

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

With the summer holidays hurtling towards us, Ranking Assessments and GCSEs done, Week 39 is always a great time to take stock of the academic year past and an opportunity to look forward to next year and the start of a new era at SMA.

However, as well as looking forward to a new era, it is inevitable that there is a little sadness around at the ending of the current era. After eight years at St Matthew Academy, Ms Baldwin is moving onto new challenges.

In her eight years at SMA, Ms Baldwin has led our community to a transformed sense of pride in our school. Pupils wear their uniforms proudly; enjoy a vast array of extracurricular activities and can look forward to great academic outcomes. Under Ms Baldwin's headship, SMA has consistently been at the top of the Lewisham progress tables - we all have Ms Baldwin to thank for leading the way. Everyone at St Matthew Academy wishes Ms Baldwin the very best of luck with her next endeavour.

2023-2024 has been a packed year with so much to look back on with great satisfaction. Just this last term, our pupils been involved in so many exciting activities – it is difficult to know where to begin. Our dance pupils have enjoyed the 'Step into Dance' event; the Film Studies department staged our annual 'Oscar Night' and SMA continues to benefit greatly from our close relationship with KPMG, who mentor pupils in both Years 9 and 10.

This Year has also seen the SMA Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Bronze and Silver awards go from strength to strength; the History Department have led trips to local museums and the Media Scholars programme have had guest speakers and practical film projects to get stuck into as well as a trip to the Sky Studios.

There have also been rewards trips in each Year Group; the MFL Department has staged plays in both Spanish and French for pupils and a large number of children had the chance to visit the West End to watch the musical 'Sister Act.' Add to this rewards lunches; Year 11 prom, Lewisham Book Awards; New Intake Day, a Mock General Election, Sports Day, Sporting Brilliance and Media Scholarship trials, a national Debate Mate title, spelling bees, the filming of the Year 7 Shakespeare production and of course the End of Year Rewards event – it has been a packed summer term and an indication of how much opportunity our pupils have at St Matthew Academy!

Year 9, have not only made fantastic academic progress but have matured into fantastic young people that I am incredibly proud of. I look forward to seeing them thrive as we move into KS4 upon our return from the summer break. I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the following students for their progress in the most recent assessments. Stan Element, Matteo Gentile, Maria Traore, Umuhawa Diallo, Sofiia Maziar, Jullian Miguel Soriano, Talia Stuart-Forde, Anita Kamara, Jai Turner and Alicia Novais Armas. Keep it up!

Following this, I am also eager to celebrate Nathaniel Knole, Sienna-Rose Benincasa, Liesellote Maurer-Smalley, Ahyaa Haddouch, Tariq Konkobo, Jame Ji, Sian Herelle, Findlay Haddow, Rickael Clarke and Sophie Cooper. These pupils are the top 10 in Year 9 for their effort in class across all subjects.

Six pupils have been selected to begin GCSE Astronomy at Royal Observatory, Greenwich from September 2024. These are, Alex Kurtaj, Liesel Maurer-Smalley, Annie Bradley, Rickael Clarke, Cyntiche Tahou and Nitin Sri Padmanaban. Pupils will attend lessons on Saturday morning and do the GCSE course in one year sitting the final exams in June 2025. Lessons are delivered by staff at the Observatory.

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A word about Work Experience. This will take place between Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February 2025. Following the talk given by Paul Goddard of the Lewisham Education Business Partnership, I would like to remind pupils that the summer holiday is the perfect opportunity for them to secure a placement for February. All pupils have been given a form to complete which needs to be submitted to Form Tutors on their return. I have set the goal for over 80% of pupils in our Year Group to find their own placement, so please encourage them to visiting and email places of work they are interested in.

Finally, with so much to look back on and so much to look forward to, I think we are all going to need a good rest over the summer so we can come back in September and knock it out of the park again! Good luck and very best wishes to Ms Baldwin – we will miss you – and welcome to SMA, Mr Potter.

We return to the Academy on Wednesday, 4th September. Further details and timings for the day will be sent at the end of August.

Have a great summer

Yours faithfully



Mr I Gunningham
Assistant Headteacher



Ms A Barallon
Director of Learning