

17 July 2018

Dear Parent and Carers

I am writing to you at the end of another busy and successful term at SMA. This morning our KS3 secondary pupils will be enjoying sports day and accumulating points for their houses: Romero, Mandela and Teresa. Following feedback from pupils and parents we have re-launched the house system at SMA and following a hotly fought election, we have appointed 3 head students from the current year 10 to lead the houses next year: Mugbe Charles; Maleika Dyer and Michael Oppong-Siaw. Next year we are looking forward to half termly house assemblies involving pupils from across the Academy, regular house events and competitions and termly updates from house councils.

I am pleased to announce that following nominations for Parent Governor Positions, Fiona Forrest and Jancie Johnson have been appointed to the vacant the roles. We did not conduct an election as only two nominations were received so the parents were elected unopposed. Their term of office is 4 years. We have also appointed Hemaang Vyas to the Governing Body in the role of Staff Governor. Our new governors are all looking forward to working alongside our foundation and community governors to shape the future of the Academy.

In my last letter, I mentioned the SIMS Parent App which we trialled with year 7 parents and carers. The launch has been successful with many parents signing up to the service. We are now in a position to roll it out to all secondary parents in September and you will find full details of how to sign up in a personalised letter that is enclosed in the mail out. Once we have completed the secondary phase roll out, we will then follow a similar process with our primary phase parents and carers. Also enclosed with this letter is the final edition of our SMA newsletter – another bumper edition with so many amazing articles. I'd like to draw your attention to one special achievement that really must not go unnoticed - Giovanni Rose has just completed his GCSEs and has also managed to row 500,000m. His incredible talent has been recognised by the National Schools Regatta programme and he has been offered a rowing scholarship to Eton this summer with the very strong possibility of being offered a place at Eton in the 6th form to combine A Level studies with competitive rowing. We are all incredibly proud of Giovanni and look forward to hearing great news about his progress.

As is the case for all schools at this time of the year we will be saying goodbye and good luck to a number of teaching staff at the end of term. Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Ms Koranteng, Science Teacher and Exams Officer. She has gained a well-deserved promotion as Assistant Headteacher in a nearby school and I would like to say thank you to her for leading year 11 for the last two years in a row to great exams results and for this year embedding strong exam procedures across the school. We are also saying goodbye to four other longstanding members of staff: Mrs Shaw who has led on Literacy in primary and the Early Years team; Mr Aboaku and Mr Le who have always ensured our pupils thoroughly enjoy maths lessons in the secondary phase and Mr Sel who has worked incredibly hard with year 9 to develop them into the confident young people they are. Finally we will also be saying goodbye Ms Cottard, Ms Bonnah, Ms Ingram, Ms Makaltsi and Ms Nowacki who have all worked tirelessly in their roles and I know they will be missed by staff and pupils alike. As last year I am pleased to announce that although we have had a few teaching staff leaving during this year we will start the new academic year in September 2018 fully staffed. I am really pleased that we have been able to recruit high quality staff to the SMA team eager to join us on our exciting journey to making SMA the school of choice in the local community.

Important dates for your diary for next year can be found on the Academy website as can the term dates and Inset days. I am really pleased that this year the vast majority of parents have ensured that their children have not been taken out of school during term time and as a result our overall school attendance figure has increased once again this year. On Friday in assembly we will be celebrating all of the pupils and staff that have 100% attendance for the year with well-deserved rewards for all of them!

Outlined in the table below are the dates of all parent evenings – please ensure you keep these dates free so you are able to accompany your child to these crucial events.

Parents' Evening Dates for the Year

Date	Event	Time
Thursday 4 th October 2018	Year 7 Form tutor Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Thursday 11 th October	Year 11 Expectations evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Tuesday 6 th & Wednesday 7 th November	Primary Parents' Evening	3.45 – 6.45pm
Thursday 8 th November	Year 9 Information Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Thursday 15 th November	Year 8 Parents' Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Thursday 29 th November	Year 7 Parents' Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Thursday 17 th January 2019	Year 11 Parents' Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Thursday 7 th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Thursday 28 th February	Year 10 Parents' Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Tuesday 19 th & Wednesday 20 th March	Primary Parents' Evening	3.45 – 6.45pm
Thursday 28 th March	Year 8 Options Evening	4.00 – 6.30pm
Thursday 20 th June	Year 10 Parents Information evening	4.00 – 6.30pm

As we come to the end of the school year – another exciting and inspirational one for everyone - I am sure parents, carers and pupils will join me in thanking all the staff for their continuing hard work and commitment, enabling St Matthew Academy students *to let their light shine* and be the best they can be. **Year 6 pupils' return to the Academy for learning at the new time of 8.50am (ready for a 9am start) on Tuesday 4th September 2018 and they will be joined by our New Year 7 cohort (ready for line up at 8.37am). The remainder of our pupils return on Wednesday 5th September at 8.37am for secondary line up and 8.50am for primary pupils.** We expect to see all students on time, wearing their full uniform smartly and correctly equipped for learning.

I look forward to seeing you in the autumn term at one of our calendared events for parents or joining us at a coffee morning in the library. We plan to make these a regular, weekly event for parents and carers so you can make use of first class facilities in the library, chat and make new friends with other parents and share feedback and ideas with senior leaders. Please look out for information regarding dates and times in the new academic year. Very best wishes to you and your families for a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely



Ms M Baldwin
Head of School