

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As we navigate through the final stretch of the academic year, I want to take a moment to commend each and every one of our pupils for their unwavering dedication and resilience. The upcoming weeks hold significant milestones for pupils, with GCSE exams and SATs on the horizon. I understand the pressure and anticipation that may come with these assessments, but I want to assure pupils that they are more than capable of rising to the occasion as they have proven time and time again.

To our pupils, remember that these exams are just one part of your journey, and while they are important, they do not define your worth or potential. Approach them with confidence, knowing that you have put in the hard work and preparation necessary to succeed. Trust in your abilities, stay focused, and give it your best effort. Remember, we are here to support you every step of the way.

The summer term brings longer days and hopefully (although not as yet) more sunshine. We encourage our pupils and their families to make the most of the chance to be outside, which is so important for our health and wellbeing. I hope that the coming Bank Holiday weekends will bless us with good weather and give everyone more time to go for a walk or visit their local park or woodland.

Together, let's finish this academic year strong, with determination, positivity, and a hopeful outlook for the bright future that awaits each and every one of our pupils.

Mr F Magar
Deputy Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

Last Sunday the church celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday. Bishop Robert Barron wrote the following reflection.

Friends, the image of God as a shepherd is a classic one in the Bible. In the book of the prophet Ezekiel, we hear that God would one day come and shepherd Israel himself. Shepherds guarded, guided, protected, and watched over their flocks—just as God guards, guides, protects, and watches over Israel. This image comes to a climactic expression in the words of Jesus: “I am the good shepherd.” What precisely makes him good? A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The good shepherd is so other-oriented, so devoted to his sheep, that he is willing to surrender his life that they might live. Sure, a good shepherd should do all that he can to protect and guide his flock, but who among us would really expect him to give his life for them? But this is precisely what Jesus does. Imagine the difference between humans and sheep; now, multiply that difference infinitely. That would give you some idea of the difference between God and humanity. And yet God is willing to lay down his life for the likes of us.

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we are safe and secure. Within your embrace we know that we are precious in your sight. Within your embrace we feel the warmth of family and belonging. Within your embrace we grow and are nurtured together as one flock, the people of your pasture under your loving care and protection. Amen



Primary News

Reception

The children have been doing some incredible learning lately. We have moved onto Phase 4 of our phonics learning and now know how to read longer words by chunking them up. We are even beginning to spell words by chunking them up in our heads and writing the correct sounds for them.

During our English lessons, we have been learning to write using finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. We have written sentences about the Three Little Pigs and been retelling the stories during role play with much happier endings for the wolf. For the Summer Term, we will be learning about people who help us, looking at careers and how others can inspire us to reach for the stars. We have started this topic looking at Maya Angelou which links with our class book, Look Up! The children have fully immersed themselves in our secondary topic of space and have designed some amazing planets for our Space display!



The children have really gained in confidence throughout the year in their maths learning and are now beginning to count and recognise numbers beyond 20. They are learning how to double and recognise doubles, they have learned how to make numbers above 10 using '10 and a bit', and they are even beginning to write number sentences to represent how different numbers can be composed.

We are so very proud of our Ladybirds and the progress they have made since starting with us eight months ago and can't wait to see how much more they progress in their final 11 weeks of their first year of school!



Marathon Star!

Well done to Year 4 Teacher, Mr Bowen who completed the London Marathon in a speedy time of 3 hours and 32 minutes!



Secondary News

English

Pupils have been enjoying learning about a range of topics in English.

Year 11 have been preparing for both their English Language and English Literature GCSEs and many pupils were able to see 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Globe Theatre last month; thank you to the teachers who gave up their evening to accompany the pupils. Year 10 have been focusing on their English Language GCSE content and also looked at some unseen poetry.

Year 9 pupils have been looking at dystopian texts and have recently begun a Shakespeare unit about Macbeth, whilst Year 8 have been enjoying a debate unit, ending in a year group debate.

Year 7 have now completed their second assessments and have been really engaged with a new unit on poetry, with some creative poets emerging in the year group!



Warner Bros Studio Tour

The Year 7 Media and Communication Scholars had both an exciting and informative time on their trip to the Warner Bros. Studios on 22nd April. Exploring the creative process from script to screen, they saw actual sets and props used in the filming of Harry Potter franchise, along with how behind the scenes "movie magic" helped to make the magic seen in the movies. We look forward to seeing how they take this knowledge and use it when making their own short films.



Debate Mate Final

Three teams from SMA deserve a huge congratulations for debating against teams from across London in the Debate Mate Cup Final at Greenwich University. The SMA teams showed their commitment, effort and professionalism. It was intensive day with 3 rounds of debate followed by a nail biting final. Our Team A (Y9 speakers: **Annie, Nana, Ahyaa, Liesel and Rickael**) just missing out by 1 point to the finalists Y10 team from Sydenham girls school. However, Mr Purslow's novice team C (Y7/8 speakers: **Mya, Ania, Maya and Avika**) won all 3 rounds competing against B and C teams and got a special mention by DMC organisers as youngest team to place in the top four! Massive achievement and a first for SMA in the DMC final. Wishing Team A good luck for June having made the top 15 nationally to qualify for the Urban Debate League final . Watch this space!



Easter Celebrations at St Matthew Academy

To celebrate Easter, St. Matthew Academy embraced the spirit of renewal and resurrection with a series of heartfelt celebrations that truly embodied the essence of this special time of year. With each class actively participating in various activities and rituals, our school community came together in a profound display of faith and unity.

Throughout the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday, our students immersed themselves in prayer and reflection. Guided by their teachers, classes engaged in meaningful activities such as crafting prayer pebbles and resurrection gardens, symbolizing the hope and rebirth that Easter represents. These hands-on experiences not only deepened their understanding of the holiday but also fostered a sense of creativity and connection to their faith.



In preparation for our Easter liturgy, students took on the responsibility of composing their own bidding prayers. Learning the art of prayerful communication, they expressed their intentions for the world and our community with sincerity and compassion. This process not only empowered our students but also demonstrated their ability to actively participate in the rich traditions of our faith.

One of the highlights of our Easter celebration was the Stations of the Cross, led by our student Light Bearers. With reverence and dedication, these young leaders guided each year group through the profound journey of Christ's passion and sacrifice. Through this immersive experience, our students gained a deeper appreciation for the significance of Easter and the sacrifices made for our salvation.



The culmination of our Easter celebration was a beautiful liturgy, where our entire school community came together to rejoice in the resurrection of Christ. Following the Gospel reading, each class had the opportunity to share their bidding prayers, lifting up their intentions and aspirations to God. The atmosphere was filled with reverence and hope as we collectively embraced the promise of new life and redemption.

As the liturgy drew to a close, our Year 6 students delivered a moving performance to the hymn "Risen," a powerful reminder of the triumph of Christ over death. With voices raised in song and hearts filled with joy, we ended the day with a profound sense of gratitude and reverence for the Easter season.

<https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/easter-celebrations-at-st-matthew-academy/>



BOOK REVIEWS

PRIMARY PHASE



Matia in year 6 read and reviewed 'A wrinkle in time' by Madeleine l'Engle.

This book is one of the best ones I have ever read. It is a mix of mystery and sci-fi. This book will not disappoint you! Hope you enjoy. I recommend this book to those who love Sci-Fi and fantasy books because this book is honestly an amazing book!



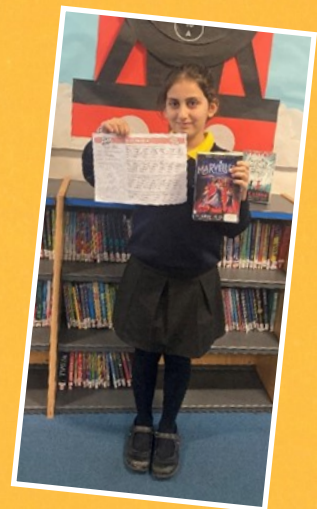
Matia read and reviewed 'When we grow up' by Melanie Walsh for KS1.

Well done to the author because this book is very cool. Personally, I don't know what I want to be when I grow up so this book is very inspiring. I recommend this book to parents and carers to read to their children. I hope you enjoy this book.

Helena in year 6 read and reviewed 'The Marvellers' by Dhonielle Clayton.

Ella Durand attends the Marvellers magic, a school in the sky. Unexpectedly, Ella is accused of a terrible crime and the teacher mysteriously disappears.

My favourite part was when Ella Durand, who is 11, came to the world of Marvellers and discovered new people even though they were a bit weird. Ella is my favourite character because she is fierce and brave. She is never shy to try Marvellers magic and she is always kind and generous when meeting other people. 4/5 stars!





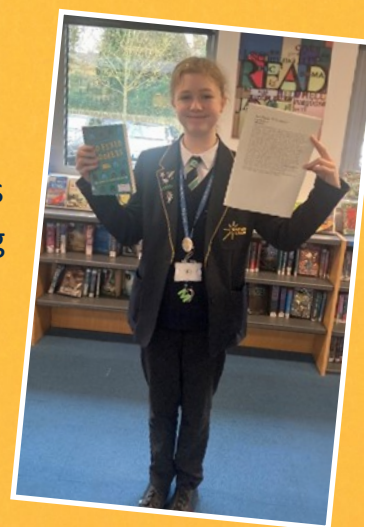
BOOK REVIEWS

SECONDARY PHASE

Malo in year 7 read and reviewed 'No Fixed Address' by Susin Nielsen.

This book is an extraordinary story where our brave and selfless main character, Felix, must face all kind of strange and mind-blowing challenges, just to find a real home (one equipped with a toilet). His Mum's mean boyfriend suddenly gives them his van, stating he's moving to India for a while. When the pair find themselves homeless, Astrid, Felix's Mum, has the great idea of living in the van! For a while everything starts going smoothly but then the lies start piling up.

I really loved this book because it shows Felix's amazing character and how much he's been through. This story is brilliant and I gave it a 10/10 rating.



Lots of wonderful new primary and secondary books for the LRC.

House Points Update

Week beginning 24/4/24

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: **37380**
2nd – Romero: **35129**
3rd – Mandela: **35073**

Attendance:

1st – Teresa
2nd – Mandela
3rd – Romero

Overall House Points

1st - Mandela:6280
2nd - Romero: 6242
3rd- Teresa: 6103

Welcome back to school! Get ready for an exciting half-term filled with fun activities. Join us for repair sessions where you can learn practical skills while fixing things around the school. Plus, don't miss our cooking sessions where you can unleash your culinary creativity. Let's make this half-term memorable and full of excitement! See you there!

Attention all pupils!

The final stage of interviews for the Pupil Leadership Team begins next week. The positions of Head of House, Assistants, and Prefects will soon be filled. Once selected, pupils will assume their roles immediately, allowing our current Year 11 leaders to focus on their GCSE examinations. Make sure to support and congratulate those who will be chosen to lead pupils forward!



Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during April

Year 7	Simyah CHARLES Margarita SVIASHCHENKO Nyasha ZVARIMWA Malo TAYLOR Marbelys AGUILERA MONTERO	Year 8	Temilolaoluwa ABIKINDA Kyrion WILSON Gohar REHMAN Glory OMOROGIEVA Olivia OBAFESE
Year 9	Rhea ABANGMA Sian HERELLE Ademide OYELEYE Lieselotte MAURER-SMALLEY Phoebe MAURER-SMALLEY 9T2	Year 10	Georgina FELIPE Arone TCHAMOU NGUEMADJE Alfie HAWKINS Cyanna JOHNSON Maria NENYCH
Year 11	Musa KAMARA Bradley NANGUY Daniel GBADEBO	Farishta MUSTAFA Harry COUSINS	

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Mr Osbourne



“Enthusiastic in his new role and loves getting involved in the wider life of the school.”

Ms Chick



“For her kindness organisation and leadership.”

Ms Jackson



“Being a team player.”

REPORT IT!



If you have some information that you feel should be reported, e.g. bullying, or you are feeling low, worrying about something or if you have any safeguarding concerns you can:

Tell a Teacher

Mr Magar

Deputy Headteacher



Ms Dryden

Child Protection Officer



Mr Gunningham

Senior Assistant Headteacher



Ms Chick

Head of Primary



Ms Dunne

Assistant Headteacher



Staff at St Matthew Academy are always here to help and listen to pupils, if you ever want to talk to someone or share a concern please don't feel worried about doing so.