



ST. MATTHEW'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Voluntary Academy

07 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

At the end of another term, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to work together to improve standards at St Matthew's.

Once again, the end of term newsletter will showcase the many wonderful things that take place at St Matthew's day in, day out. This will be available electronically and will be sent separately via Edulink. We are blessed with teachers, teaching assistants, and business support staff who constantly strive for excellence in their work. In turn, so many of our students respond to this by following our respect agenda, using their manners and being the best version of themselves daily. It continues to be a privilege to lead our community.

When we return after the holidays, this drive for excellence will continue. Please continue to support your child by ensuring they attend school on time, every day, in full school uniform. This is a non-negotiable requirement of our school. Our teachers will all return to departmental bases after the holiday, ensuring they are able to start every lesson on time. Students will be challenged if they are late to learning. Please support us with this.

Furthermore, our year 11 students will be embarking upon their final three weeks of studies before beginning their GCSE examinations. They have been working so hard up to this point. We have seen big changes in their attitudes to learning and in the way they have prepared so far. This will play a big part in ensuring they secure college places, apprenticeships or jobs post 16. Thank you to the year 11 families for supporting our achievement strategy. Our students will only succeed if we continue to work in partnership up to their final examination.

Despite celebrating the great things that happen at St Matthew's every single day, we have recently been made aware of external online abuse being directed towards students and in some cases towards the school community as a whole. It is for this reason that we continue to have a mobile device ban across the school every day. Can I please urge you all to be extra vigilant with your child's social media activities. Please consider what they follow, what they post and what they are commenting on. Our pastoral teams spend a lot of their time unpicking actions that have started with unkind social media activity, that inevitably makes its way back into school. Please support us as we continue to enact our mobile device ban, and keep our children safe from online distress.

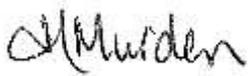
Equally, I must ask parents/carers not to engage with social media that is derogatory towards the school. If you have concerns about any aspect of school life, please use the contact email (contact@smrchs.com) and these concerns will be addressed by the appropriate member of staff. Recent, unkind and untrue comments made about the school have sparked unnecessary upset amongst staff and students. These actions distract us from our core business and are not in keeping with our wider mission.

After Easter, we will continue on our journey of improvement. We must work together to share our good news regularly. In addition to the end of term newsletter, please follow our Twitter or Instagram pages for accurate, up to date information regarding our successes.

The young people in our community deserve to attend a great school, where they are surrounded by Gospel values, and where they are well supported to be ready to leave us at the end of year 11. Working in partnership, we must ensure that all our attention is placed on making this happen.

May I wish you and your families a very happy Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Murden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mrs Murden
Headteacher