



# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 30 Friday 26 April 20124

Confidential

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers of St Matthew's students,

I hope this edition of Round Up finds you well and that you are managing to enjoy some improved weather this week. As always, we're thrilled to share the highlights of our school's journey with you.

**Personal Development at the Forefront:** This week, our partnership with 'Tough Cookies' has continued to thrive as we delve deeper into enhancing our Personal Development curriculum. We believe in nurturing not just academic excellence but also the holistic growth of our students.

**Empowering Awareness with 'Stop the Bleed':** Our Year 7 students engaged in enlightening sessions with the dedicated workers from 'Stop the Bleed,' aimed at raising awareness about the critical issue of knife crime. We're proud to continue this vital dialogue and education, building on the success of similar sessions held last year for other year groups.

**Year 11 Exam Readiness:** With exams on the horizon, our Year 11 students have exemplified exceptional dedication and focus in their preparations. Their commitment to learning is commendable, and we have every confidence in their success.

**Special Moments Ahead:** We're honored to announce that this year's 'Leavers Mass' will be graced by the presence of the esteemed Bishop of Salford, John Arnold. It promises to be a poignant occasion, marking a significant milestone in the lives of our students, and we're privileged to share it with such a distinguished guest.

**Family Engagement:** A heartfelt thank you to all who attended last night's Year 8 parents' evening. Your presence and active participation are invaluable as we strengthen the bonds between home and school. Together, we pave the way for our students' success and fulfilment.

At St. Matthew's, our mission extends beyond academic achievement. We are dedicated to nurturing the growth of each student into compassionate, responsible individuals. As we reflect on this Sunday's Gospel, we are reminded of the profound love and patience of God, who guides us on our journey of growth and goodness.

Just as a branch thrives on a vine, our connection with Jesus fills us with his energy, enabling us to lead lives marked by peace, kindness, and love. Together, as a vibrant community, we embrace this journey of growth and strive to make a positive difference in the world.

Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership. Together, we empower our students to flourish and shine brightly.

God bless



## Attendance Information

**BE ON  
TARGET**



Excellent  
attendance is the  
key to excellent  
academic success

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



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 pro-
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](mailto:attendance@smrchs.com).

G Matthew – Strategic Attendance Lead

C Grainger – Attendance Lead

S Ross – Attendance Officer/ Safeguarding Officer



## Chaplaincy Corner



Last Sunday the Church celebrated “Vocations Sunday” and so this week in our form time prayer there has been a focus on the call to be a priest or a religious sister (nun). On

Wednesday Mr Sharrock told us the story of his call to train to be a priest which is based in the desire to serve people and to bring God’s love into their lives, and on Friday we watched a video from a large community of young nuns in America who are giving their lives in service to God and his Church. May we all continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.



This week has seen lots of preparations being made for the visit of Bishop John Arnold next week to celebrate our “Leavers’ Mass” next Tuesday. Bishop John is the Bishop of Salford and so, as a Catholic school in the Diocese of Salford, he is ultimately our boss and we are looking forward to showing him the wonderful progress being made in our school. We hope to see a good turn out of Year 11 students, their families, and the school staff to celebrate the years spent here in St Matthew’s and to thank God for all the gifts received in that time.

This week we also celebrated the Feast of St George, patron saint of England. We reflected on how, even though we come from all over the world, we are united in spending these years of school in England and so we asked for the prayers and protection of St George in our lives.

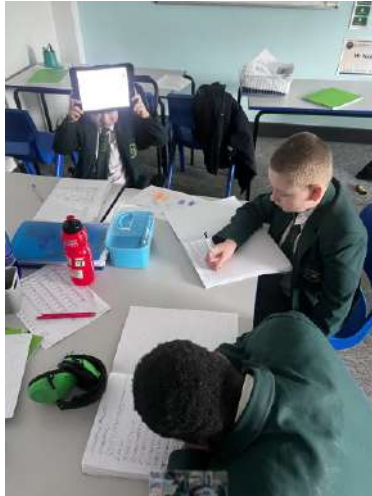
May God continue to bless you each day and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next week to continue our journey of life together.



## Beehive

7K revising in small groups for their checkpoint assessment, a very proud Ms Alizoda!

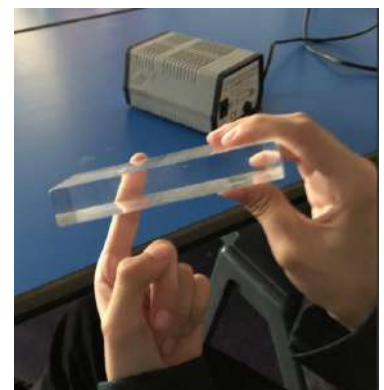
Francis has done some amazing maths work this week independently. We are very



Some of 7k taking part in a Sensory PE session with Mrs Wilson. They all enjoyed this session, this helps with regulation getting them ready to learn.



A science lesson with 9k using light/refraction. Mr Murphy helped with a practical lesson and all the pupils responded well and engaged with their learning and producing the drawings of how refraction working through Perspex.





## Year 11

### Upcoming Year 11 Events

Friday 30 April

**Year 11 Leavers Mass**

Class of 2024

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

We will let you know once the tickets are available  
on Parent Pay.



Last weeks Year11 Wellbeing Event was a great success, a huge thank you to all students and staff who attended.





## Year 10

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ • **Destiny A** ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • **Honey C** ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • **Safina O** ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • **Millie B** ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • **Daniel Mc** ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

**53 students with 100% attendance**

**Well Done Everyone!**



**Athletics Success**

So very proud of our year 10 athletics team achievements:

**4 Bronze**

**1 Silver**

**1 Gold**

**Well done everyone, making SMRCHS proud**



## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ • Rohan ☆
  - ☆ • Favour ☆
  - ☆ • Praise O ☆
  - ☆ • Flavia ☆
  - ☆ • Lexia ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Highest attending form this week again is Mr Collins 9B very well done

64 students with 100% attendance

Well Done Everyone!



9A –  
Minahill,  
Victory,

Isabella, Denisa, Ezekiel and Prosper – always excellent in class. Thank you! Miss Harrison

A big well done to Sharon M in 9C who's been awarded a golden ticket to the theatre by Ms Stephenson for her consistent excellent attitude to learning in English lessons

### CONGRATULATIONS

9C – Jess, Emma and Darwin – excellent books and always first to start the task. Thank you!

Miss Harrison

Rebecca M—9I a shoutout for her continued engagement and hard work in History lessons

Mr Collins WELL DONE

**First of its kind, STEM DAY!**  
Over 100 students took part including Year 9 in robotic coding, forensic science, and medical diagnostics. Students had the opportunity to discuss college and university matters with University of Leeds and Manchester Medical Students.







# Highlights of the week

## Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Harry E ☆
  - ☆ ● Mikayla ☆
  - ☆ ● Blessing ☆
  - ☆ ● Navaneth ☆
  - ☆ ● Nissi ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Well done to the  
**39 students with 100% attendance**  
Lets aim for much higher next week!



Mr Lamming- PE: Year 8 have been amazing this week in their behaviour in PE especially those who participated in the PE interviews which took place this week.

Well done and thank you

## DRAMA

Ms O'Brian- Drama Yr 8 exploring the Boal's theatre of the oppressed, amazing work!

Well done 8G





# Highlights of the week

## Year 7

### Top 5 Achievers

- Sarah Mc
- Freddie B
- Eminence U
- Lottie L



### Our Stars of the Week

- Mrs Walsh's – **Apithany P**
- Mrs Rolt's - **Desire K**
- Mr Johnston's – **Kaytlin Mc**
- Mrs Lennon's – **Destiny O**

Year 7 Netball winners—well done ladies, you are the best



Amazing work from Saffie and Crystabel in Science and Maths! - Ms KJ



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending this week is 7B—ESt  
Form of the Week 7B ESt  
Well done everyone!

New staff member Ms Allan has been really impressed with 7J this week in their English lesson.

They were all really engaged and putting in so much effort to share thoughts and knowledge on the lesson content. Students that are usually quite quiet and don't go out of their way to answer questions were openly wanting to answer questions and discuss the poem we are studying.

Shout out to: Malachy, Michael and Leo who have all shown great interest, engagement and a heightened willingness to learn in English.

It was extra special to hear Laveah say " I actually really liked that lesson" as the lesson ended



Mrs Garman is really proud of **Ksenia** and how well she has adapted to our form. She is trying so hard and is a really respected and well

loved member of our form. **7G** are a credit to themselves and continue to be the kindest and most mature set of Year 7 students I've ever taught. Well done 7G!

**7B** have had a fantastic start to Summer 1. Students are meeting high expectations and displaying an excellent attitude to learning in both English and History. A big well done!' - **Miss Stephenson**

**Noah J, Luke W and Jamie W** for continued hard work and engagement in History lessons. Well done!' - **Mr Collins**



# ARE YOU A YOUNG CARER?

## WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING A YOUNG CARER...

Worried about the future and if I can go to university

Poor attendance and missing school work

Being bullied

Financial pressure on family

Late for school again

Worried about what's happening at home

No time for myself

Tired

Teachers don't know or understand

In trouble because homework is late

Can't invite friends round to the house

Isolated by friends because you can't always go to things

Can't manage my emotions

## DO YOU WANT TO TALK?

Drop in is every Wednesday in the Safeguarding office.



# YOUNG CARER?

- Do you **regularly** look after someone who is ill?
- Do you **regularly** wash/dress or give medicines to someone in your family?
- Do you **regularly** miss out on sleep because you're looking after someone?
- Do you **regularly** help with shopping, cleaning, cooking or paying bills?
- Do you **regularly** complete forms or read letters for someone?

**ONE IN TWENTY STUDENTS MISS SCHOOL BECAUSE OF CARING RESPONSIBILITIES**





# Important message

**Please check Parent Pay and top up funds to clear any debt if you are in a position to do so.**

**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](mailto: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](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!

**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](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