

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX
Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin
Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



10th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we progress through the final half term of the academic year, I wanted to update you on several important items:

1. **Summer Celebration:** Our summer celebration will be held on Thursday 18th July. We look forward to an afternoon of fun activities and great performances, and hope to see you all there.
2. **Key Dates for the half term:**

Date	Secondary Key Events
Fri 14 th June	SMA Oscars – by invitation only
Fri 28 th June	Year 11 Prom
Thu 4 th July	Secondary Sports Day – Sutcliffe Park
Fri 5 th July	Reward trips and activities
Thu 11 th July	Awards Evening – by invitation only
Thu 18 th July	Summer Celebration
Fri 19 th July	End of term for pupils
Thu 22 nd August	GCSE Results Day
Wed 4 th September	Start of term for pupils

Date	Primary Key Events
Thu 20 th June	Primary Music Recital
Thu 27 th June	Primary Careers Day
Fri 28 th to Sun 30 th June	Year 5 Overnight Camping Year 6 Fest
Tue 2 nd July	EYFS to Year 5 Parents Evening
Wed 3 rd July	
Tue 9 th July	Sports Day – school field
Friday 12 th July	Year 6 Prom
Mon 15 th July	EYFS Teddy Bear Picnic Year 6 Parent Meetings & SATs results
Tue 16 th July	Year 6 Performance
Thu 18 th July	Summer Celebration
Fri 19 th July	End of term for pupils
Wed 4 th September	Start of term for pupils

3. **Parent Governor Election:** There are two important elections taking place this summer! As well as a mock election at SMA to tie in with the General Election on 4th July, we will also be electing a Parent Governor to serve on the SMA Governing Body. Please can I encourage you all to take part in this election – the link is [here](#), it closes on Tue 18th June and election statements can be found for all candidates at the end of this letter.

4. **Social Media Issues:** We are dealing with increasing amount of social media-related issues across both phases of the school. While we are committed to supporting our pupils, incidents occurring on social media outside school hours are beyond our control and are the responsibility of parents and carers. We urge you to monitor your child's online activities, ensure they are only accessing age appropriate social media apps, and address any concerns directly. The Lewisham Safer Schools Police team can also provide support and we work closely with them when issues spill into school. Last week alone, hours of staff time were used dealing with incidents that started over half term – this of course takes staff away from their core purpose of teaching and learning.
5. **Parent Survey:** Your feedback is invaluable to us and is acted upon. At recent Parent Information evenings for Year 8 and 9, I have shared the findings from the surveys many of you completed after your child's parent consultation evening. I am now sharing it with you all so that I can inform you how we have responded.

Questions	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Primary
	Responses 46	Responses 51	Responses 52	Responses 42	Responses 23	Responses 39
My child is happy at this school	100%	98%	92%	88%	95%	100%
My child feels safe at this school	96%	94%	92%	91%	95%	100%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	92%	90%	88%	88%	100%	95%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	94%	68%	75%	71%	81%	90%
When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly	67%	76%	77%	64%	86%	89%
The school supports my child's personal development	87%	84%	86%	81%	95%	97%
This school has high expectations for my child	91%	96%	90%	93%	100%	97%
My child does well at this school	100%	92%	84%	93%	95%	97%
The school lets me know how my child is doing	93%	90%	90%	83%	95%	100%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	96%	98%	89%	98%	90%	100%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	100%	100%	94%	91%	95%	97%
The Academy is welcoming to pupils of other faiths or no faith	87%	90%	96%	88%	91%	100%
Pupils benefit from the Catholic ethos of the school	82%	82%	73%	74%	76%	90%
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Primary
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
My child has been bullied at this school	9%	12%	30%	12%	13%	11%
If yes, the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	56%	59%	75%	57%	50%	100%
I would recommend this school to another parent	91%	92%	90%	91%	100%	100%

As you will see the response are overwhelmingly positive with most questions receiving a response rate above 90%. Highlighted in yellow are the questions receiving lower levels of satisfaction. We commit to do the following in response:

- Continue to work on improving our communication, more information about this can be found at the end of the letter but in the mean time when you do have a concern or query the best way of contacting the school is by email to info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk. This then allows us to keep track of your communication and ensures your concern is given to the most appropriate person to deal with it
- As is the case already in the primary phase we will share curriculum information for all year groups on a termly basis so that you know what your child is learning and can support them at home – but please do look at the website as there is a lot of information to be found

We also want to increase the number of responses we receive so we are going to conduct surveys twice a year and I would encourage you all to complete them. The second survey for the academic year is [here](#). As ever your input helps us make necessary improvements.

1. **Pupil Safety:** With the warmer weather and lighter evenings, pupils may be tempted to stay out longer. Please remind your children to go straight home after school for their safety. Pupils from SMA are not allowed to be in Lewisham town centre/shops and food outlets after 4pm and any pupils found there without an adult supervising them will be sanctioned.
2. **Punctuality:** It is essential for students to arrive on time to school. Excellent punctuality ensures they do not miss valuable learning time and helps maintain a smooth start to the school day. Please could you encourage your child to leave home with plenty of time to spare and remind them it is usually much quicker to walk from Lewisham and Blackheath than it is to wait for a bus.

You may have noticed in our table of key dates that there is a change to the date of our end of term – pupils will now be breaking up for the summer holiday on **Friday 19th July** rather than Tuesday 23rd July. If this proves difficult for any families then please let us know via info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk - we can provide supervision for your child at school if required.

The Governing Body have made this decision to ensure that there is a smooth start to the new academic year. We are transitioning to a new management information system and this means all staff will require extensive training in its use – this will take place on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July. You will see the benefit of this in improved communication from us – it means that we will be able to use one system rather than emails, texts, Evolve and SimsApp. Full details of this will be shared in September.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation and I look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks at one of the many events that are taking place.

Yours faithfully



Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher

Parent Elections

Our three parent nominees are:

Abbygale Cox

St Matthew Academy stands tall with a good OFSTED rating; I would like to dedicate time, helping the school continue to take pride in its improvement and development.

My name is Abbygale, I have a degree in Psychology and run a specialist production - managing a distinct group of people. I coordinate the running of a recognised qualification, manage contracts and small budgets, apply for grants and ensure the health and safety of the individuals in the group.

I believe these skills and my ability to think objectively and critically will be a great benefit to this very important role.

Rajiv Nair

I have been an associate parent governor during the last year. My professional experience lies in finance and communications. I also have experience in implementing health and safety regulations

Last year the school posted impressive results (financial and non-financial) as well as scored high in assessments. I believe this was in some small measure due to the effectiveness of the elected governors, whom I was fortunate to be a part of

Chevon Whyte

Hello, I hope this finds you well,

I would like to become a Governor, to share my ten years plus, experience professionally and academically in international business development; and international relations.

In my role, I liaise with civil, governmental, and Intergovernmental organisations to implement peace and sustainable practices in the interest of humanity.

In this nature, we recognise that when you build a child's wellbeing, self-esteem and address their basic needs, it results in happy and healthy children, families and good grades.

Although I am a UN Economic and Social (ECOSOC) ambassador and Chaplin, I have prioritised Well-being and Emotional quotients to reduce bias and increase understanding, which is very relevant when dealing with people and families.

In addition, as a parent alongside my transferable skills, I can proactively contribute to the children, ST MATTHEWS, staff, and students through projects and partnerships.

As a candidate from a diverse grassroots background, I offer a lived, professional, and academic experience that is relatable and holds spaces for our differences to be leveraged as strength in a global community. Thank you for your time, it's much appreciated, and I look forward to speaking with you soon.



SMA SUMMMER 2024 CELEBRATION

**THURSDAY 18 JULY
3PM TO 5.30PM**

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN AND A CHANCE TO SAY A FOND
FAREWELL TO MS BALDWIN AND STAFF WHO ARE LEAVING SMA

**FREE ENTRY FOR
PRIMARY PUPILS
WITH AN ADULT**

- Bouncy Castles •
- House Tournament's •
 - Rounders •
 - Gospel Choir •
 - Raffle •
 - Talent Show •
- Dance Performances •
- Yummy Food •
- and much more!

**£1 ENTRY FOR
SECONDARY
PUPILS &
PARENTS**

Come and be impressed by the talents of our amazing pupils!