

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Pupils have had a remarkably successful first half term at SMA and this is testament to all the hard work happening inside and outside of the classroom. Year 11 pupils have had multiple 6th Forms, Colleges, Apprenticeship providers and various other future pathway options come and speak to them at the annual Year 11 post-16 event this Thursday here at SMA. It was great to see and hear from some of our Alumni who shared their journeys since leaving SMA and getting onto such successful pathways. Year 8 pupils also had a great & fruitful week of assessments with around half of the year group leaving on Friday morning for a jam-packed weekend of activities, team building and fun at PGL Windmill Hill in Hailsham.

Mathematical skills are key not just in school but in everyday life. Whether we are in the supermarket figuring out the best value deals or making key decisions in business or household bills, our numeracy is always key in making the best decision. We recognise the importance of this at SMA so we ensure pupils leave with the best set of skills to be confident inside and outside of the classroom with their numeracy. Sparx maths is the online platform that pupils use to complete their maths homework, revision and closing gaps of forgotten prior knowledge. We encourage parents and carers to discuss Sparx maths with their children and to monitor their engagement with Sparx on a weekly basis. An effective way of doing this is to talk about their XP boost points on Sparx and see the progression over time.

Culture day was unfortunately postponed due to the severe weather warnings on Friday the 20th of October, this has been re-arranged for Thursday the 23rd of November. There are some really exciting activities planned for pupils on this day and we really look forward to all pupils participating, learning about each other's cultures and having an educational and enjoyable day.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and pupils that I have met so far since my start in September, you have all been extremely welcoming and I look forward to meeting more of you throughout the school year.

F Magar
Deputy Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

This week the Catholic Church celebrated the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. They are both days which we set aside to focus on, remember and pray for the Church Triumphant and The Church Penitent. These are the saints in heaven who already enjoy the beatific vision of our Lord and our dearly departed who are awaiting their triumph in purgatory. It is the link between heaven and earth. We pray for the penitent whilst we ask the triumphant to pray for us. Through the celebration of these two days we understand and are comforted by the fact that death is not the finality of us, but rather a new and beautiful beginning where we get to live in God's home. It is what we as The Church Militant strive for daily by being good and faithful servants.

Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints. I desire to join in their company, worshiping you forever in Heaven. Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours. Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did. Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours. Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.



Primary News

Breakfast

Breakfast around the World is back in primary! On Thursday 19th October, breakfast club celebrated different cultures by sampling their traditional breakfast and learning about their country and traditions. The children had lots to choose from and enjoyed it so much they came back for some more.



Year 3

The children have had a brilliant start to the academic year, they have written a diary entry about a stone age child as well as an explanation text on how to prevent climate change. The children wrote on used scrap paper and card to show how materials can be reused in art instead of being thrown away, they are becoming more confident with writing independently. Whilst studying the Stone Age the children became hunter-gatherers and searched for food around the Academy, they also created their own incredible pieces of cave art using charcoal and oil pastels which look lovely on our classroom display. In Science, they had fun using sweets and bread to observe how fossils are formed over time. In particular the class have really enjoyed their Maths lessons, which was reflected in their Autumn arithmetic paper scores.



Secondary Trips

Business Trip

On Thursday 19th October, Year 11 attended a workshop on customer profiling at the Museum of Branding in Ladbroke Grove. The workshop was designed to make pupils focus on market segmentation and how profiling customers can help brands, focus their marketing to customers.

Pupils worked in small groups to profile different products and design a presentation, which they then delivered to the Museum staff and their peers. They used a variety of skills alongside using business terminology to explain marketing decisions - teamwork, confident pitching and collaboration, resulted in interesting and amusing pitches that displayed a high degree of analysis that pupils will, for sure, carry back into the classroom and utilise in the summer public exams.

After the workshop, pupils were invited to explore the remarkable story of how our consumer society has evolved since Victorian times. In this journey of discovery, pupils were able to see their favourite brands in a historical context - they were able to see royal coronations, two world wars, man landing on the moon and right up to the digital age and the impact of these on brands.



KPMG Trip

As part of the culmination of Black History Month Year 11 pupils were invited to KPMG's African & Caribbean Network event which brought together a diverse group of leaders, ambassadors and champions including Kenny Imafidon entrepreneur, author, and social commentator and John McCalla-Leacy the Global Head of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) at KPMG, and ESG Vice Chairman for KPMG in the UK.

As part of the evening, Kenny shared his story where he focused on:

- **Mentorship** - The importance of supporting, guiding and empowering growth and developing skills to advance careers
- **Resilience** - How to cope with, and overcome challenges or recover from personal or professional setbacks
- **Authenticity** - Being true to your values and background, being honest with others and being the champion of your own journey



Throughout the evening pupils were able to mingle and network with a number of black professionals from all walks of life. They all left feeling inspired and motivated to take their next steps in life. All pupils received a signed copy and personal message of Kenny's book 'That Peckham Boy.'

Secondary Trips

Champions of Inclusion Trip – Civic Suite



The Young Mayor and Young Advisors programme offers opportunities to attend a set of events to explore and participate in activities to support and celebrate young people in the borough. Our form reps attended and the first theme of the year focussed on Disabilities.

Form rep of 9M1:

"In our Champions of inclusion trip, we discussed about disabilities within our community. We learnt about different disabilities that many people have, how to socialise with special needs students, and how to respect people with disabilities. We can implement these ideas into school by either hosting a talk between these students to help them feel more

included, or starting a club for special needs people to socialise with others with special needs (and or other people so that they don't feel left out and cause mental health issues within our communities)".

Form rep of 7R2:

*"In are champions of inclusion trip, we done a lot of activities and we learnt about different disabilities and we learnt about all the things there are to do to help young people in Lewisham . I can now go tell my friends about all these Opportunities around Lewisham and to encourage them to get involved, like the **Bank of Things** based in Lewisham Centre".*

Form rep of 9T1:

"We had a Champions of Inclusion workshop by Lewisham council where we had lots of fun playing Ice-breakers and having very crucial and beneficial discussions about being included by the borough. We learnt to socialize and interact with special needs children and lots of fun games and things we could do to help Include peoples' differences and young advisors. Incorporating what we've learnt, I think we should have a whole week on inclusion at school. This could include PowerPoints, workshops, displays and maybe even a PSHE lesson".

Form rep of 9R1:

"Today I have learnt, first how children and people with different disabilities think and take in information. I also learnt how many of the celebrities we know today have hidden disabilities, but don't let it get in the way of their passions. An example of this could be how Theresa may has autism, but still perused her passion of being a PM. Today I made badges out of paper, which was very creative and fun. I also played games with a mixture of kid's with and without special needs. I can now use these learning experiences of how pupils with disabilities think and act, and i can now be more mindful of certain things that could make them uncomfortable. We could also do an assembly on this so more pupils around the school are can be informed and behave in the correct way. This could also be good for teachers if for example they had a kid who liked to disrupt the class, but actually suffered with something like ADHD. The teacher could then learn how to deal with the student more effectively".

Form rep of 7T1:

"Today we spoke about diversity and how we can include people that have disabilities of all kinds. At first, we played a few games to break the ice between everyone but once we were comfortable, we played a game based on debating about different statements and shared our opinions".





LITERACY CORNER

Well done to all our Sora Superstars for last month. Nine pupils across years 7, 9 & 10 read for a total of 52 hours between them!



Remembrance day in the LRC

New primary books!





BOOK REVIEWS

SECONDARY PHASE

A warm welcome to Malo from year 7 who read and reviewed the 'Diver's daughter' by Patrice Lawrence.

Rating: 9 out of 10.

This book is a sorrowful story with a happy ending. Eve and her mother are homeless in a time of hardship and despair, sometimes finding work and a warm bed, and sometimes not. Suddenly, they are tossed into a world of fantasised treasure, as they meet Mr George Symons, a ruthless man who wants to make his fortune. Eve's mama can dive like an Olympic champion, or as Mr Symons describes it, like a porpoise, and he wants to use her gift. A year after King Henry's favoured boat, the Mary Rose, sank in Portsmouth, another

boat, the Sancta Maria and Sanctus Edwardus, carrying a rich cargo, foundered close to Southampton and Mr Symons wants Eve's mama to dive for the fabled treasure. Our two main characters meet many saddening hardships along the way. Now in Southampton working for Widow Primmer, Eve finds and meets the mysterious Jacques Francis, an exceptional diver. Finally, Eve triumphs over the monster, George Symons as he tries to do something that may or may not bring Eve's world crashing down.

I loved this book because it is so easy to sympathise with Eve. This book is a great reminder that everyone is equal, even though some people are not treated that way.



Malo also read and reviewed 'Until the road ends' a new book by Phil Earle.

This is a tragic tale of unconditional love, never-ending bravery and a sliver of hope when it seems all is lost.

Beau (short for Beautiful), a dog who never gives up looking for his girl, Peggy, when they need each other most. Bomber, a courageous pigeon with big hopes and dreams of becoming a high-ranking army official. And Mabel, a sassy yet loving cat, who sticks by Beau's side the whole way and is an important member of the team. The three undertake a perilous journey to be with the people they love. They face a whole load of blood-thirsty foxhounds, an angry pack of dirty rats, living in the dilapidated train station and the looming threat of Hitler, bombs and things included. Bomber shows off his extreme bravery, as he sacrifices himself to prevent Beau and Mabel getting bombed by a Nazi plane, dropping bombs to lighten the load on its way back to Germany.

I would recommend this book to readers who like heart-warming stories about sorrowful things because when you read about empathetic things in this book, you can actually feel their emotions. Their despair, their happiness, their whatever! I would not change this book at all! Well done Phil! 10 out of 10.



Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during October

Year 7	Yousef ELHUSSEINE 7M2 Edward DOW 7T2 Elijah MARGAI 7T1 Precious IRABOR 7M2 Abigail JACOME ASQUI 7M1	Year 8	Vladyslav STEPANIUK 8M1 Georgina DICKSON 8M1 Ian AUGUSTINE 8T1 Jeremiah OWEN 8R1 Timon GUBIJEVS 8T3
Year 9	Michael TRAORE 9M3 Wahkare BLACK 9T1 Jessey UMUNNAKWE 9T2 Kaylah MCLARTY 9T1 Ademide OYELEYE 9M3	Year 10	Yaroslav NENYCH 10R1 Crystal BOWLING 10T1 Abdul KOMEH 10R1 Shumsana NANTHAKUMAR 10R2 Jahbarrie WATSON 10M1
Year 11	Matthew ADEGBOLA 11MEN Lase OYEWUSI 11MEN Ayomide ODUNOREN 11EED	Gift OMOREGBEE 11KDE Ryan ABU 11KDE	

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars



Mr Cann

“For all his hard work in helping with the library security system.”



Ms Pink

“For always being a supportive member of the team.”



Ms Gordon

“For always caring and checking on members of staff.”

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 Chick
Head of Primary



Mr Gunningham
Senior Assistant Headteacher



Ms Dryden
Child Protection Officer



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.



Parents & Carers

Exploitation, Gangs & Knife Crime Awareness

The Ben Kinsella Trust are pleased to release brand new dates of this popular UK wide online workshop!

Parenting children and young adults is hard, sometimes it can be scary and overwhelming with news stories and social media influencing how safe we feel our children are and the risks they may face in today's climate.

Join this FREE workshop on **Thursday 16th November & Thursday 23rd November (7pm-9pm)** on Zoom to learn more about what is regular teenager behaviour or what might be signs that a young person is being groomed or exploited.

Anyone can book on, whether you're a parent, carer, neighbour or professional who supports young people.

Click the link <https://benkinsella.org.uk/parents-carers-workshops/> to book your space!