

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

It has been great to return to school after a long summer holiday and staff have really enjoyed getting to know our new year 7 and reception pupils. Transition for these cohorts has been smooth and we have really appreciated feedback from parents and carers about things that are going well and what could be even better. I know that year 7 are already signed up for a wide range of clubs and after school activities and are making the most of our packed enrichment offer. Pupils have told me they have really enjoyed some of their new lessons and making the most of our amazing learning areas, they have also said that one of the best things about SMA is lunch!

As you know we are working with new caterers this year—Olive Dining. We are really excited about this partnership—with a shared goal for high quality, healthy sustainable and good value food that encourages pupils to try things they would never normally eat. This new venture has tied in with all pupils in London primary schools being offered a daily free hot meal. I am delighted that over 95% of our children have taken up this offer.

Yesterday we welcomed our Year 11 parents and carers into school for the first of many planned sessions this year. We focused on how families can support their children in core subjects alongside sharing tips and hints about what is in store for the year. The highlight of the evening was hearing from two ex year 11 pupils —Vieric and Abdul who between them achieved 16 grade 8 & 9 GCSEs and are both now studying at St Thomas the Apostle College in Nunhead. Their advice was spot on and a real eye opener for the pupils and families in the audience. We can't wait to have them back to deliver some smaller workshops with groups of Y11 pupils. The next event on the calendar for Year 11 is the Post 16 Marketplace in November when local schools, colleges and apprentice providers are all on site together.

We look forward to seeing all of our parents and carers in the coming months. We are determined our pupils should have the very best school experience we can offer and this means listening to both pupils and their families. So if you do have some feedback - both good and not so good please do let me know by emailing info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk.

Miranda Baldwin, Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

This week we celebrated Holy Mass for The Feast of St Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist our school's patron saint.

From the Gospel readings we heard that Jesus gazed upon Matthew and called him to be one of his disciples. Matthew's life was forever changed. The encounter with Jesus and his loving mercy transformed him. He left behind his table, his money, his exclusion. Before, he had sat waiting to collect his taxes, to take from others; now, with Jesus he must get up and give, give himself to others. Jesus goes before us, he precedes us; he opens the way and invites us to follow him.

Dear Jesus,

I want to wake up each day with a grateful heart. I am grateful for the gift of life and for the opportunity to follow you. As I begin this new day, I remember your call to me, just like you called

St Matthew. You saw a tax collector, but you also saw something more—a disciple. Help me Father to hear your call and respond to it with the same eagerness and readiness as Matthew. Help me to leave behind anything that hinders me from following you. May I be open to your guidance and direction today, and every day. Amen

St Matthew The Apostle Pray For Us



Primary News

Year 6

The children have made a fantastic start to the new academic year! They have shown that they are hard working, determined and ready to be role models to the rest of the school. We have been blown away by how responsible they are and how much they want to give back to the rest of the school. We now have an excellent team of sports leaders, lunchtime helpers, reading shed monitors and class librarians who are willing to give up their own time to ensure that our school is a safe and enjoyable environment for all of the other children in the primary phase! We can't wait to see how Year 6 let their lights shine this year!



Reception

EYFS have been learning a new sound today. They have been building train tracks, talking to people on the telephone, typing their names on a keyboard and practising writing the grapheme "t". Ask them about their sounds this week. We know "s" "a" and "t". Keep an eye out for our new sound learning tomorrow. What do you think it might be?



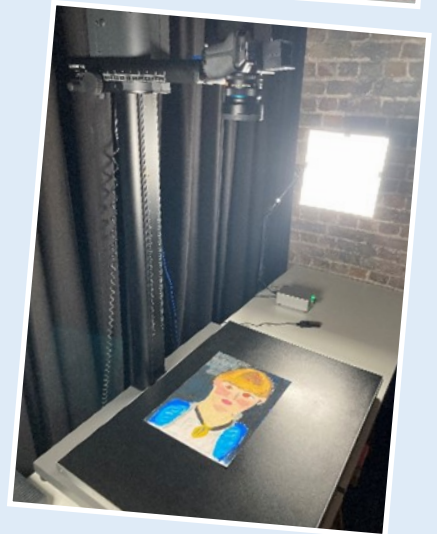
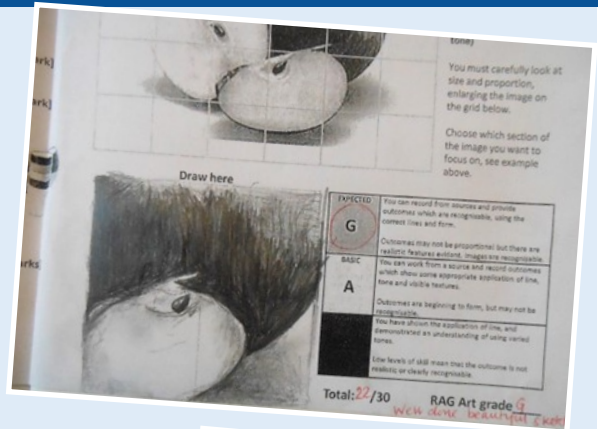
Secondary News

Art Design and Technology

Pupils have had a fabulous start to the new academic year and it has been a pleasure to welcome them all back to the Academy. The new academic year is always an exciting time for the Art Design and Technology team to be able to identify new talent of those pupils who have just joined us in year 7. Well done to all of our new cohort who have completed their first assessment. Pupils were quizzed on topics across Design and Technology, Food Technology and Textiles. An instant assessable element in the test was the drawing activity, where pupils recreated an image using the formal elements. This allows teachers to identify pupils with natural flair and creative ability.

Stunning use of line and form was evident in the work of many, a few pupils require a special mention for their outcomes: Emmanuel Tadese, Kahlaylah Coates, Louise Gilkes and Naomilee Williams.

We look forward to a year of nurturing and cultivating everyone's talents and building on their creative abilities.



Reworking Manet update

Last year, year 9 pupils were entered into a competition set by the Courtauld Gallery, based on reworking Manet. The purpose was to have work displayed in their exhibition.

We have recently been informed that the work of pupils who were entered can now be viewed on their website <https://courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/>, from the 22nd September. A huge congratulations to the two pupils whose work has been selected for exhibition, Sara Hussen's work has been digitalised and Misha Churakov has been framed.

Heads Of House

Introducing our new Year 11 Heads of House Team proudly wearing their green blazers so they are easily identifiable to all of our younger pupils.



Fire Station Trip

Year 2 started their school year with a trip to Lewisham Fire station where they were able to meet real fire fighters and ask questions about how to become a fire fighter. Children are learning about the history of London, specifically The Great Fire of London so this trip was a brilliant way to start the year.

Primary were also visited by their annual fire safety talk from the LFB in September. Children in Year 2 and year 5 and discussed how to stay safe in school and at home in case of an emergency



Year 7



FORM
GROUPS

Year 7 BBQ

The year 7 BBQ on Friday 15th September 2023 was a great event to mark the first two weeks at school. It was lovely to see our families interacting with the year 7 pastoral team and celebrating the smooth transition to the St Matthew Academy secondary community. We are looking forward to having a fantastic year where the year 7s create new memories through amazing lessons and great relationship with their peers and teachers. Well done year 7s!





LITERACY CORNER

Welcome to our first edition of Literacy Corner for this academic year.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our book reviewers from last year. Our year 6 contributors were Joyce, Alleyan and Deneise and our year 8 reviewers were Nana, Sienna-Rose, Liesel and Phoebe. They were all rewarded with a certificate and some books for their hard work and dedication at the end of last term.



*** We are on the look out for new secondary book reviewers for this year. Please speak to Mrs Fields in the LRC to find out more about what the role involves ***

Year 6 into Year 7 Summer Reading Challenge

Thank you to all those new year 7 pupils who submitted an entry into the summer reading challenge. Books and certificates have been awarded to the following pupils for their fabulous entries:

7R1 Matthew Gerald

7R1 Orin Nelson-Bradford

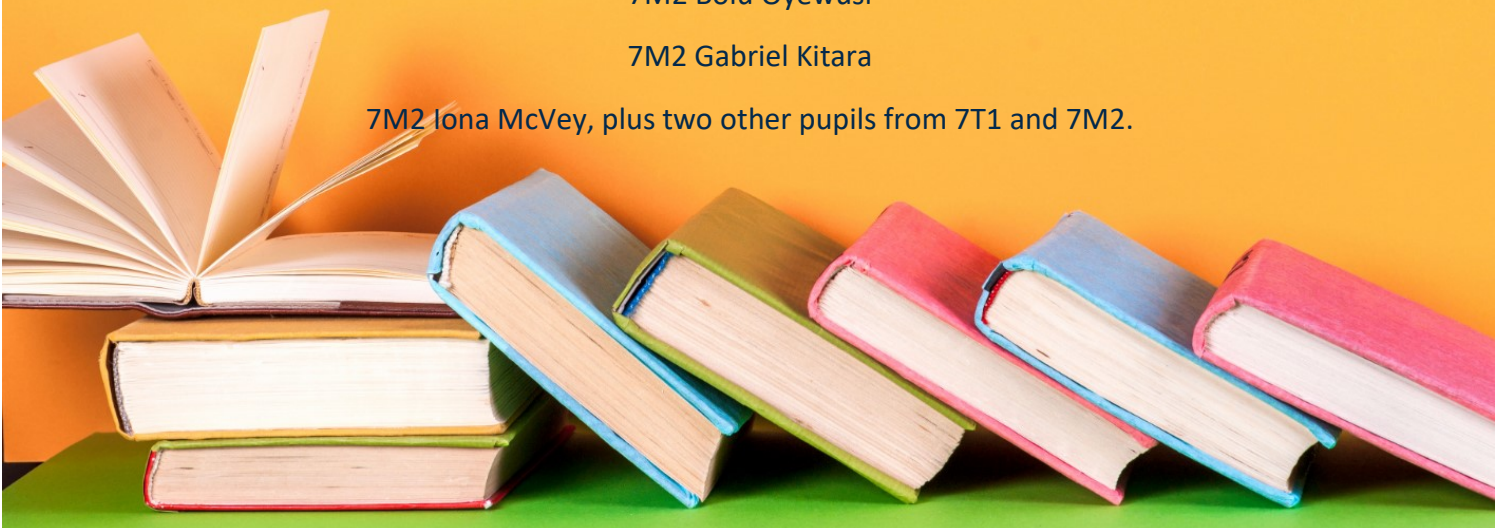
7R1 Paddy Bradley

7T2 Praise Newton-Osagie

7M2 Bolu Oyewusi

7M2 Gabriel Kitara

7M2 Iona McVey, plus two other pupils from 7T1 and 7M2.





BOOK REVIEWS



'The book of stolen dreams' by David Farr for KS2.

A daughter and son, Rachel and Robert, are on the run with a stolen book given to them by their librarian father. They must protect the stolen book, uncover its secrets and track down the final missing page. The two children are both so determined, smart and courageous. They need to keep the book out of the hands of the cruel Charles Malstain. 3 stars.

'The map of leaves' by Yarrow Townsend for KS2.

Since Ma died, Orla has lived alone in a woodshed. Orla is trying to find a cure for the sickness her mother had. She sets off with her mother's book of plants and remedies and steals a boat with two other stowaways, Idris and Ariana. My favourite part of the story is when Orla and her friends were on the boat because it was really sweet. 3.5 stars.



'Emi's curly, coily, cotton candy hair' by Tina Olajide for KS1

This book is about a girl who loves her hair. The story shares positive messages about her curly, coily, cotton candy hair. Emi was my favourite character, as I liked how she could solve problems and express her emotions. I liked how they included every detail in the story when Emi and her mum were styling her hair. 5 stars.

For KS1 'The Proudest Blue' by Ibtihaj Muhammad.

'The Proudest Blue' is about two sisters and the younger sister, Faizah is inspired by her older sister and how beautiful and confident she looks in her hijab. My favourite part of the story was when Asiya was first picking out her hijab and how inspired her younger sister was. My favourite character was Asiya and how confident she was in her hijab even though some people were laughing. 4.5 stars.



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during the month

Reception - Ladybirds

Zachary HALLPIKE

Abdullah AKINKUNMI

Noah IGBOKWE

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Abel MOORE

Olivia OGBUKU

Unique MANSARAY

Year 2 - Butterfly

Marian AKINKUMNI

Angel OLENGA

Khaleb FRANCIS

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Maisie HAMILTON

Amaya WATSON-KHAN

Tigerlily LEIGHTON

Year 4 - Tigers

Anne Marie France NTOUMBA

Deborah OMASOMBO

Yasmin GRIFFITH-WILLIAMS

Year 5 - Lions

Chelsea ABEKOUA

Emily FERRO FERNANDES

Kesha CHURAKOV

Year 6 - Leopards

Bella CODREA

Valentine CHAZA

Matia DALEY

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars



Mr Afolabi

“For throwing himself into his new role and adapting to any challenges that arose.”



Mr Magar

“For a fabulous start at SMA proving himself to be a leader & bringing the pastoral team together.”



Ms Ahima

“For being a wonderful Director of Learning for her year group.”

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Ms Chick supported by Mr Gunningham (secondary) and Mr Magar (secondary), and our Child Protection Officer is Ms Dryden. Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child?

You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

- Lewisham MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) **020 8314 6660**
- Or call **999** or **101** if you believe a child is in immediate danger
- Childline **0800 11 11** www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk

Term Dates 23/24

Autumn Term Dates

Tuesday 5 September 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023

Half Term: Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023

Monday 30 October 2023 to Wednesday 20 December 2023

Christmas Holiday: Thursday 21 December to Monday 8 January

Spring Term Dates

Tuesday 9 January 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February

Monday 19 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024

Easter Holiday: Friday 29 March 2024 to Friday 12 April 2024

Summer Term Dates

Monday 15 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May

Monday 3 June 2024 to Tuesday 23 July 2024

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk

Please include in the schools magazine and share with the Parents Association

Free Home Fire Safety Visits

A fire can start in any room and the effects can be devastating, even a small fire in your home can lead to substantial damage and expensive repairs. LFB wants to stop fires from happening and that is why we offer free home fire safety visits to help keep you and your loved ones safe.

What happens during a home fire safety visit ?

Our firefighters or trained staff will visit you at home, at a time suits you and carry out a risk assessment. They will give you advice based on your home and individual needs, this includes; information on how to prevent fires, the importance of smoke alarms to detect a fire and your escape plan in the event of a fire.

A visit can take up to 90 minutes or longer if needed and we will fit free smoke alarms if required.

Specialist alarms can be fitted for people who may have a delayed response to escape for example; strobe light and vibrating pad alarms for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

How to book a Home Fire Safety Visit:

Freephone: 0800 028 4428
Email: smokealarms@londonfire.gov.uk
Text /SMS: 07860 021 319

Worried about a relative, friend or neighbour ? Although everyone is eligible for a free home fire safety visit, some people with health problems or lifestyle behaviours have an increased chance of a fire happening. To help you we have listed some of these examples below:

- **Increased risk factors can include:**
Anyone that smokes; overloaded electrical sockets or poor wiring; unsafe use of candles or naked flames; previous fires or near misses; cooking left unattended; hoarding of any kind or someone who lives alone.
- **They are less able to react because of:**
Mental health conditions such as dementia or learning difficulties; no smoke alarms are fitted or they don't work; alcohol dependency or drug misuse (prescribed or recreational); physical health issues including sensory impairments eg; hearing or sight.
- **They have a reduced ability to escape:**
Mobility issues due to a physical disability; age-related problems or as a result of a long-term illness; escape routes are not kept clear or are blocked due to actions such as hoarding or conditions that affect decision making.

If you know anyone who has **any combination of these risk factors**, give them our details to arrange a free home fire safety visit or simply ask them if they would like you to book a visit for them.

Remember This is not an exhaustive list, if you are unsure please contact us for extra advice.