



St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 31 Friday 03 May 2024

Confidential

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this edition of Round Up finds you well and filled with hope as we reflect on yet another positive week here at St. Matthew's. There's much to share and celebrate, so here is a brief summary.

BBC Visits St. Matthew's: We are thrilled to announce that the BBC entered our school grounds this week to film a special segment for Newsround featuring our brilliant Year 7 students. They shared insightful thoughts on exams in primary school, and we couldn't be prouder of their eloquence and confidence. The BBC team had glowing reviews of our students and staff, which speaks volumes about the wonderful community we have here.

Caritas Catholic Social Teaching Award: A huge congratulations to Group 11H for their outstanding charity work leading up to Easter! Their dedication to serving others truly embodies the spirit of Caritas, and we commend them for their compassionate efforts.

Special Visitor: We were deeply honoured to welcome Bishop John Arnold for our Leavers' Mass this week. It was a proud moment for me to see our hall filled with students, staff, and families coming together to celebrate this significant occasion.

Charity Work: We were happy to see so many students engaging in the charity walk last Saturday. Your children continue to inspire us with their generosity and willingness to make a positive impact on the world around them.

For those who may have missed these memorable events, You can catch glimpses of the action on our social media pages.

Important Updates: We recently contacted several parents regarding changes to punctuality rules, set to take effect in June this year. While the majority of our students arrive on time, we are working to address morning punctuality among a core group. Beginning in June, access to the canteens during break and lunchtime will be prioritised for punctual students. We appreciate your cooperation and support in reinforcing this essential aspect of school life.

Mobile Phone Strategy: A heartfelt thank you to all parents for your support during the first phase of our mobile phone strategy. We're pleased to report a significant reduction in phone confiscations during lessons, highlighting the positive impact of our collaborative efforts.

As we approach the weekend, let's take a moment to reflect on the message from this Sunday's gospel: the power of unconditional love. Just as Jesus entrusted his disciples with spreading love to the world, may we too embrace love in our words and actions, making our community a beacon of compassion and kindness.

Wishing you all a relaxing and blessed Bank Holiday weekend.



Attendance Information

**BE ON
TARGET**



Bank Holiday
School is closed on
Monday 6th May 2024.
School re-opens for all
students on
Tuesday 7th May 2024

Students need to be in
school to maximise their
LEARNING AND SUCCESS



Attendance Is Everyone's business

100% attendance	0 days missed	Excellent	0 lessons missed	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start
95% attendance	9 days of absence, 1 week and 4 days of	Satisfactory	45 lessons missed	
90% attendance	19 days of absence, 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor	95 lessons missed	Less chance of success. makes it harder to make progress
85% attendance	27 days of absence, 5 weeks and 3 days of	Very poor	140 lessons missed	Serious implications on learning and progress
80% attendance	36 days of absence, 7 weeks and 3 days of	Unacceptable	190 lessons missed	
75% attendance	45 days of absence, 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable	230 lessons missed	

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

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 forget they feel unwell.

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.

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.

G Matthew – Strategic Attendance Lead

C Grainger – Attendance Lead

S Ross – Attendance Officer/ Safeguarding Officer



This week we were delighted to welcome Bishop John Arnold to St Matthew's to celebrate our Leavers' Mass. This Mass was a wonderful occasion for our Year 11 pupils to pray and recollect together as they prepare to begin their written examinations and to leave St Matthew's to continue the next stage of their life journeys. Bishop John reminded the students to stay calm in their exams, to be confident in what they know, and not to worry about what they don't know. He then asked them to keep faith as an important part of their lives so that they can be true

"Ambassadors for Christ". Bishop John was joined by former St Matthew's student Deacon Luke who will be ordained as a priest in the coming months. Thank you to all those who were involved in organising the Mass and the celebration buffet afterwards, and thank you to all those parents and friends of the school who came and supported the Year 11s.



During Bishop John's visit he also blessed the badges of the new Year 10 "Guardian Angels" and commissioned them for their service. The Guardian Angels will play an important role over the coming year in helping the new students to transition from primary school to St Matthew's and in supporting key events through the year. We thank Bishop John for taking the time to come and visit us for these two events.

During this week we also celebrated the feast of St Joseph the Worker, the carpenter who was Jesus's foster father and who is patron saint of all those who work and those who are looking for work.



In the readings at Mass last Sunday we were told to make sure our love is something "real and active" instead of just being words, and we were pleased this week to be able to award the Caritas Catholic Social Teaching award to form 11H (Mrs Lee) for their excellent contribution to the St Joseph's Penny collection before Easter. Congratulations and thank you to form 11H.



Spotlight on SEND

AUTISM AND SENSORY PROCESSING

In conjunction with the SCP Pathway and the Manchester Parent Carer Forum, we are pleased to announce the availability of a training session for parents.

Please see below for more details and the booking link. We will also add this onto our social media pages.

- ◆ When? Thursday 9th May
- ◆ Time: 10am-2pm
- ◆ Where? Broadhurst Community Centre

This workshop is led by a Specialist Occupational Therapist in the Social Communication Pathway and will provide the opportunity to:

- ◆ Develop your understanding of sensory systems. E.g., Touch, smell, taste, movement and introduce less familiar systems, such as proprioception and interception.
- ◆ Consider how autistic individuals may experience sensory differences.
- ◆ Think about how sensory differences can affect everyday activities.
- ◆ Explore strategies that may be considered when supporting an autistic individual.
- ◆ Hear about the experiences of other families and share your own experiences if you wish.

Biscuits, tea and coffee will be provided. However, lunch isn't covered so please make sure to bring your own food for the lunch break.

If you need an interpreter to access the session, please email

mft.scppostdiagnosticworkshops@nhs.net with at least a week's notice before the session. Each session can only cater for one interpreter so please contact the SCP team ASAP if you require one.

Any queries about this session can be directed to:

mft.scppostdiagnosticworkshops@nhs.net

BOOK NOW:

Autism and Sensory Differences Tickets, Thu 9 May 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite





Enjoying making some hot chocolate as part of a life skill (making hot drinks) as well as a bit of a reward for pupils who have been consistently working hard over the last few weeks.



8k have done some great work this week in history. They have been learning about the civil rights movement and segregation in America.

9k practicing brilliant retrieval skills this



wednesday 1st May 2024

To understand what Catholics believe about the Holy Spirit

- Trinity: the three persons of the Christian God
- Trinity: God one God, three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- Holy Spirit: one part of the one God - Symbol - Dove
- monotheistic religion: Catholics believe in one God

wednesday 1st May 2024

Trinity: the three persons of the Christian God

- Trinity: God - 1 God - 3 persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- monotheistic religion: Catholics believe in one God

Year 7 working hard in RE understanding what Catholics believe about the Holy Spirit.

Year 7 fact finding info about different climates by moving from table to table to match up the colour codes between type of climate and characteristics like rainfall, location, temperatures and key features.

The pupils were engaged and showed good independent learning skills to find the correct information.



Research question: How do factors like temperature, the length of the day, and the amount of rain affect the climate of a place?

1. What is the best of a new culture?

Climate	Location	Temperature	Rainfall	Key Features
Tropical	near the equator	high	high	high humidity, high temperatures
Dry	far from the equator	low	low	low humidity, low temperatures
Temperate	mid-latitudes	moderate	moderate	moderate humidity, moderate temperatures
Mediterranean	near the equator	high	low	high humidity, high temperatures
Ice Cap	far from the equator	low	low	low humidity, low temperatures
Tundra	near the equator	high	low	high humidity, high temperatures

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Year 11 French students began their GCSE speaking exams this week and Mrs Gyves-Walker is extremely pleased with the time and effort that has clearly been put into the preparation for their speaking tests. The pupils were fantastic and the invigilators commended the students on their excellent conduct and manners. 'Bonne Chance' to Mrs Moran's class who sit their speaking exams this Friday! This element is worth 25% of the overall grade and now the students look forward to sitting their French listening and reading exams on the 14th May, followed by their French writing exams on Friday 24th May.



Our EAL students in year 10 and 11 have completed their speaking exams over the last few weeks in GCSE Spanish, Italian, Polish, Mandarin, Russian and Arabic. All the students performed well and look forward to their listening, reading and writing exams in the coming weeks and months.

KS3 pupils have been working hard in class and will soon be preparing for their End of Year assessments. Lots of assignments have been set on Sentence Builders and parents can support their learning by encouraging their children to complete their RRR at home.



Here are some of our wonderful Key stage 3 pupils working hard in class over the last few weeks in their MFL lessons.



CHARITY WALK

St. Matthew's charity walk at Sale Water Park on Saturday 27th April 2024 proved to be a successful day for all students and staff who attended. The purpose of the trip was to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

A special thank you to everyone who made the day worthwhile.

Mrs M Hill PE Teacher





Upcoming Year 11 Events

**GCSE Full Cohort Exams
start 7th May 2024**

**Check your email for the
year group photo for
sale!**

Class of 2024

**The prom date for you all this
year is Friday the 28th of
June!!**

**Tickets will be available on
Parent Pay Tuesday 7th May
2024**



TOP 5 ACHIEVERS

Kevin M
Jessica M
Remia M
Kayden A
Maryam A

TOP ATTENDING FORM

10H
98.13%

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH 100% ATTENDANCE

50



10x1 are outstanding in English! It is a dream to teach them with their insightful ideas and opinions. Today, they applied their knowledge of Language Paper 1 and answered GCSE style questions to a fantastic standard.

Well done! Keep it up!



Can 10Y3 be recognised for their incredible effort that has been evident in their Macbeth essays. I'm thrilled to say that their homework return rate has increased by 73%, and their contribution and focus when studying question 3 on their language paper this week was something to be really proud of.



TOP 5 ACHIEVERS

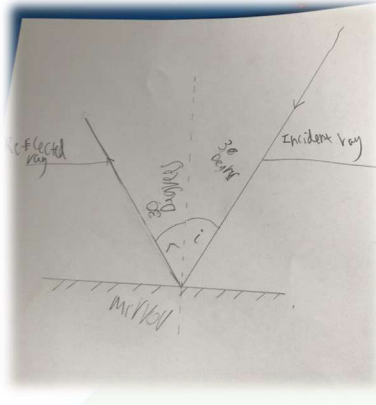
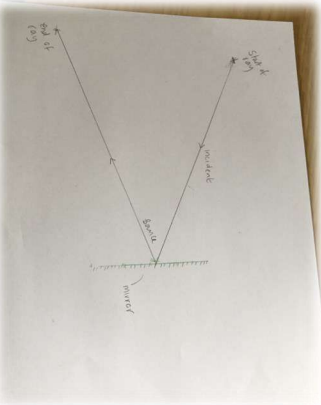
Flavia
Amy
Elisha S
Natalie U
Jodie Leigh

TOP ATTENDING-FORM

9H

STUDENTS WITH 100% ATTENDANCE

46



9k completed another practical lesson with myself and Mr Murphy about reflective light and the angle of incidence = the angle of reflection.

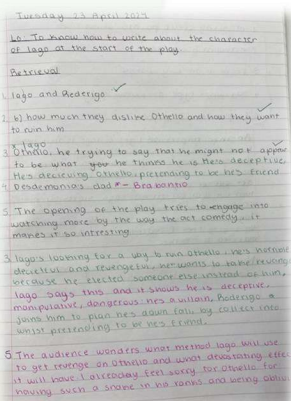
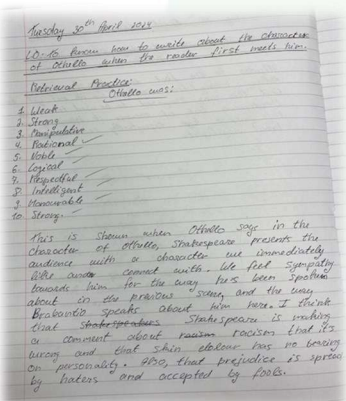
All the pupils enjoyed the lesson and responded well to working with a partner to complete the activity and record the results accurately.



Year 9/10 girls have been preparing for the MCR excel primary netball league. All pupils showed fantastic leadership skills and represented the SMRCHS in a fantastic manner. They were amazing role models to the all KS2 pupils.

Year 9 class who are studying the play Othello by Shakespeare and the moment.

A big shout out to them all for being so focused and mature when studying this challenging and complex play!





TOP 5 ACHIEVERS

Anamika
Harez,
Archie B
Tolu,
Ornella

TOP ATTENDING FORM

8B & 8G
96%

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH 100% ATTENDANCE

37

8J continue to be my shining lights - they really have blossomed this year! This week, we have been writing speeches on the importance of education and the class really impressed me with their maturity and reasoning. Well done, 8J! Mrs Garman



Miss Elliott Art: Y8 top art award: **Archie Bunn** and Jake Hamilton! Well done!

Mr. Ryan Maths: **Aleena A**, for being a great help to her classmates and to me when they have difficulties with the work

Miss Cook English: **Yordonos** has been great in English and has made some excellent contributions to class discussions.

Mr. Ademoroti: Maths: I would like to give a shout out to two students; **Kiyva-Leigh** and **Anamika** from class 8A mathematics, for their outstanding behaviour today. They did exceptionally well.



TOP 5 ACHIEVERS

Michael A
Lillie K
Adelana O
Destiny O
Kaloassi C

TOP ATTENDING

FORM
7E – 7CRa
& 7I -7ABe

STARS OF WEEK

Mrs Walsh's – Grace C
Mrs Rolt's – Vincenzo K
Mr Johnson's – Somtochi O

Beautiful art history booklets created as home work by Dallyce and Shalom in 7A Dallyce is also this week's top art award winner! Well done!



Stop The Bleed

Last Friday our Year 7 students took part in Stop the bleed day. Stop the Bleed Day is a national initiative created by the citizen AID charity in partnership with Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit. Every year in the UK, around 19,000 people die after injury It is the leading cause of death among children and young adults. Last week our Year 7 students demonstrated their commitment to our goal

of creating a generation of future lifesavers!



7G behaving beautifully in the library and reading for pleasure .



All of Y7 have been creating birds for the Blue Peter book club in art. These inspired by black activist, Frederick Douglass' quote "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free".

Their artwork will go on display in for 1 week in Manchester Central library on 18th May!





Debt on Parent Pay Lunch Accounts

Please check Parent Pay and top up funds to clear any debt.

If you are struggling to clear debt on your account, we suggest your child/ children bring a packed lunch each day as they will no longer be served in the cafeteria if a debt appears on their account when they go to be served.

We are here to help you please contact the Finance Team to discuss further or email parentpay@smrchs.com

Children on Free School Meals have a £2.50 daily allowance for a meal at lunchtime. This allowance is not to be used for snacks at break time. If you wish your child to buy snacks or spend more than the allocated £2.50 you should top up their Parent Pay account accordingly.

Children on Free School Meals will now have a daily spend limit of £2.50, they will not be permitted to go over this limit and will be refused any items over the cost of £2.50. If you put additional funds on their Parent Pay account we will remove or change the daily limit to one you chose for your child.

If you have not activated the account please do so immediately.

If you have misplaced your unique username and password to activate the account contact the Finance Team straight away.

Your child will need their account activating to:

- ◆ buy snacks / meals from the catering service
- ◆ purchase academic items
- ◆ go on school trips/events



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

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

1. Navigate to 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
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!

The Minimum Top Up is now £2.50.



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 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

No recourse to public funds (NRPF)

Free school meal eligibility has now been permanently extended to children in all households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to maximum income thresholds and savings. If you are in this category, please ask the Finance Office finance@smrchs.com for a paper application.