St Matthew Academy Community,

It is a privilege to have been appointed the new Headteacher of St Matthew Academy. I would like to thank Ms Baldwin for all her hard work over the last eight years ensuring the Academy is in a position of strength as we begin our journey to becoming an exceptional school. Our vision of *"Let your light shine"* will enable St Matthew Academy to be the best school in South London and provide an exemplary education for the community we serve.

To ensure St Matthew Academy delivers outstanding learning, we will work together to raise the bar across all areas of academy life. My expectations of staff, pupils, parents, and the wider community will be driven by a consistent approach, pushing ourselves to be better than we were yesterday. The gospel of St Matthew and our academy values will be at the heart of our culture, which will continue to drive standards, allowing all pupils to be challenged so they can be the best version of themselves daily. An emphasis will be placed on working hard, being inquisitive about their learning and generating a sense of pride to be part of the St Matthew Academy community.

Throughout my 18 years in education, working across different South London schools I have learnt that relationships are at the heart of successful education organisations. I pride myself in making positive relationships with staff, pupils, parents and carers, as I believe this connection ensures young people can thrive and make the progress they need to become confident adults, who have the skills and attributes to be change makers within their community. A key facet of my leadership is having an attention to detail, which allows me to notice everything and ask questions of how we can do it better? By adopting this approach and supporting leaders across the Academy, I have no doubt St Matthew will continue to deliver an exceptional learning experience for all our pupils.

A period of change can cause worry and anxiety for those involved. However, communication and collaboration are two vital strategies, which can be used to remove any concerns we have during this time. A positive academy and parent/carer partnership is essential for St Matthew Academy to achieve our goal of becoming the best school across South London. There will be opportunities, from September where we can meet as a community and for you to share your feedback to me, which will be a vital component as we begin the next phase of our journey.

I am excited to be leading such a fantastic academy from September 2024 and will work tirelessly to ensure our pupils are confident, articulate and forward-thinking citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I have no doubt that every pupil from Reception through to Year 11, will thrive and be successful, letting their light shine.

I would like to thank you for all your support as St Matthew Academy starts an exciting new journey of becoming an exemplary academy.

God Bless.

Yours Faithfully,

*Mr J Potter*

**James Potter**

