



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 12 Friday 31 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers of St. Matthew's Students,

As we step into the wonderful season of Advent, I am grateful for your continued support and engagement with our school community. Your participation in the parent voice survey has been invaluable, providing encouraging feedback that motivates us to strive for even greater heights. While we celebrate the positive news, there is still work ahead to gain everyone's confidence, and I appreciate your ongoing collaboration in this journey.

I'm thrilled to share that our Year 11 students have exhibited remarkable dedication and commitment during their recent Pre-Public Examinations (PPE). Their hard work and preparation have been commendable, and the insights gathered from the analysis later this term will be instrumental in refining our strategies to ensure their comprehensive readiness for the upcoming summer exams.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your children's exceptional attendance. Through your support, St. Matthew's continues to surpass national benchmarks, fostering an environment where our students can thrive without developing learning gaps. Your active involvement in your child's education is truly appreciated and instrumental in their success.

This week, it was heartening to welcome back our 2023 Year 11 leavers. Hearing about their current accomplishments and successes was truly inspiring. It's a testament to their hard work and determination, and they serve as wonderful role models for our current students.

As we embark on the Advent season this Sunday, let us take this special time to pause, reflect, and embrace the true essence of Christmas. It's an opportunity to wait, pray, and appreciate the profound meaning of this joyous occasion. Let us give thanks for the gift of Jesus to the world, remembering the message of hope and love that he brings.

"The Lord is coming. May we await him with open hearts!" - Pope Francis

Once again, I express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to the growth and success of our students at St. Matthew's. Wishing you and your families a blessed Advent season filled with joy, peace, and cherished moments.

God bless



Attendance Information

BE ON TARGET



Students are in school for 190 days.
This means they are off school for 175 days.
Please send them to school for 190 days

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.

G Matthew – Strategic Attendance Lead

C Grainger – Attendance Lead

S Ross – Attendance Officer/ Safeguarding Officer



Important message

There are still 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.

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**

The Minimum Top Up is now £2.50.

When calling school please speak to the Finance Team 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

COLD DELI
A Selection of Rolls:
Ham, Cheese, Tuna, Chicken
Mayo, Egg Mayo

DRINKS
125ml Radnor Drink Carton
330ml Water Bottle
8oz Slush
Small Generation Juice

4OZ POTS
Selection of Fruit Pots
Selection of Jelly Pots
Selection of Yoghurt Pots
Selection of Seed Pots

HOMEBAKES
Mini Muffin
Mini Cookie
Mini Shortbread
Mini Flapjack

* Not all items are available everyday



Year 10

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

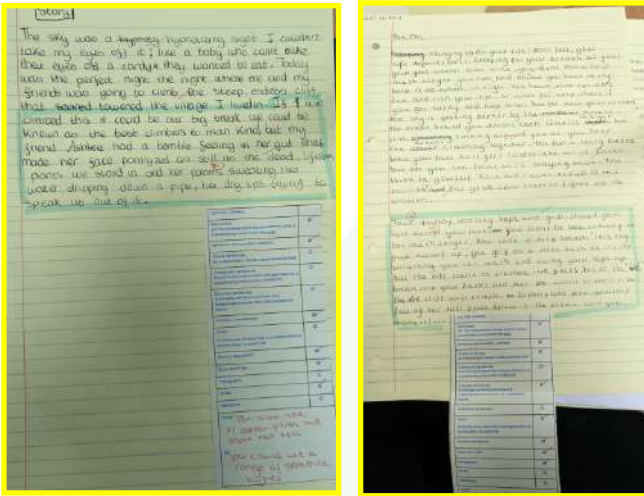
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week
10A—97.92% attendance
Well done!

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

Biology Triple Year 10 have done amazing this term
Well Done

I just want to say how impressed I am with my year 10, their attitude to homework, classwork and feedback has been incredible. I've attached some of their recent marked work. Well Done and Thank you



TEXTILES

My year 10 Textiles class who have been working so hard at creating samples using pattern and texture. The whole class have been fantastic and produced these fantastic research pages Thanks Miss Raynes





Highlights of the week

Year 9

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Top 5 Achievers

- ☆ • Lucy C
- ☆ • Rohan
- ☆ • Amelia
- ☆ • Chisom
- ☆ • Cass

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form is 9H again

Very Well Done !

Mrs King is extremely proud of you all.

Teacher Shout Outs...

Positive shoutouts to students of **9B**. They are showing good effort in learning. Miss KJ

Huge shoutout to **9I** were absolutely fantastic last week! I volunteered our RE lesson to be filmed by the Emmaus trust and all the students were brilliant. They really represented our school in such a great way! Miss Cooper

I'd like to give shout outs to both of my Year 9 German classes for their effort and engagement and their fantastic focus every lesson. Well done to Filip and Jaden F as the most improved learners last week! Mrs Callison

Massive shoutout to **9A**, in art last week 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 Phillipe 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**, Miss Richards.

Sporting Achievements

Year 9 Boys Won 6-2 in the English schools competition.

WELL DONE !



Year 9 doing some fantastic work in Textiles



Highlights of the week

Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers**
- ☆☆ * **Reann I**
 - ☆☆ * **Ethan B**
 - ☆☆ * **Ava I**
 - ☆☆ * **Muhammad U,**
 - ☆☆ * **Rajesh S**
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest Attending Forms are 8G and 8A with a fantastic 97% attendance Well Done!

72 students in year 8 with 100% attendance.

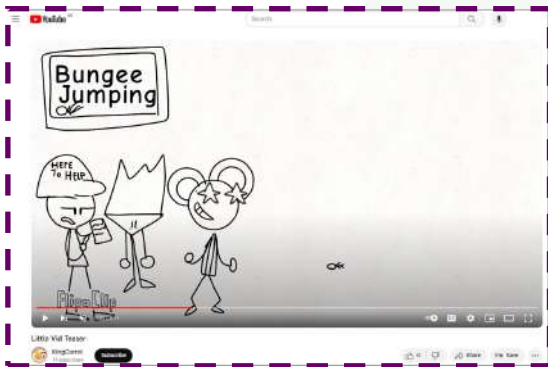
Lets keep improving on these numbers Year 8 Miss Travis is a very proud Head Of Year.



Year 8 Boys Football
Another fantastic win 3-2 from the year 8 boy's team this week against St. Peters RC Wigan. Well done



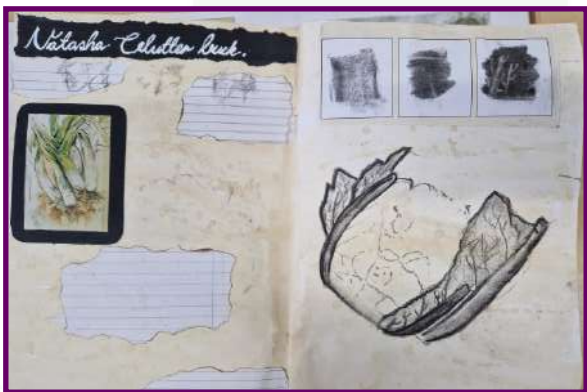
Miss Elliott- Art and Technology
Look at these amazing animations by Kayden G on youtube! So proud!



Big shout out to our top art award winner Najma who has made this lovely artist research page as home work!



Massive shout out to Anamika who's sketchbook presentation is always beautiful!



MissRaynes - Textiles

8Y textiles have been using recycled materials to make these fabulous pencil cases. A big well done to all pupils and to:

- Manuela P Casey P
- Charmaine M
- Emefiele C
- Elizabeth F
- Elmina O Hosanna C
- and Sidharth R for these fantastic examples.





Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ • Lillie K ☆
 - ☆ • Nikasalee D-S ☆
 - ☆ • Mary-Ann D ☆
 - ☆ • Mollie B ☆
 - ☆ • Yusra G ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week
7K—7ANa
Well done!

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

Our Stars of the Week

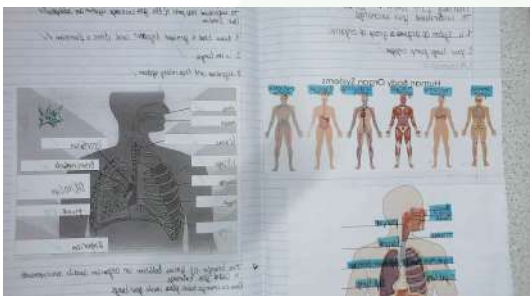
- Mrs Walsh's – Nikasalee D-S – 7J
- Mrs Rolt's - Osayamen Oliha – 7A
- Mr Johnson's – Maisey-Rae K-W – 7J
- Mrs Lennon's – Saul Sharples – 7E



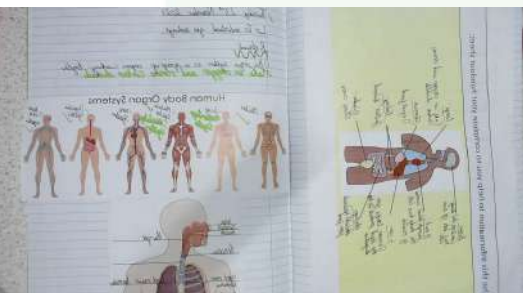
Year 7 Textiles pupils have done an amazing job making cushions using tie dye, fabric pens and applique. Well done to all pupils for their hard work, the cushions look fab
Miss Raynes



7K, 7E and 7D enjoying their reward breakfast for highest attending forms.



7C amazing work in science – Miss Kannamkuzhiyl-Janardanan



Mrs Lennon and Ms Taylor were very impressed with 7C and 7F in RE this week. Both classes displayed excellent engagement and effort. Well done

Special well done to Curtis Lawrence Mary-Ann and Lola for their consistent high standards they display ever lesson - Mrs Lennon



Beehive

In our Year 9 Beehive form, the students have been studying the different layers of the Earth. They used different materials to create their own artistic representation of the crust, mantle, inner and outer core layers.

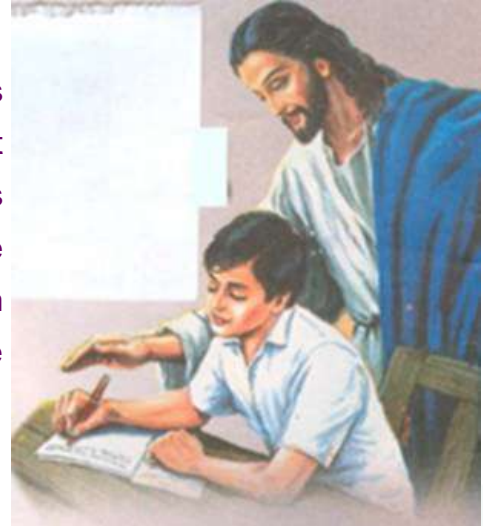


A very proud Head of Beehive,
Miss Tilbury.
Well done !



Chaplaincy Corner

This week as the Year 11s take their PPE mock exams we have prayed that God will be with them throughout these days. Using the rather cheesy image of Jesus leaning over the exam desk, we explored in form time prayer how God is always with us, accompanying us in the best of times and in the worst of times, even if we are unaware of his presence.



We have also celebrated St Andrew's Day. St Andrew was one of the very first followers of Jesus and is now the patron saint of Scotland, so we pray for all the Scottish members of our school community.

Our Key Stage 4 Bible Club continued its success with another huge turn out of students and staff. This week we discussed St Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verses 1 to 17. We were very impressed with the way that many students contributed to our discussion about life in the flesh and life in the Spirit. Next week we will continue our reading of Romans 8.

As we prepare to enter Advent this weekend, we wish you all a happy and holy season preparing for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas.



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 16th & Wed 17th 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



DON'T MISS OUT

LIFE OF PI

WINNER OF EVERY MAJOR PLAY AWARD
INCLUDING 5 OLIVIERS AND 3 TONYS



- 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"





St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Christmas Carol Concert

**ST MATTHEW'S
CHRISTMAS
CAROL CONCERT
TUE 12 DEC
SMRCHS HALL @ 5PM
FREE ADMISSION**



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

