



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 10 Friday 17 November 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear St. Matthew's Parents,

Another fulfilling week has passed at St. Matthew's, and it brings me immense joy to share the purposeful engagement our students have exhibited in their studies. Our Year 11 students are diligently gearing up for their PPEs (mock exams), displaying admirable dedication.

We've received encouraging written feedback from our school improvement partners, some of which we've proudly showcased on our social media platforms. The theme of recognition and reward remains central to our ethos, and witnessing numerous achievements among our students fills us with pride.

As we approach the advent season, we're excited to roll out an enticing array of rewards for those maintaining high attendance and punctuality. We understand the pivotal connection between consistent school attendance and academic success, hence our emphasis on this aspect.

This week's gospel from St Matthew resonates deeply with me as an educator. It's a reminder of the talents inherent in each of us, echoing Pope Francis's words, "Do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Put your talents at the service of God." St. Matthew's is blessed with talented staff and remarkable young individuals, and it's an honour to lead such a community.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. Together, let's continue nurturing their talents and guiding them toward realising their potential.

God bless

Mr Nightingale



Highlights of the week

Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers**
- Finley M
 - Rohan P
 - Ewa R
 - Houleye B
 - Eshall N
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

OUR YEAR 9 STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form is 9H again
Very Well Done !
90 students across Year 9 with 100% attendance
Mrs King is extremely proud of you all.



Year 9 effort and engagement breakfast - well done to you all

Sporting Achievements

Year 9 girls netball team won their first match 14-0 AMAZING

Year 9 boys football team won 4-0 in the county cup

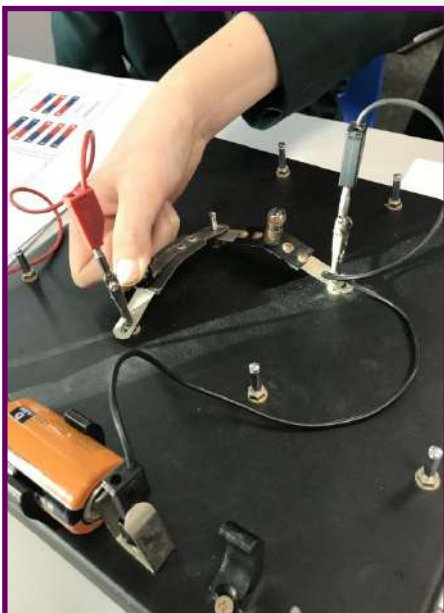
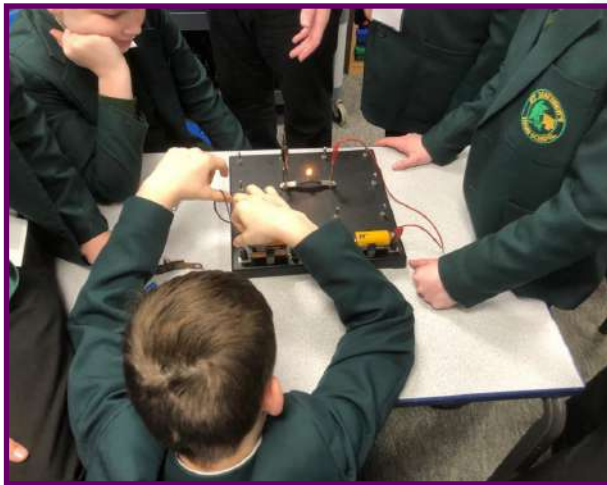
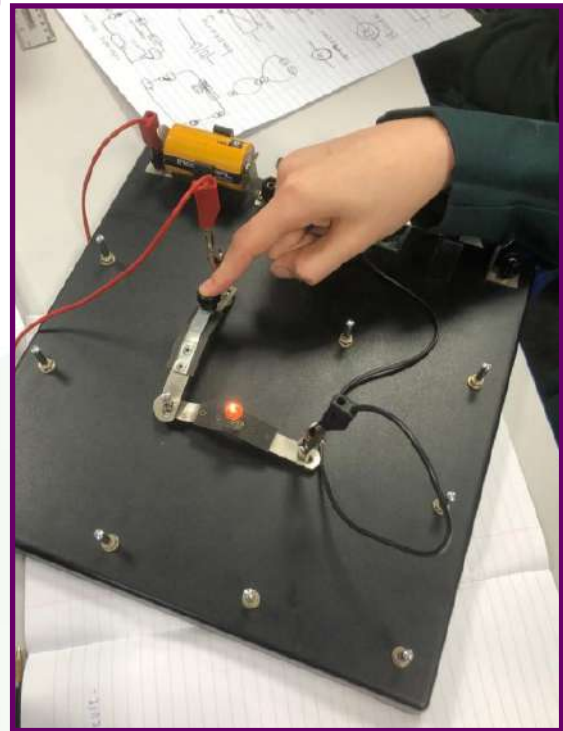
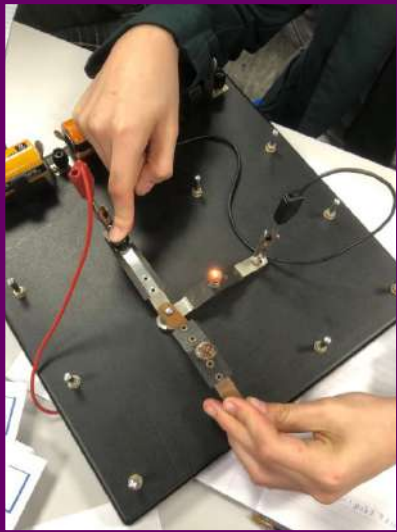




Beehive

The Year 8 Beehive group took part in a practical circuit building lesson. The students all got involved and enjoyed the activity. They investigated building a circuit to ensure it worked. Then they looked at how changing the circuit affected the flow of voltage.

Well done, budding scientists!



A very proud Head of Beehive,
Miss Tilbury.

Well done



Modern Foreign Languages

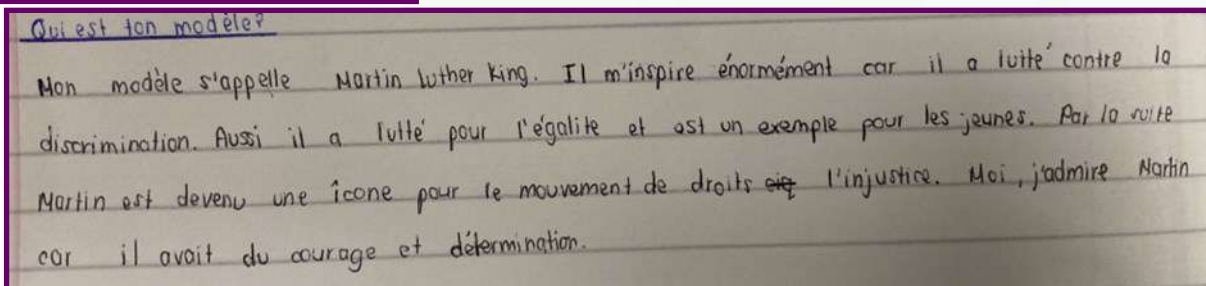
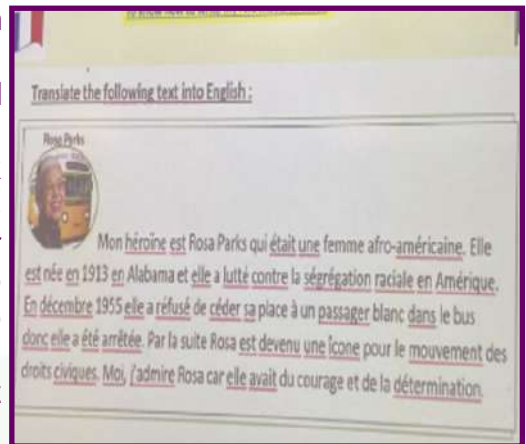
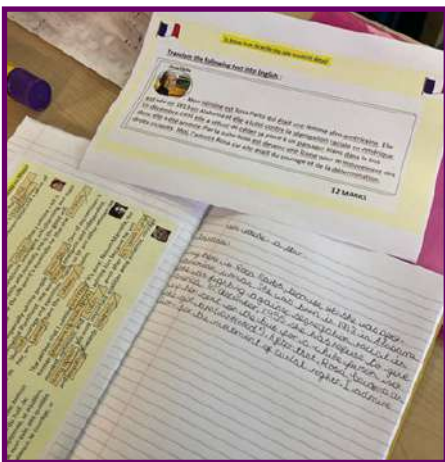
The MFL are really proud of the excellent work that pupils are producing in French, Spanish and German at both KS3 and our GCSE classes in year 10 and year 11.

Here are highlights from the last two weeks:

Year 10 have been describing their role models in French. Here is Nora's work, where she was translating an extended written text about Rosa Parks. 10B and

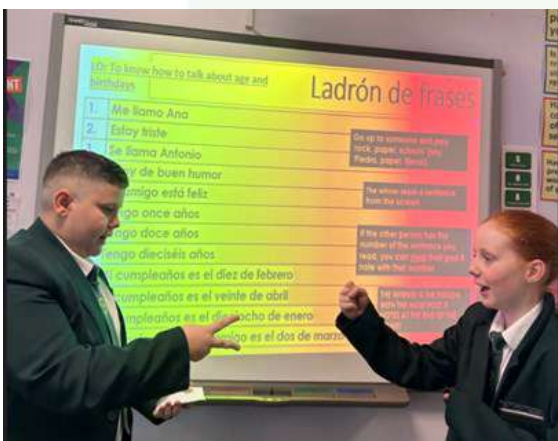
10C have produced some fabulous work about their role models such as Martin Luther King, Zendaya, Cristiano Ronaldo and Malala to name but a few! Shekinah wrote about Martin Luther King, as her role model and used

lots of complex structures and interesting vocabulary to explain her reasons. Madame Gyves-Walker est fière de vous!



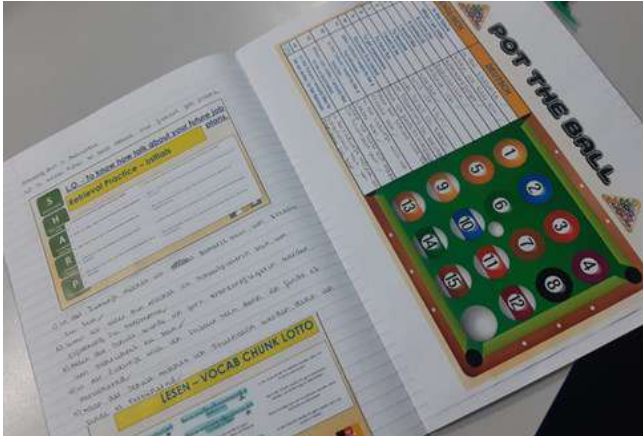
Senora Hassan is really pleased with year 7 French and Spanish pupils. Here are some pictures of her pupils in action, producing fantastic speaking practice whilst playing

sentence thief and battleships.





Modern Foreign Languages



Frau Callison was very proud of the progress being made in year 9 about future job plans. The pupils really enjoyed their 'Pot the Ball' task.

The respect and gratitude shown by all the pupils during our remembrance service last Friday was exemplary and here is a picture of year 9Y French observing their two minute's silence.



Finally, our word of the week is 'sabah el kheir' which means good morning in Arabic!





Chaplaincy Corner

Last Saturday St Matthew's alumnus Luke was ordained as a Deacon at St Bernard's Church in Burnage by Bishop John Arnold. Deacon Luke is now able to baptise people, to preside at funerals and at weddings, and to assist with the celebration of Holy Mass. We ask God's blessing on Deacon Luke as he begins his ordained ministry and we keep him in our prayers as he enters the last stage of his training to be a priest.

In our form time prayer on Friday we also prayed for the other people associated with St Matthew's who are training to be priests: Mr Sharrock (our Spiritual Wellbeing Lead), Mr Hogan (our former Headteacher), and Carmine (another former student).

This week we have also celebrated "Inter-Faith Week" in our form time prayers, recognising that we live in a multicultural and multifaith society. We looked both at what unites us all (such as the Gold Rule of treating others as we would want to be treated) and also at how we need to be in dialogue about what we do not agree about. Staff Prayer this week was led by the Year 7 pastoral team and linked Inter-Faith Week to the fact that our Year 7 students have come from lots of different backgrounds, primary schools, faiths, and even countries, but are all now part of our big St Matthew's family.



This week has also seen the arrival outside of the chapel of our "Remembrance Box". November is the month of the Holy Souls and so it is a month when we pray in a special way for all those who have died, asking God to welcome them into the Kingdom of Heaven. Our remembrance box has been beautifully decorated by Miss Richards, Miss Ruane, and the KS3 art club, so a huge thank you to them. Students have been invited to write the names of

any of their loved ones who have died on a slip of paper and place it into the box. If any family or friends would like to add a name to our box of remembrance then please email the name to Mr Sharrock (t.sharrock@smrchs.com) and he will add the name to the box for you.

We wish you a very happy and holy weekend and look forward to another week journeying together towards Catholic Excellence.





YEAR 11



RALPH FIENNES **INDIRA VARMA**

SHAKESPEARE'S
MACBETH

DIRECTED BY
SIMON GODWIN

SET AND COSTUME DESIGN BY
FRANKIE BRADSHAW

Year Eleven
theatre trip

When: Monday 18th December 2023
Price: £25

Sign up on [ParentPay](#). Tickets will sell out fast, so book now to avoid disappointment!

YEARS 7—9



LIFE OF PI

WINNER OF EVERY MAJOR PLAY AWARD
INCLUDING 5 OLIVIER AND 3 TONY AWARDS

The trip will take place on Thursday 7th December 2023
Pupils will need to be in full school uniform and buy & eat their lunch at breaktime, leaving the school at 1p.m returning at approximately 6:00p.m
The cost of the trip will be £25. Payment can only be made via ParentPay
Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

After an epic storm in the Pacific Ocean, Pi is stranded on a lifeboat with four other survivors – a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan, and a Royal Bengal tiger.

Based on the global phenomenon and winner of the Man Booker Prize, selling over fifteen million copies worldwide, Life Of Pi is the hugely popular story of an epic journey of endurance and hope. Don't miss the West End and Broadway spectacle on its first ever UK tour.

Free tickets for bedrock and sparks maths winners!

- ☆☆☆☆☆THE OBSERVER "Everything about this production is amazing."
- ☆☆☆☆☆SUNDAY TIMES "Breath-taking. Roar it out: this is a hit."
- ☆☆☆☆☆THE GUARDIAN "An extraordinary journey. Unmissable"
- ☆☆☆☆☆MAIL ON SUNDAY "The puppetry is out of this world"





Upcoming Trips

London Overnight theatre Trip July 2024

- ♦ open to Yr10 music and drama students and Ks3 musicians.

ParentPay is now open to pay the £75 deposit for the London theatre trip.

Please do this as soon as possible as places are filling up quickly.

Pupils who are invited should have already received a letter.

Please see Mr Millington if you have any questions.

Thank you

Music Department



Introducing Mrs Worrall, Careers

My role is to provide Information, Advice and Guidance to young people.

I mainly provide one to one Careers Guidance Interviews for students in Year 11, however sometimes, depending on student circumstances and the time of year, I will also Interview some Year 10 students and occasionally some Year 9 students.

I am in School on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week and my room is located in the Humanities area of the School (OLC) opposite 11G3, room number 1105.

Anybody from any Year group is welcome to drop in to see me at breaks or lunchtimes.



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 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'

The greater the attendance, the greater the achievement!

Last week there were:

- * **471 students with 100% attendance**
- * **278 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

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



'Cognition and Learning'

Within the SEND Code of Practice, Cognition and Learning needs are described as **support for learning difficulties when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with additional support.**

Learners with SEND may have greater difficulty than their peers in developing their literacy and numeracy skills, or in understanding concepts, even after it has been adapted for them. They may also have other difficulties such as speech and language delay or difficulties interacting socially.

Developmental delays in another area of need, such as Communication and Interaction, may impact on a learner's ability to strengthen skills and progress

through to the next stage. Some learners with SEND may have difficulties with one or more skills, often referred to as a **specific learning difficulty**, whereas others may have difficulties across a broad range of skills, which can have a **moderate, severe or profound impact** on a learner's overall learning and development.

We all change, develop, adapt and grow at all stages throughout our lives. Difficulties which are present in the early years and require additional support throughout primary school may not need on-going support in secondary school. However, difficulties may require additional support **only** in secondary school or beyond as a young person matures.

These learners will have different profiles of strengths and difficulties. The most effective way of identifying any difficulties, informing interventions and determining the rate of progress is by assessing over time and monitoring the learner's response to teaching.





Bedrock Parents Information Evening



Tuesday 21st November, 7pm

We know that a child's education is not just about school, and that support from people at home can make a huge difference to their progress.

Bedrock whose mission is to support schools in achieving excellent implementation of Bedrock are putting on their very first Bedrock Parents' Information Evening.

What will be discussed:

- What Bedrock is
- Why it's important for your child to use Bedrock
- How you can support them in their learning

Right click on the link below to open and register

[Bedrock Parents' Information Evening - Secondary \(getcontrast.io\)](https://getcontrast.io)

A recording of this evening session will be available after the live event and will be emailed to all those who registered.



Tickets are now on sale.

The lucky winner will take home this trio of bears for Christmas.



SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD
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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



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

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!



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



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

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

* Not all items are available everyday