



# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 8 Friday 03 November 2023

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to congratulate both you and your children on a successful first week back after the half-term break. It has been an absolute pleasure to visit the classrooms this week and witness so many students deeply engaged in their learning. Your support and commitment to their education are truly appreciated.

Despite the wet weather, it's always a bit of a challenge when we can't spend as much of our lunch and break time outside. Nevertheless, your children have adapted remarkably well and continued to show enthusiasm for their studies.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all parents who have ensured their children arrive at school promptly by 8.25 am, ready for the start of the day at 8.30 am. While most students are doing a fantastic job with punctuality, we have noticed that some are still struggling to arrive on time. Please know that we are here to support and work closely with these families to help them overcome this challenge and make sure no learning time is lost.

In this week's gospel from St. Matthew, we are reminded of the value of humility: "Being humble helps us share the problems of others. When we live humbly, God takes our small efforts and creates great things," as Pope Francis beautifully put it. It is a value we hold dear at our school, and we encourage our students to embrace it in their daily lives.

Once again, congratulations to both you and your children on a wonderful start to the term. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to their education. Together, we can help them achieve great things.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and a fantastic upcoming week.

God bless

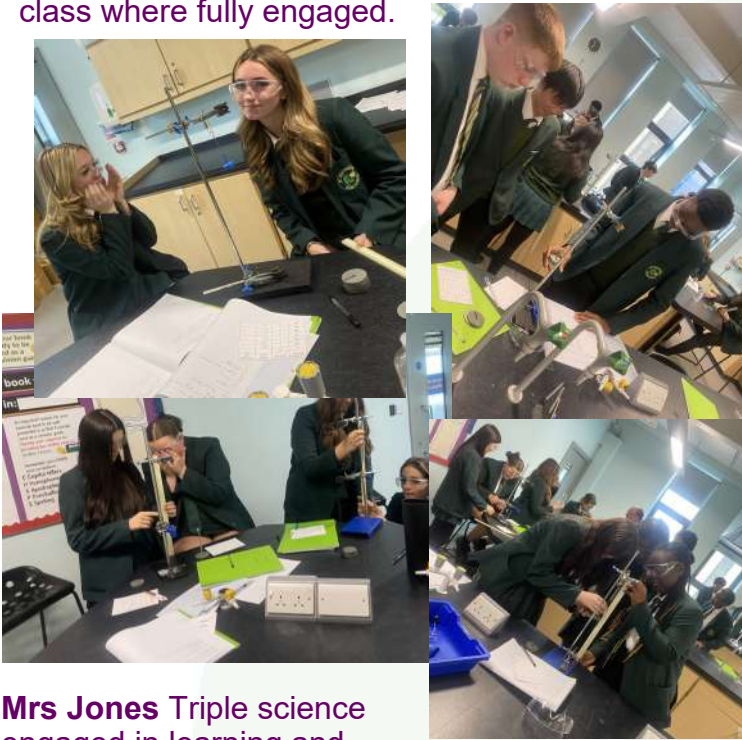


## Year 11

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ ♦ **Natasha** ☆☆
- ☆☆ ♦ **Shaymaa** ☆☆
- ☆☆ ♦ **Noh** ☆☆
- ☆☆ ♦ **Alicia** ☆☆
- ☆☆ ♦ **Evie** ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Focus on Science ...

**Mr Greens** Class focusing on resistance. All the class were fully engaged.



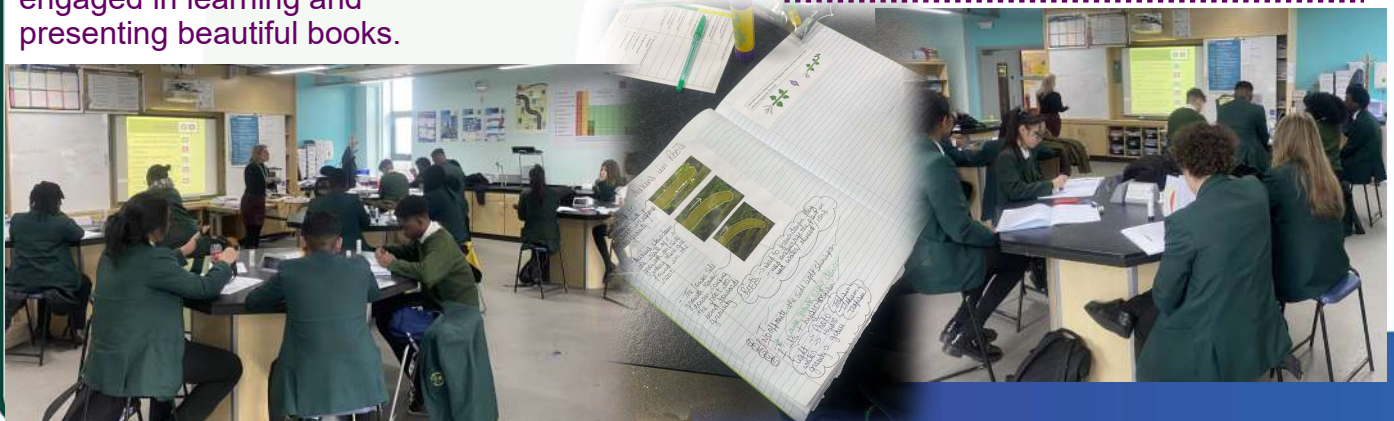
**Mrs Jones** Triple science engaged in learning and presenting beautiful books.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week is  
**Mrs Lee's form - 11H**  
**Well done!**

### This Weeks Teacher Shout Outs...

- ♦ Mr Higgs - shout outs Issac B and Taylor J for their excellent coursework.
- ♦ Mrs Garman - shout outs 11X2 she says after a rocky start they have significantly improved I am so proud of them and how far we have come. Special mention to Leah, Yolanda, Lily, Dria, Ikponwosa, Keira, Matthew, Darcie and Tope keep up the good work !
- ♦ Mr Robinson - shout outs Olumide and Lexi-Mai in 11Y5 both keeping focused and showing independence and maturity!
- ♦ Miss Elliott - shout outs 11A for an amazing start in the component 2 assessment! Special mention to Chana who has shown massive dedication to the course.





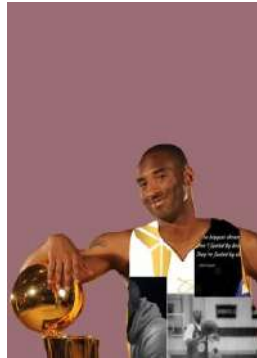
## Year 10

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ **Top 5 Achievers** ★
- ★ Honey C ★
- ★ Prosper OM ★
- ★ Anthony O ★
- ★ Divine O ★
- ★ Richard B ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Highest attending forms this week**  
**10CSm —10F with a fantastic 97.92% attendance**  
**Well done!**

**Inspired by black history month** - some amazing photography edits by Ilyas, Lucas, Nived and Meya inspired by black artist Lorna Simpson .



### This Weeks Teacher Shout Outs...

#### Miss Richards - Shout out

For Ollie from 10G who is completely up to date in her art sketchbook and is always pushing to improve and add extra experimentation/ pieces of art into her book. She has shown great effort and engagement in art GCSE so far!

#### Miss Harrison- Shout out

for 10y5 consistent good effort from this group – especially Nokutenda! Well done! Keep it up and thank you for being such a pleasure to teach.

Y10 made an impressive start this week with a revision lesson and the completion of their first checkpoint assessment on Catholic Beliefs and Teachings. Y10 continue their excellent start to GCSE RE. Look out in next weeks round up for the results and the lesson on improving their answers.

Leah did amazing today, she'd never learnt this either so incredible progress. She highlighted everything because she was so proud! Well done from Mr Robinson



Students from Year 10 group B all produced really nice Soda Bread with spring onion, rosemary and Feta cheese this week.

Mr George is super proud of the focus of those in class.





# Highlights of the week

## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers**
- Divine A
  - Ruby H
  - Faith
  - Ewa
  - Elizabeth
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

9J were creating their own Domino Effect using stationery and other equipment to explain how the Cosmological Argument leads to a belief in God. 9J picked up where they left off from last half term with outstanding attitude to learning and engagement in the lesson. Mr. Hall loves teaching this class and is looking forward to the next unit of work this term.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form is 9H

Very Well Done !

Mrs King is extremely proud of you all.

### This Weeks Teacher Shout Outs...

#### Mr Murphy - Shout out

9G Science

- Jasper - answered the questions on atomic theory in full sentences
- Florence - for presentation and attention to detail
- Beyonce - clarity for States of Matter Work
- Scarlett - for the improvement shown in the last two weeks

#### Mrs Harrison- Shout out

to 9A. They are working really hard at the moment in science and they are a pleasure to teach every lesson. They all performed excellently on the recent end of unit test. Thanks 9A, keep it up!

Well done year 9 making Macaroni cheese in Mrs Lee's lesson. Looks fantastic!!



Mr Robinson, Mrs King and Miss Rossi are extremely proud of year 9. The comments we are receiving back from your teachers are amazing, Keep up the good work.

Mrs Callinson has been very impressed with her year 9 students this week, a great start



## Year 8

### Top 5 Achievers

- \* Increase I
- \* Goodluck O
- \* Eliezer N
- \* Felicia A
- \* Charlotte F

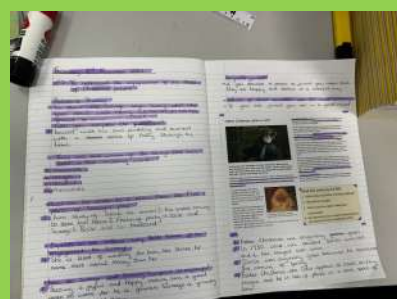
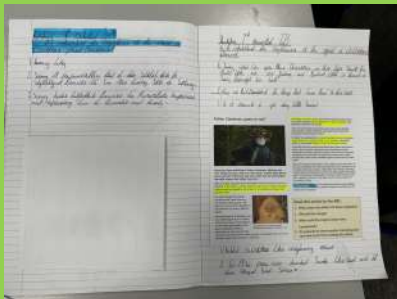
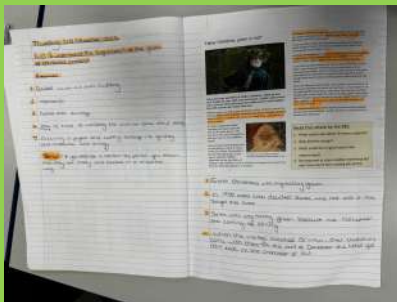
## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest Attending Form is 8A again with a fantastic 97% attendance.

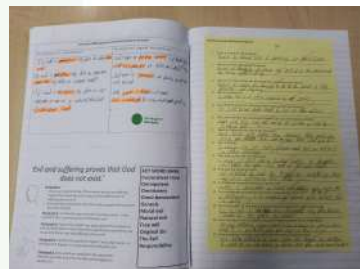
98 students in year 8 with 100% attendance.

Lets keep improving on these numbers Year 8  
Miss Travis is a very proud Head Of Year.

8J have really impressed Mrs Garman with their beautifully presented books and the standard of work completed. Special shout outs this week go to Christy, Charmaine and Angel. Justin also blew me away this week when he produced three pages of work in a single English lesson! Keep it up 8J - you truly are remarkable!



8 have been doing well in their crazy patch work and pillow making so far in textiles with



### This Weeks Teacher Shout Outs...

**Mr. Walton-Whitelock's**

- for computing
- Lennie B, Ocean-Dawn H
- Jake M, Harez S
- Confidence O, Desmond O
- Alexandria I, Hossana C,
- Ruby-Ann K, Mahruk S and
- Charmaine M

**Ms Mirza** - shouts out for my form who were excellent during reading this week no one disrupted they all were listening. I am very pleased with 8H behaviour

**Mr. Murphy**- Well done for having the best attendance in Year 8 last week. Also seeing 8G in their Math's lesson with Mrs Hogan was lovely as so many pupils have PRIDE in their classwork, they showed it to their Form Tutor including Darcie-Mae, Mikalah and Ayomide.

**Ms Callison 8E**- Amazing progress and work seen in 8E's French lesson. Look at the amount of AP's they all received well done!

**Mr Hall**- 8B made an excellent start to the term with some outstanding score on their checkpoints. Pupils were fully engaged with their revision which resulted in some brilliant results. Mr. Hall is really looking forward to seeing the amazing work they will produce this half term. This is Ashley's checkpoint what great work.



## Year 7

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Top 5 Achievers

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Natan D
- ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Apiphany P
- ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Jael-Marie A
- ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Joan A
- ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Freddie B
- ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Highest attending form is 7E 100%

Form of the week 7B

123 students with 100% attendance

Well done Year 7 ! A Proud Mr Johnston, Mrs Rolt and Miss Lennon

Mr Johnston would like to give a huge shout out to Year 7 for an outstanding start to half-term 2. Your exceptional behaviour, positive attitude to all aspects of learning and high attendance are truly commendable. It has been a PRIVILEGE to see so many of you return to school focused and happy. Keep up the fantastic work!

Well done from Mrs Garman to Crystabel and Chika from 7G who won a signed copy of Kicked Out in our English lesson today. They both read aloud beautifully, with great pace and expression.



Miss Elliott's first weekly top art award winner is:

Freya H form 7F



7D have been wonderful working hard on their classwork. Helping each other out. I am pleased with each individual! Miss Mirza  
Shout out from Miss O'Donnell to Mitchell Heavens who was so encouraging and supportive to one of his classmates this week when they were low in confidence and doubting their ability! What a star!

Jnae Edwards  
Jael Marie  
Agyeman

for excellent Art course work.  
Well done from Mr Higgs

7X working hard in Mr Higgs





## Beehive

In our Year 7 Beehive group, we have been learning all about Beowulf as part of our English unit on Myths and Legends. The students spent some time reading about how Beowulf defeated Grendel then they worked in groups to act out the key scenes!



A very proud  
Head of Beehive,  
Miss Tilbury.  
Well done year  
7!!

## Maximising Achievement

### Maximising Achievement Focus KS3

This week and next week is our Maximising Achievement focus for Year 7-9. This is following our first Effort and Engagement data for this year. We have started this focus with an assembly about habits and what our actions say about us. Pupils have been asked to reflect on their habits and actions and think about how they impact on their achievement.

**Every action (habit) is a vote for the type of person we wish to become.**  
**What do YOUR actions say about the type of person YOU want to become?**

We have celebrated our top 3 classes with the best overall effort and engagement scores, individuals who have a score between 1 and 1.2 and our most improved pupils in each year group. These pupils will all be receiving a reward from their Year team and a letter of recognition sent home.



## Effort and Engagement – Class Averages



Well done to  
Top 3 forms for E&E



1<sup>ST</sup> Place

2<sup>ND</sup> Place

3<sup>RD</sup> Place



We Pray · We Care · We Achieve

## Effort and Engagement – Class Averages



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## Effort and Engagement – Class Averages



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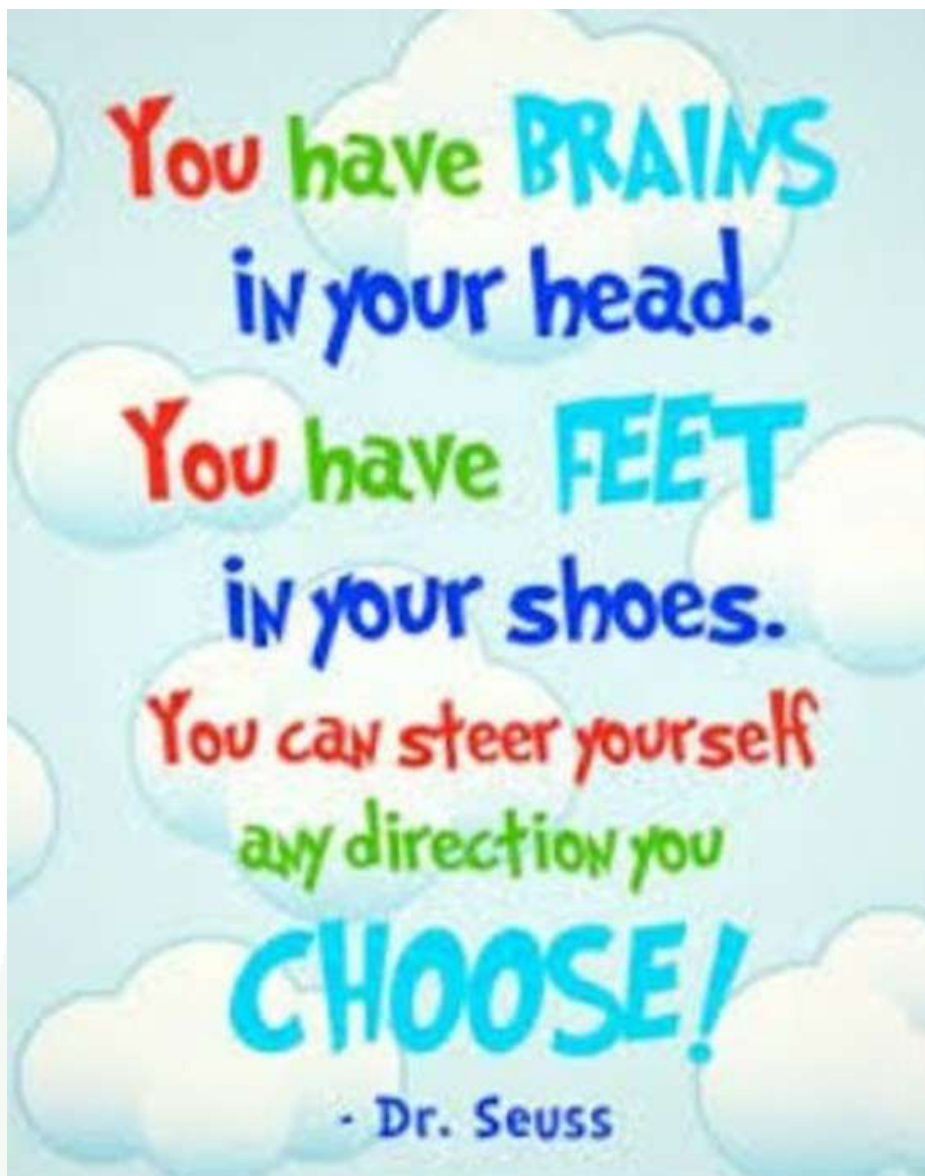




## Maximising Achievement

Next week pupils will be setting themselves targets based on their report and challenging themselves to improve their scores for their next data drop in February.

Mrs Walsh and the KS3 team are very proud of your achievements. Keep up the hard work, and remember...





As we begin this new half term together we thank God for the many blessings given to us over the holidays and we ask God to bless these upcoming weeks together. The Gospel reading from Mass last Sunday told us that the greatest commandment is that "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and that the next commandment is similar: "You must love your neighbour as yourself." As a school community we have made that our prayer for this week and this half term: we want to love God and in doing so to love each other.



As we all know, this week has included Halloween and in form time we watched a video explaining the Christian roots of this now-secular holiday. Halloween is the day before "All Saints' Day" which is also known as All Hallows, from where we get the name Halloween. Halloween, All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day combine to make three days where we think about and pray about

the dead: we celebrate all the saints who are in Heaven and we pray for those who have died asking God to forgive them of their sins and faults and to welcome them into His presence forever. We were inspired on Wednesday by the words of Pope Francis, who said that "The Saints are not superheroes, they were not born perfect. They are like each one of us... and spent their lives serving others... spreading joy and peace. Being holy is not a privilege for the few... Holiness is a vocation for everyone."



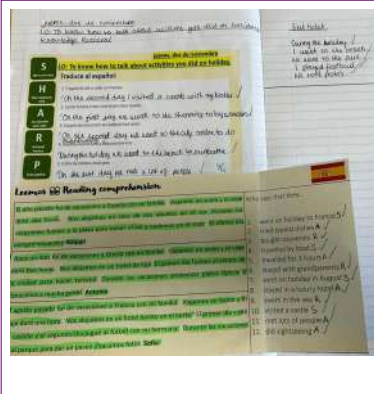
November is the month of the Holy Souls and so during this month we pray for all those who have died, but it is also the month where we remember in a particular way those who have suffered and given their lives in armed conflicts throughout the world. Preparations are well underway to mark Remembrance Day next week with many of our Year 7, 8, and 9 students writing their own prayers for peace on poppies which will decorate the

school building. Staff have been truly inspired by the prayers for peace that our young people have written.

**Wishing you all a blessed weekend and looking forward to welcoming you back for another week on our shared journey through life as we all strive to be holy and eventually to be with the saints in Heaven.**



Another fantastic week in MFL, where pupils at both Key stage 3 and 4 have been making excellent progress and engaging positively in their learning. Here are some of our highlights:



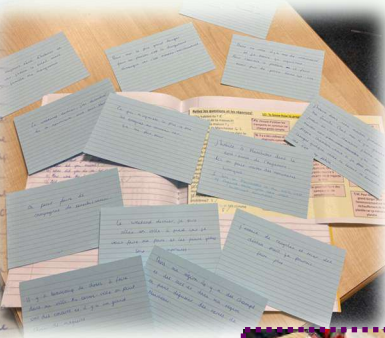
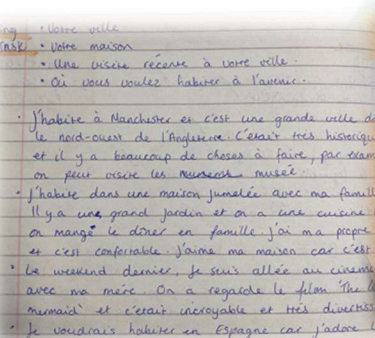
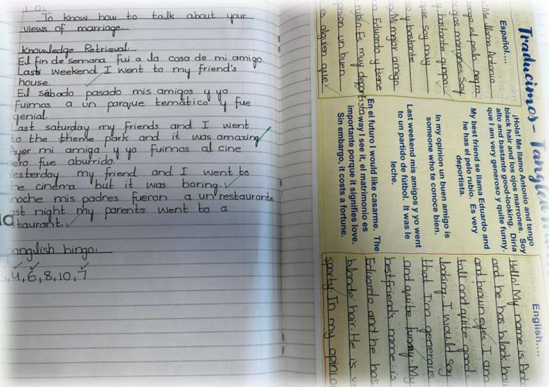
Excellent Spanish reading skills with a focus on past tense to describe a holiday by Najima in year 8.

Here is Oluwadabira in year 9 who voluntarily completed a lovely cultural piece of work about Dia de los Muertos.

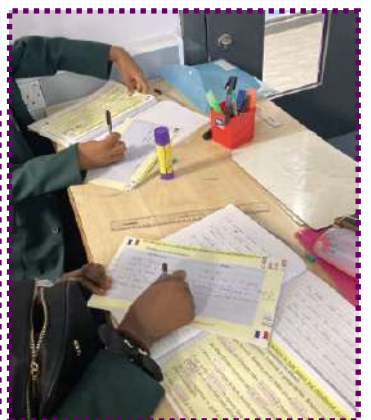


Well done to Abeeha in year 10 who always has beautifully presented work, excellent translation work using 3 tenses and lovely description of Dia de los Muertos using the Spanish subjunctive.

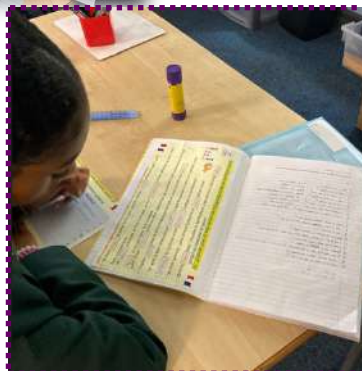
Tiene lugar el primero y el dos de noviembre en México. Se celebra los difuntos y la familia. Se puede bailar, comer y visitar el cementerio. Hay el altar de los muertos, las ofrendas y los desfiles. Pienso que es una fiesta divertida y colorida. Si pudiera me gustaría ir a México para celebrar Dia de los muertos porque sería bonita.



Tilly in year 11 has been preparing for Theme 2 general conversation PPE and here are her cue cards and an excellent 90 word practice writing task. Fantastic effort Tilly!



Georgia, Henok, Praises and year 10B have been working hard on the topics of a day in the past and describing their childhood using the imperfect tense this week. Fantastic effort and engagement by all the class every lesson!



Finally our word of the week is 'bom dia' which means good morning in Portuguese!



Attendance continues to be a key priority in school this year for all pupils.  
**If students are not in school, they are not learning.**

We are making progress in improving students' attendance and we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents who have supported our attendance drive and continue to send their children to school every day.

Please remember that every school day is important for your child.

Please try to follow these simple steps:

- ◆ Try to judge how 'severe' your child's absence is. Do they really need to stay at home?
- ◆ Is your child better by mid-morning? If they are send them into school.
- ◆ If your child has an extended or intermittent but persistent condition, contact their Head of Year and arrange a meeting to set up a supportive action plan. There is a lot of support we can offer to prevent your child from missing school.
- ◆ Non-urgent doctor, dental appointments and check-ups should be made out of school time where possible. School finishes at 3pm.
- ◆ If your child has a cough, cold menstrual pains, please send them to school. usually once they get with their friends, they feel absolutely fine.

Don't think that the 'odd day off can't harm'. Research carried out on the effects of broken weeks and achievement is astounding. A student can have 95% attendance but still have 10 broken weeks! Hugely detrimental to your child's learning, leaving big gaps in knowledge.

## This weeks 'Attendance Fact'

**'90% attendance equals half a day of school missed every week.'**

**Last week there were:**

- \* **552 students with 100% attendance**
- \* **258 students with 96% to 99.9% attendance**

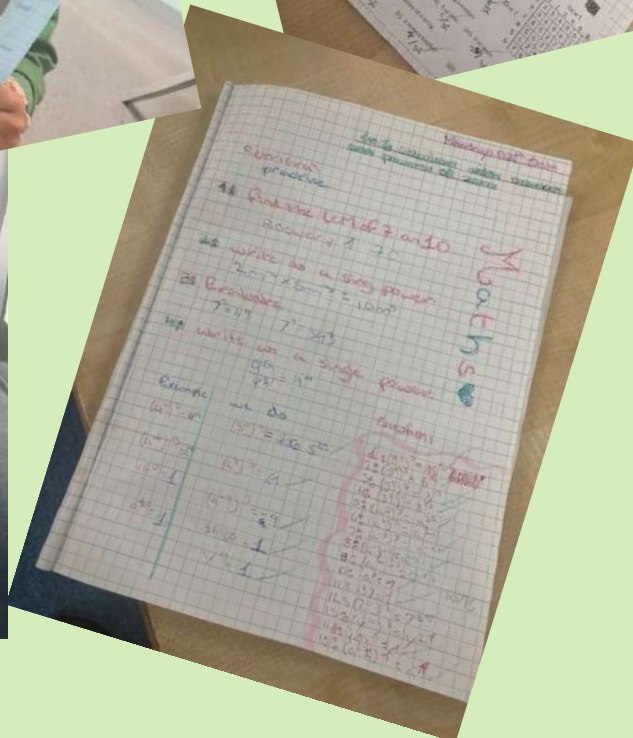
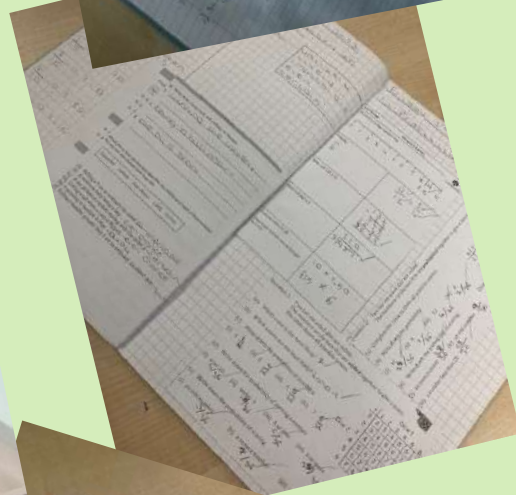
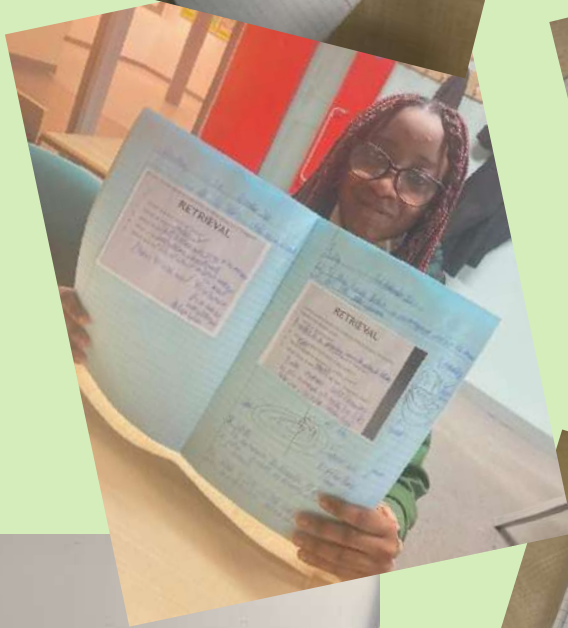
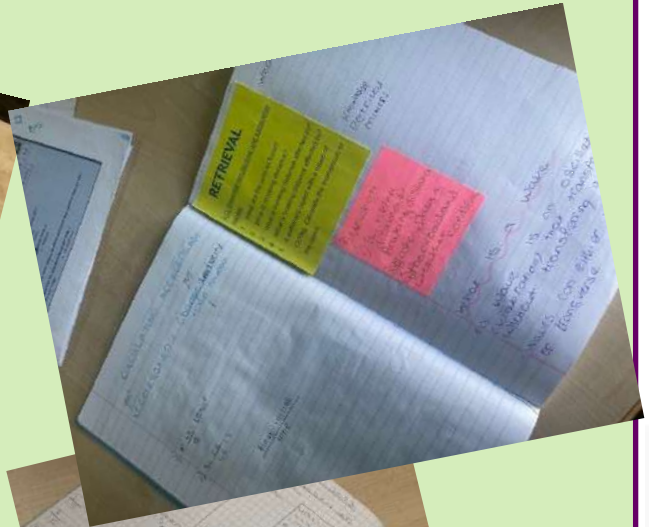
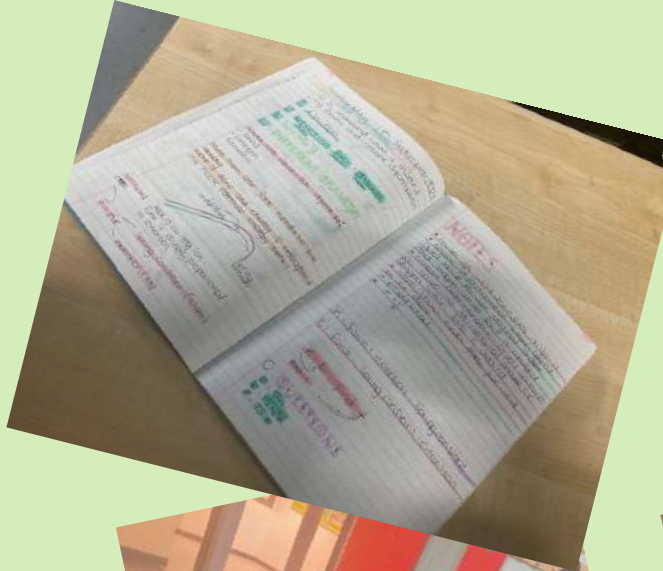
If you need any support or advice to help your child improve their attendance, please get in touch with us at school or email [attendance@smrchs.com](mailto:attendance@smrchs.com)

**G Matthew – Strategic Attendance Lead**  
**C Grainger – Attendance Lead**  
**S Ross – Attendance Officer/ Safeguarding Officer**



# Spotlight on SEND

This week, we are so proud of the work being produced by many of our students with additional needs. Have a look at what they have been up to this week!!





# Spotlight on SEND

Well done to Kaden in Y11. He has received the Head of Year award for showing incredible kindness and leadership with our Year 7 Beehive pupils.

Every day, he has been mentoring this group and ensuring that they are all having their lunch and playing board games.

As you can see, he was a little bit shy having his photo taken!

Enjoy your chocolate Kaden.





**St. Matthew's**  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

# Christmas Hamper Appeal



**St. Matthew's**  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

## CHRISTMAS 2023 HAMPER APPEAL

The SMRCHS family have always been incredibly generous at Christmas time and this year will be no different!

We would like to raise funds and collect donations to support the families within our school who may need a little extra help over the festive period.

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Donate a new, unwrapped gift and drop it off at school.
- Donate a voucher that we could raffle.
- Support our Christmas Jumper day.
- Buy raffle tickets.
- Share this post with your friends, family & local businesses.



**SPREAD THE WORD!**

[www.smrchs.com](http://www.smrchs.com)



# Parent Pay—How To

There are still many students who do not have an active Parent Pay Account. Please contact the school if you have not received your unique username and password to activate the account or if you need assistance.

Your child will need their account setting up as they may need to purchase academic items or if they want to go on school trips. Minimum Top Up is now £2.50.

When calling select to speak to Finance or email

[parentpay@smrchs.com](mailto:parentpay@smrchs.com)

## How To Activate A New Account

You will need an activation letter or email from school to get started. If you have lost this or not yet received it, email the school at [parentpay@smrchs.com](mailto:parentpay@smrchs.com)

You need a valid email address as a username and for account verification.

1. Navigate to [parentpay.com](https://parentpay.com)
2. Select Login at the top right corner of the screen
3. Enter the username and password provided in your activation letter / email and select activate.
4. Complete the activation as detailed on screen.
5. That's it you're all done!

## How To Top Up A Parent Pay Lunch Account

1. Navigate to [parentpay.com](https://parentpay.com)
2. Select Parent Login
3. Username—this is your email address
4. Password—this is what you chose once you had activated your account
5. Select Login
6. Click Continue—(or if you want to set up one click payments follow the screen prompts)
7. Select Pay for meals
8. Enter how much you want to pay (minimum payment is £5)
9. Select Add to Basket
10. Click on Basket and check the amount is correct
11. Click proceed to Checkout
12. A receipt will be sent to your email address from Parent Pay.
13. That's it you're all topped up!





## Free School Meals

We encourage all parents/ carers to check if their child is entitled to free school meals (FSM). Being registered for free school meals benefits both the student and the school as we will receive extra funding. It is the parents/ carers responsibility to apply for free school meals on behalf of their child.

Applying for Free School Meals only takes a few minutes. Please click on the following link to apply:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you are struggling with your application, please contact [finance@smrchs.com](mailto:finance@smrchs.com) and the Finance Team will be happy to assist you with your application.

### Qualifying criteria for free school meals:

You are receiving Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guarantee element of Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



## BLUE DOT DEAL—A STUDENT FAVOURITE

The Blue Dot Deal still remains a favourite and is exceptionally good value allowing your child to chose 4 items, for example; if they wanted something to eat at break they could chose something from the hot deli, get a roll for lunch from the cold deli, select a drink and get a fruit pot or something from the Homebake all for £2.50.

**4 AMAZING ITEMS £2.50**

<b>HOT DELI</b> Garlic Bread Pizza Melt Bap/Boat Cheese On Toast/Bap Pizza Melt Quesadilla BBQ Melt Bap	<b>4OZ POTS</b> Selection of Fruit Pots Selection of Jelly Pots Selection of Yoghurt Pots Selection of Seed Pots
<b>COLD DELI</b> A Selection of Rolls: Ham, Cheese, Tuna, Chicken Mayo, Egg Mayo	<b>HOMEBAKES</b> Mini Muffin Mini Cookie Mini Shortbread Mini Flapjack
<b>DRINKS</b> 125ml Radnor Drink Carton 330ml Water Bottle 8oz Slush Small Generation Juice	

\* Not all items are available everyday