

St Matthew Academy Chaplaincy Update September – December 2019

CPD and Start of the Year Service at St Matthew Academy

On Tuesday 3rd September St Matthew Academy welcomed Patrick Harrison, Adviser of Religious Education from the Education Commission for the Diocese of Southwark to lead a CPD session for all of the St Matthew Academy staff. The CPD explored various aspects of the importance of working in a Catholic school as well as addressing what could be done to make Catholic academies distinctively Catholic. One colleague commented after the session that they found the CPD session “Very insightful.”

The CPD session was followed by a lovely service led by Patrick and the Chaplaincy Team at the Academy. All of the staff and Year 7 pupils were in attendance. The new Year 7 cohort experienced their first gathering as a community praising and worshipping God. Staff and pupils alike all seemed to enjoy the service and left ready to “Let their light shine” throughout the day.

Celebration of the Feast of St. Matthew

On Friday 20th September, the Academy celebrated the feast of St. Matthew, the apostle, evangelist and patron saint of bankers and the Academy. The Gospel According to Matthew masterfully makes that connection between the Old and the New Covenant.

There were three services throughout the day beginning with Year 7 and 8. The secondary services were led by the Chaplaincy Team and the Light Bearers. At the primary phase, primary pupils took a lead on delivering the service. All pupils spoke eloquently. Christine in Year 10 performed a song on the piano, showcasing her talent which encapsulates the Academy motto of ‘Let your light shine.’

All pupils completed a Feast of St Matthew quiz and received a sweet treat in the afternoon as a gesture to recognise the Feast of St Matthew.

All Saints Day – Services

On Friday 1st November 2019, the Academy held several All Saints Day services. The services were led by the youth Chaplaincy team – the Light Bearers at the secondary phase, whilst led by primary phase pupils at the afternoon primary service. All pupils read eloquently.

At the KS3 service, pupils and staff alike, engaged in singing the angels would have been proud of. Led by Mr Charlery, pupils sang ‘When the saints go marching in.’

Remembrance Day Service

On Monday 11th November 2019, Monsignor led a Remembrance service for St Matthew Academy to commemorate all those who bravely sacrificed their lives for a greater, peaceful world. The Youth Chaplaincy team the ‘Light Bearers’ eloquently read several poems associated with the Great War. Wreaths were laid by pupils, Monsignor Rotheron and Mr Saunders, who represented the service men and women at the service.

Mr Charlery played the trumpet to herald the beginning of the two minute silence, which was observed by the whole Academy. In attendance were two History Year 8 classes. The primary phase held its’ own service for the first time at the Academy.

Christmas Tea Party

On Tuesday 17th December SMA held its' first Tea party for elderly residence of Glebe Court in Lewisham. The academy entertained twenty guests whom whilst eating freshly made cakes, listened to Christmas carols sung by the Gospel choir at the secondary phase and a KS1 class. We look forward to inviting our guests again next year.

The Staff Christmas Giving Tree

As per every year, we ask the lovely staff of SMA to pick a gift tag from the 'Christmas Giving Tree'. The tags contain ideas for gifts for children. All gifts were donated to the Salvation Army in Lewisham to support families within our community who may not be able to provide gifts for young members of their families. Thank you to all staff that have contributed to the 'Christmas Giving Tree'.

The Christmas Gift Bag Collection for the Salvation Army

During the month of December, pupils contributed various gifts to the Christmas Bag Collection. All Christmas bags were donated to the Salvation Army. Our Light Bearers presented over seventy bags packed with boxes of minced pies, gloves, jars of coffee and shower to representatives from the Salvation Army on Friday 20th December. The Christmas bag collection is another example of our pupils' commitment to letting their 'light shine'. Thank you to all of the tutors and teachers at the primary phase that encouraged pupils to get involved in such a worthy cause.

Christmas Carol Concert & Christmas Nativity

Pupils in KS1 and KS2 performed the Christmas Nativity and Christmas Carol concert on Tuesday 10th and 11th December 2019. It was evident from the performances that SMA had some budding actors and future recording artists! The audiences who were blessed to witness the production and concert enjoyed the events. A massive thank you to all staff who worked diligently on the production and for the concert to be a success.

Christmas Jumper Day – for Save the Children

Staff and pupils at the primary phase donned their Christmas jumpers to support the 'Save the Children' campaign. The Academy will continue to support this event next year.

Christmas Dinner

Nothing beats a Christmas lunch. Nearly a 1000 Christmas lunches were served by the catering team on Wednesday 18th December. SLT members even supported by serving too! Mrs Wickliffe was particularly impressive, demonstrating there are many strings to her bow!

Christmas Own Clothes Day – Raising money for CAFOD and the Southwark Crisis Fund

The academy raised £2000 for CAFOD and Southwark Crisis Fund through the Non-uniform day. Well done staff and pupils!

End of term Advent services/assemblies

The academy closed the year with an Advent service/assembly led by the Chaplaincy team – 'The Light Bearers'. Pupils in KS3 sang Carol songs and the true meaning of Christmas was reflected upon by the youth chaplaincy team and all who attended.

Scripture tell us, "Where two or three are gathered, God is in the midst..."

This was certainly evident in the services where a sweeping peace and feel good factor permeated the main hall.