



**ST. MATTHEW'S**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
Voluntary Academy

Friday 21 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As we are now settled into our new term, I would like to give you some updates about our work, as we continue on our journey towards Catholic excellence.

Firstly, our annual 'Advent' appeal for the wider community was most impressive. Your generosity in helping us make this a success has not gone unnoticed. We have received many cards and messages of thanks from people who received the shoe boxes. This is definitely the true 'St Matthew's Way' in action. Thank you.

Onto school business, and this term we have introduced the concepts of 'Routines, Rewards and Responsibility' to all students and staff. I have described this as a 'line in the sand' moment. After all the disruption from Covid lockdowns, it is time to make sure that the many improvements we have introduced and worked on across the school become embedded now into daily practice.

A significant change has been the introduction of the daily line up. Each day begins with students lining up outside in their form groups. This new routine is repeated after breaktime and again after lunchtime, and is proving to be a successful way of ensuring students are calmly returning to learning after unstructured times of the day. Students are still getting used to this. I know this will take more practice, but we are all committed to making this work. Please support us in your discussions at home.

We are continuing to insist on high standards of attendance, punctuality, uniform and conduct around school. So many students are meeting these expectations now, which is testimony to the home-school partnership that is growing across the community. Thank you.

Many thanks to those parents who alerted us that contacting the school by telephone was proving hard to do. In response to this, we have improved our front desk facility for managing the phone lines.

The best way to keep up to date with messages from school is via the Edulink App which has been live now for well over a year. Parents who use this regularly tell us that this is a big improvement on previous communication methods. If you are not using Edulink, please ensure you log in so that you can keep updated with key messages.

This half term is an important one for our year 11 students who are working towards their second set of 'Pre-Public Examinations.' They will be the first cohort of students to sit formal examinations in 2 years. I recommend that our year 11 students, together with their families, understand the expectations across all subjects and attend any lesson 6 that they are invited to.

This is also an important half term for our year 9 students, who begin the process of choosing their GCSE options. Over the coming weeks, there will be many times when information is shared with students and

their families. I encourage you all to gather as much information as you can. An important event is the Year 9 Options evening, which will take place on **Thursday 17th February from 4pm – 6pm**. During this evening, students and their families will be able to visit all subjects to understand the expectations required during year 10 and year 11. This is always a successful event which enables students to make informed choices about their future pathway at KS4.

To conclude, there is no doubt that this term will see the greatest number of changes since we began our journey of school improvement. Therefore, it is so important that we work together in partnership. Young people need to hear consistent messages as they understand why these changes are taking place. Working together in partnership, I am confident we can achieve excellence.

Many thanks for your ongoing support

Mrs Murden  
Headteacher