



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



# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 11 Friday 24 November 2023

## Headteacher's Message

Dear St Matthew's Parents,

I hope this message finds you well. I am thrilled to share the wonderful news of yet another remarkable week at our school. The dedication and support you provide in ensuring your children attend school have truly made a significant impact, reflected in the exceptional attendance levels across Year 7, 8, and 9, surpassing national and regional averages. Your commitment to your children's education is invaluable, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continuous support.

Moreover, I am delighted by the active participation of our students in extracurricular activities this term. Witnessing numerous children engaging during lunchtime and after school activities brings immense joy. The remarkable progress of our boys' and girls' sports teams in their competitions showcases their determination and teamwork.

I am especially proud of our Year 11 students, who exemplified our Catholic mission by attending the lunchtime Bible session this week. Their active involvement reflects our dedication to 'caring, praying, and achieving' in line with our school's mission statement.

As our Year 11 students prepare for their written exams next week, I commend their focus and diligence in lessons, which undoubtedly prepares them well for this crucial phase.

As we approach the final Sunday of the church year before advent, I am reminded of the poignant message of kindness from the Gospel. Pope Francis beautifully reminds us of the importance of being open-hearted and sharing with those in need. Let us all strive to live with kindness and compassion, nurturing a spirit of generosity within our community.

"The Gospel invites us to be open to others, to share with the poor. Let us learn to live with kindness." - Pope Francis

Wishing our Year 11 students the very best in their upcoming exams and urging everyone to embody kindness in their actions towards others.

Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership in creating a nurturing educational environment at St Matthew's.

God bless



St. Matthew's  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

# Parent Voice



St. Matthew's  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

# PARENT VOICE



A sample from our recent Parent Voice (over 100 respondents):

**92.1%**

of parents say  
that their child  
feels safe at  
St Matthew's

**88.3%**

of parents agree  
that St Matthew's  
has good systems  
in place to deal with  
disruptive students

**92.1%**

of parents say  
that their child is  
expected to behave  
at St Matthew's

**88.3%**

agree that  
St Matthew's  
has high expectations  
of all children

**82.8%**

say that their child  
is able to take part  
in extra-curricular  
activities

**88.3%**

say that their  
child is happy  
at St Matthew's



## Attendance Information

**BE ON TARGET**

**EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS**



**Did you know...?  
73% of students with attendance of 95% or higher achieve at least 5 GCSEs grade 5 or above**

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 learning missed	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 learning missed	Very poor	140 lessons missed	Serious implications on learning and progress
80% attendance	36 days of absence, 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable	190 lessons missed	
75% attendance	45 days of absence, 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable	230 lessons missed	



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

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



# Important message

**There are many students who have a debt on their Parent Pay Account.**

**Please check Parent Pay and top up funds to clear any debt as soon as possible. If you are struggling to clear this debt please contact the Finance Team to discuss further.**

**Until debts are cleared we suggest your child/children bring a packed lunch with them to school each day as they will no longer be served in the cafeteria.**

**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.**

**From next week children on Free School Meals will have a daily spend limit of £2.50 unless you have put additional funds on their Parent Pay account. They will not be permitted to go over this limit and will be refused any items over the cost of £2.50.**

**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**

**The Minimum Top Up is now £2.50.**

**When calling school please speak to the Finance Team 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





# Highlights of the week

## Year 11

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers**
- \* Alexis
- \* Keyla
- \* Eman
- \* Wayne
- \* Chana
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Highest attending forms this week is Mr Green's 11D

Well done!

85 pupils across year 11 have 100% attendance, which is fantastic.

### Teacher Shout Outs...

**Mr Auton** - Shout out for A Feehily, top effort in music, always getting involved and dedicated to his practise

**Mrs Tilbury** - Shout out for Kayleigh M - she had a tough start to the week, but I was really impressed with the way she regulated her emotions and took control of the situation. She has also been working with Miss Conwell during her lunch break to do GCSE English revision. Very proud - such a change from this time last year!

**Mrs Holt** - Ellie B and Lacey J Apart from being fabulous, they are mentoring some younger pupils in Y8 - showing them how to navigate our busy school. Ellie in particular, is an inspiration!! So proud of them both

**Mr Sharrock** - Shout out to the nearly 40 students (mostly year 11) who came to the first meeting of Bible Club today.

**Miss Eckersall** - Shout out Lewis M for his massive improvement in attending lessons and putting the hard work in, also for the way he looks out for more vulnerable students especially in the hive, super proud of him!

**Mrs Lee** - Year 11 art students have smashed their art PPE. So very proud of every one of them for completing 5 hours of creativity.

**Miss Elliott** - Simone and Horaib have been working really hard to prepare events for culture day, we can't wait to share with you what workshops will be coming up!



This morning year 11 received Good luck cards from members off staff for their upcoming

Year 11 also took part in the year 8 achievement evening I have got to say how well they represented school! We are so proud of you !



### From Mrs Bunn

I would just like to say I am very proud of every single one of year 11 and the hard work, mature attitude and resilience that they have shown. Never let anyone tell you that you can't because you absolutely can! I



## Year 10

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers**
- ☆ \* Safina O
  - ☆ \* Honey C
  - ☆ \* Miriam J
  - ☆ \* Anthony O
  - ☆ \* Molly L
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week  
**10A—97.98% attendance**

**Well done!**

**83 pupils across year 10 have 100% attendance, which is fantastic.**

### This Weeks Teacher Shout Outs...

**From Miss Hasson** - I have been SO impressed with the effort and work ethic in class from my 10C Spanish group over the last few weeks. I can't wait to see how well they do on their upcoming assessments!

**From Mrs Holt** - Mekhi G for a fantastic start to life in my RE class. E&E is outstanding!

Agnes M and George P for being fab student - Amy P for consistent progress and

Aman A for consistent progress.

**From Miss Tormey** - Tia McW and Millie J for excellent contribution in class and Joseph B for incredible RRR.

### PSHE

Year 10 PSHE have been compared healthcare in the UK with healthcare in Australia and the USA.

My classes have worked really well on this topic.

Work attached is from Codie J and Emma J-M.

	What is covered for everyone?	What is not covered?	Who is covered?
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doctors Visits</li> <li>- Hospital visits</li> <li>- Specialists appointments</li> <li>• Optical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescriptions</li> <li>• Dental visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All residents</li> <li>- People who payed an NHS surcharge with their immigration visa</li> </ul>
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital Visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ambulances</li> <li>- Dental visits</li> <li>- Specialists</li> <li>- Prescriptions</li> <li>- Dental visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All residents</li> <li>• Permanent immigration visa holders</li> </ul>
USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthcare such as hospital visits is only available to those with insurance usually provided through their job</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambulances</li> <li>• Hospitals</li> <li>• Doctor visits</li> <li>• Specialists</li> <li>• Prescriptions</li> <li>• Dental visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most people over 65 have access to basic services such as emergency hospital visits</li> </ul>

- NHS stands for National Health Service the NHS provides everyone in the UK with health care based on their needs without the need to pay directly
- 2000- NHS walk-in centres are introduced to offer easy access to a range of services
  - 2007- first living donor in the UK at St James hospital in Leeds when David James 30 donated part of his liver to his father Stephen, 50 who had advanced liver disease
  - 1951- Polio immunisation programme begins
  - 1957- Whooping cough immunisation programme begins
  - 2016- NHS England funded bone eye surgery
  - 2022- the 100th cancer drug is fast tracked to patients through the cancer drugs fund



# Highlights of the week

## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Finley ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Rohan ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Lucy ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Houleye ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Victory ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



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

### Teacher Shout Outs...

**Miss Richards** - for 9A, as in art today, we had a lovely lesson painting background for our new artist pages. They worked really well, their behaviour in this lesson was brilliant I also wanted to give a special mention to Phillippe as he was extremely helpful when cleaning away. He cleaned the paint pots, brushes and rollers. He did this voluntarily. Keep up the amazing work 9A,

**Mrs Tilbury** - Shout out for Kayleigh M - she had a tough start to the week, but I was really impressed with the way she regulated her emotions and took control of the situation. She has also been working with Miss Conwell during her lunch break to do GCSE English revision. Very proud - such a change from this time last year!

**Mrs Holt** - Ellie B and Lacey J Apart from being fabulous, they are mentoring some younger pupils in Y8 - showing them how to navigate our busy school. Ellie in particular, is an inspiration!! So proud of them both

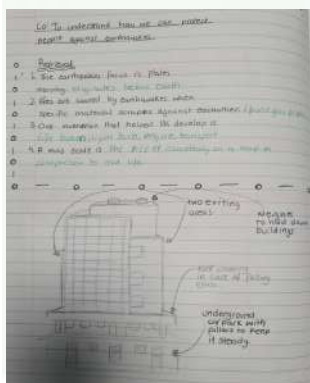
**Mr Sharrock** - Shout out to the nearly 40 students (mostly year 11) who came to the first meeting of Bible Club today.

**Miss Eckersall** - Shout out Lewis M for his massive improvement in attending lessons and putting the hard work in, also for the way he looks out for more vulnerable students especially in the hive, super proud of him!

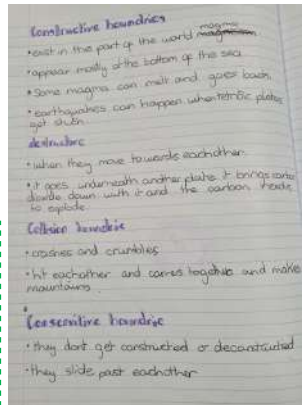
**Mrs Lee** - Year 11 art students have smashed their art PPE. So very proud of



Year 9 Really enjoyed their food lesson this week.  
Thank you, Mr George



In year 9 Geography we have been looking at earthquakes. 9B and 9G have worked really well on this topic. The sketch of an earthquake proof building is from Bridget P and the written work is from Florence L.



### Sporting Achievements

Year 9 girls played Wright Robinson B team this week. They came away with a loss but they showed determination not to give up.

**WELL DONE !**





## Year 8

### Top 5 Achievers

- \* Felicia A
- \* Dolande H
- \* Faigan E
- \* Angel A
- \* Najma B



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

77 students in year 8 with 100% attendance.

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

### This Weeks Teacher Shout Outs...

**Mrs Holt** - Amilisse L for consistent progress and outstanding attitude, Devon T for being a fab student, Daniele V for rapid improvement, Ruby-Ann K for consistent progress and outstanding attitude

**Ms. Tormey- English** - to Felicia in 8C for her incredible assessment and focus in lesson.

**Miss Richards- Art**

Year 8 worked really well this week working on their Natasha Clutterbuck pages in art!



### Yr 8 RE—Mr Hall

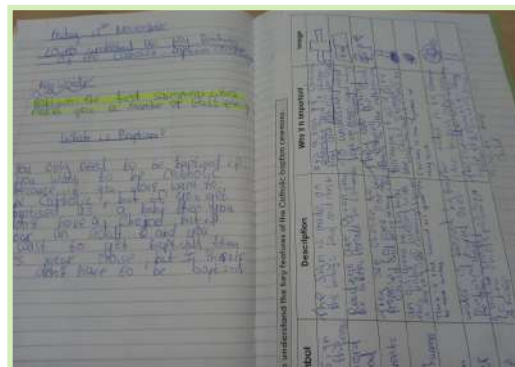
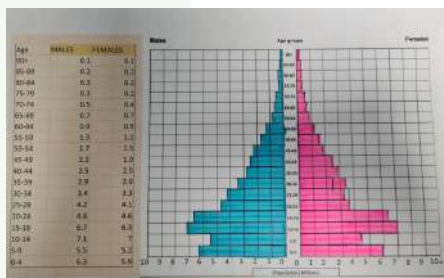
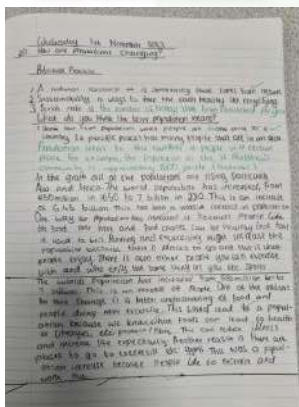
8B continue to impress Mr. Hall with their amazing effort and engagement during this half term. We have started to look at the similarities and differences between Christian baptismal ceremonies. They have shown that have a great understanding of the signs and symbols associated with baptism. Special shout outs go to Neave, Miguel and Ashley for their contribution this week.



### Geography - Miss Cox

Well done to 8E who have been making a great effort with their work this half term.

Beautiful work from Anaiya F and the population pyramid is from Lacey W.





# Highlights of the week

## Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Top 5 Achievers

- Yusra G
- Cedric E
- George W
- Cassie J
- Senay M

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week  
 7D—7NST  
 Well done!

104 pupils across year 10 have 100% attendance, which is fantastic.

### Our Stars of the Week

- Mrs Walsh's – Cedric E 7C
- Mrs Rolt's - Christina Mc
- Mr Johnson's – Benedicta O
- Mrs Lennon's – Malik R

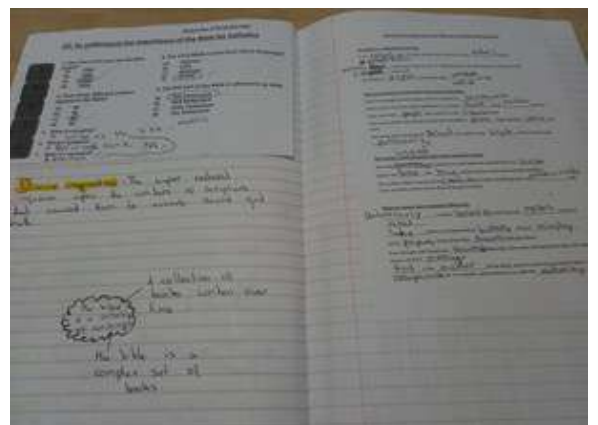


Y7 won there netball competition last night against Co-op Manchester. 7-0!! Benedicta was voted player of the match by Co-op. But they were all amazing. Well Done,

### Teacher Shout Out

From Miss Elliott—for **Jensen** who won Miss Elliott's weekly top art award last week!  
 This week's top art award prize winner is **Nyah C**. Keep up the hard work.  
 From **Miss Moffatt**—7C had a fantastic Drama lesson this week where they applied Brechtian techniques to telling the stories of the villains in famous fairy-tales!  
 From **Mr Moran**— Frank and Temi in 7E completing

7B continue to make strides in their learning with outstanding effort and engagement this week. Currently, we are exploring the Bible as a source of wisdom and authority for Christians. The pupils are using very high level vocabulary in lessons which is enabling them to taking their learning to the next level. Each lesson they continue to impress Mr. Hall and he knows that they will continue to strive to meet any challenge he sets head on with resilience and determination. Keep it up 7B. Special shout outs go to Sarah, Abraham, Daniella and Eminence.



In year 7 PSHE, we have been looking at being a successful student at St. Matthews as well as growth mindset and how this framework can help us to face challenges. All my classes have been wonderful and their work is outstanding.

Work below is from Daniel O from 7A

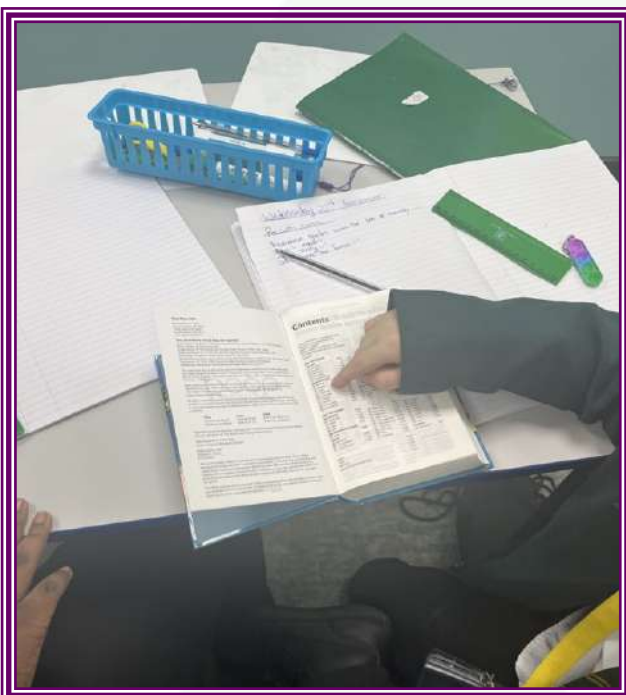
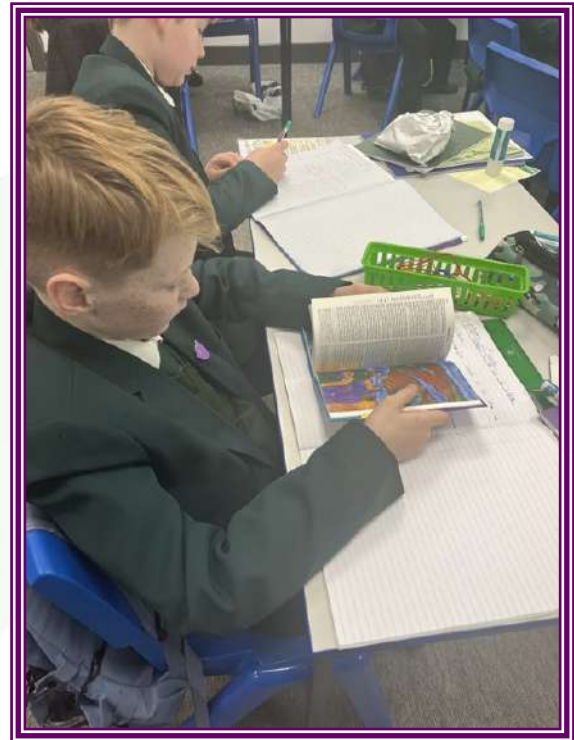
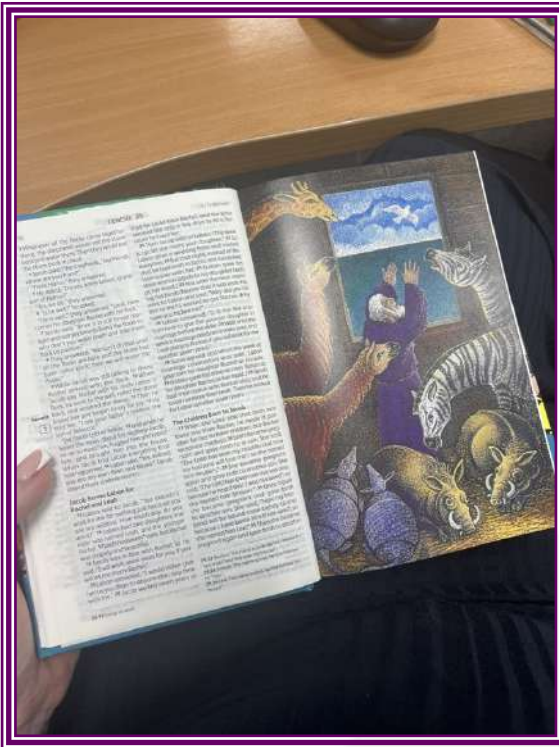
Fixed Mindset	Growth Mindset
Maths is too difficult. I've never been good at it.	I just need more time to practice and work on it.
I've tried one way and it didn't work.	I can try another way and see what happens.
I have no idea how to complete this task. I gave up. I'll never get better at Science.	I can ask the teacher for help.
I'm not well behaved in school, there's nothing I can do about it.	I can try to behave by listening to the teacher and not talking.
I always get in trouble, it's not my fault.	It is my fault sometimes but I can stand by myself. I just do my best.
I have poor organisational skills and this won't change.	I can practice my organisational skills.
If I've had a bad morning, the whole day will be ruined.	I can try and turn the bad morning into a better one and be proud.
My teacher told me off, they'll never like me.	I can show that I'm good and do good things for my class.



## Beehive

In 7K, we have been looking at some examples of Bibles in class. We discussed how some Bibles look different, what is the same in every Bible and how they can be adapted to be understood by younger audiences.

The students looked at the illustrations and made inferences based on images. They were able to use the contents page to find certain books quickly.



**A very proud Head of Beehive,  
Miss Tilbury.**

**Well done 7K**



## RE Department

The RE department continue to be impressed with the high standards being shown in every classroom on the third floor. The calm and purposeful nature of the lessons is enabling some high quality teaching to take place resulting in some amazing piece of work from all year groups.

Y11 preparing for their PPEs and the effort and engagement in their revision will prepare them to succeed on both papers over the next two week, Good luck and God bless to all our Y11 pupils.

Y10 continue to make strides in GCSE RE and are looking at the difference sources of wisdom and authority that Catholics will use in their life. They will study the importance of the Bible as well as the importance of the changes that were brought about as a results of the documents from Vatican II.

Y9 are exploring different ethical and moral dilemmas that people face and the different sources Christians use when making moral decisio<sup>n</sup>s. The pupils have really got stuck into this unit and some wonderfully debates have taken place in the class room.

Y8 are looking at relationships with God through the sacraments. Starting with baptism, pupils have been comparing the different Christian ceremonies and the similarities and differences between them. The aim of this unit is for pupils to identify the importance of their relationship with God and how it can be nourished through the sacraments.

Y7 have move on to the next unit of Prophecy and Promise and ask the big questions "can a book have all the answers. In this, they will explore the importance of the Bible for Christians as well as the different Bibles used by different Christians.

### RE Stars of the Week

Miss Cooper – Jacob 9I Mrs Hill – Demi Leigh Ms Wrigley – Laycie 8D

Mr Hall - Peter Y10 and Sarah Y7



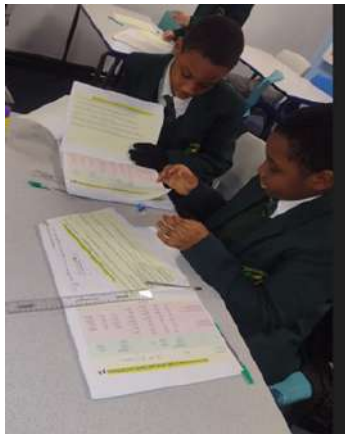


## Modern Foreign Languages

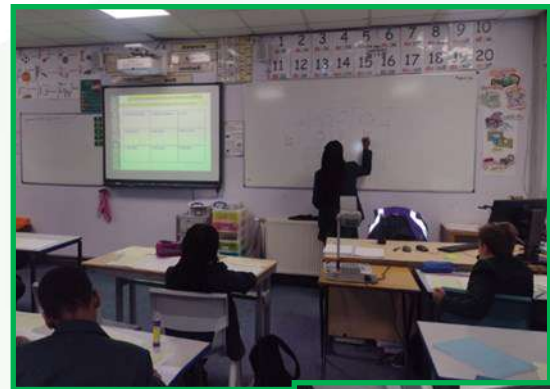
The MFL department are really proud of the excellent work our students have been producing over the last week.

Here are some highlights from last week:

Year 11 French intervention group (phase 1) have been attending extra lessons on a Monday lunch for the last 8 weeks. They have been focusing on improving their writing skills in preparation for the PPE exams. They were rewarded on Monday with a pizza reward lunch in recognition of their commitment to gaining the best GCSE results possible. Here are some of the group enjoying their reward.



Mr Moran was really impressed with the effort and engagement of his year 7G French class who were playing 'One pen, one dice' and 'noughts and crosses' to practice the topic of birthdays.



Miss Prendergast's class were enjoying a game of 'Mind-reader' to practice their pronunciation skills and Spanish phonics on the topic of 'physical descriptions'.



## Pele o

Finally, this is our word of the week, which means 'hello' in Yoruba!







## Chaplaincy Corner



This week has been another exciting one in the Chaplaincy department. Wednesday lunchtime saw the launch of our Year 10 and 11 Bible Club, and we were delighted to have nearly 40 wonderful students turn up to share their faith and their experiences of the Bible, and to learn more and pray together. This week we focused on Luke 18:35-43 where Jesus asks the blind beggar “what do you want me to do for you?”. The blind man’s response is naturally to ask for his sight back, but we considered what our response to that question would be: what do I want Jesus to do for me?

Wednesday was also the Feast of St Cecilia who is the patron saint of music and all around the school each form’s favourite hymn could be heard being played as part of our form time prayer. Everyone seems to have had a fantastic time, with many remembering singing these songs regularly at primary school. St Augustine said “the one who sings, prays twice”, so let us thank God for the gift of song!



On Thursday we launched our Year 11 pilgrimage trip to Lourdes for this summer. Every year hundreds of people from our local area go to Lourdes in the south of France on pilgrimage. Many of these pilgrims are elderly or disabled and so require assistance to get to the services and we are going to bring a group of our wonderful Year 11 students to join the volunteer team. We hope to offer this every year in the future so it can something to look forward to for those lower down the school, as well as for our top year. Full details can be found on the letter sent home to Year 11 parents/carers and on ParentPay.



Our staff prayer this week was led by the humanities departments and focused on the crucial issue of climate change which is so close to the heart of Pope Francis. We know that we need to care for the world to be able to pass it on to the next generations. Let’s pray that the important work of protecting the climate continues to grow.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy weekend. God bless.



## Support For Parents

Navigating the complicated world of additional needs can be tricky. There are many systems and processes to work through, so support for parents and families is important.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Where do I start?
- Who should I speak to?
- Who will help me?

### Manchester Parent Champions

A key partner for SMRCHS—find them on Facebook



### Manchester Parent Carer Forum

A key partner for SMRCHS—find them on Facebook and Instagram



### Manchester SEND Local Offer page

A one-stop shop for everything Manchester has to offer



### SENDIASS

An independent advice and support service for parents/families



### KOOTH

A great online support system for students struggling with emotional wellbeing



**KEEP AN EYE ON OUR SOCIALS PAGES FOR LINKS**



## London overnight theatre trip to see **Wicked the Musical** and **Harry Potter Studio Tour** Tues 16<sup>th</sup> & Wed 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024



The total cost of this trip is **£225**

A **£75** deposit required by ParentPay to secure a place.

If your child is interested in going on this trip then please ask them to see Mr Millington urgently before all the places are filled.

Trip is now open to anyone who plays a musical instrument or is interested in Music or drama at KS3.

### **Included in the cost...**

- Coach travel
- Tickets to see Wicked the Musical
- Sightseeing in London
- Evening meal in a restaurant
- Overnight stay in hotel
- Bed and breakfast
- Harry Potter Studio tour



St. Matthew's  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

# Christmas Raffle & 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)



**£1 Tickets are now on sale to win this cuddly trio of bears or a lovely duo of rabbits.**

**Send £1 into school with your child or call into reception for a raffle ticket.**

**Prize draw takes on Thursday 30th November 2023.**