



ST. MATTHEW'S
Roman Catholic High School

We Pray, We Care, We Achieve

August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach September, I am writing to you all as we prepare for our new term. A new school year is a time of optimism, fresh starts and renewed focus. This year, I intend to build upon the foundations of success and high expectations we established in my first year as Headteacher at St Matthew's RC High School.

These high standards begin at home. The relationship between parent and child is the single most important factor in a child's education. I value your support highly. As such, I have enclosed the 'Expectations booklet' with this letter, outlining the high standards we all seek to develop in our learners. Please read it carefully with your child, since it will provide valuable information as you prepare together for September.

For existing families within the school, you may notice some key changes to the school day and to the uniform expectations. From September, we will be moving to 'one lunchtime' and a consistent 'one week timetable'. Furthermore, after a successful 'trial period' before the holidays, all students have been informed that mobile phones must not be seen or heard in school at any time. These changes will improve the learning experience, social time and extracurricular opportunities for our students. Our core business remains to be 'Teaching, Learning and Achievement'. These changes will ensure that learning and achievement are maximised.

You may also notice an emphasis in the booklet on attendance at school. I cannot stress this enough. I ask for your full support in ensuring your child is in school every day, on time and ready to learn.

From an operational perspective, in order to ensure more efficient processes around cash payments in school, we will be fully implementing our 'Parent Pay' system from September. A letter is enclosed which explains how this will work. Please read these instructions carefully with your child, since they will affect your child's daily routine.

As I'm sure you will appreciate, in order to ensure our school is ready for September, there has been a great deal of work completed over the summer from our wonderful support staff who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes. I would like to thank them formally for their work.

As a parent and as a school leader I believe these are exciting times for St Matthew's. I know that the work we are doing is exactly what you would expect and want from a good school: strong uniform, high expectations around standards of learning and behaviour, with a significant emphasis on attendance and punctuality.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the warmth of your support last year, and I ask for your support again this coming year. Together we will continue to improve St Matthew's as a place of work, prayer and care, and take pride in our wonderful community of staff and pupils.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Helen Murden
Headteacher