



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 13 Friday 08 December 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers of St. Matthew's students and our partner primary schools,

I hope this message finds you well. I am thrilled to extend my warm congratulations to our amazing students for yet another successful week here at St. Matthew's School. I would also like to extend a special welcome to our readers from our partner primary schools who are joining us for the first time in reading our Round Up magazine.

This past week, our Year 11 students completed the second week of their PPEs, and I must commend them for their unwavering commitment and dedication. Witnessing their determination has been truly wonderful.

Moreover, we've recently concluded the first four days of our 14-day Christmas attendance prize draw, and it's been a delight to see the joy on the faces of the lucky students who have won some fantastic prizes. The positive and cheerful atmosphere at 2:45 pm each day as the students eagerly anticipate the draw has been uplifting. I must emphasise that events like this thrive due to the full cooperation and engagement of our students, and it's been truly inspiring to see their active involvement.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to you for your continued support in ensuring your children's attendance. Strong attendance remains a cornerstone in fostering your child's progress, and it's heartening to note the consistent commitment to attendance within our school community.

As we step further into the festive season, we are actively planning our Christmas liturgies and special events within the school. This is a time of joyous celebration where we seamlessly blend festivity with our ongoing curriculum to ensure continuity and uninterrupted learning. It is during this season of Advent, brimming with hope, that we have a unique chance to renew ourselves spiritually, to shed all negativity, and embrace positivity. Let us embark on this special time as an opportunity for a fresh start, filled with hope, knowing that God is always by our side.

Allow me to leave you with a quote from Pope Francis: "Hope is a strength, a grace, and a gift from God. Advent increases our hope." May this message resonate within us as we move forward in this season.

God bless you and your families.

Mr Nightingale



BE ON TARGET



If you are having difficulty with your child attending school regularly, please contact us as we can advise on lots of different support

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



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Rewarding Students



St. Matthew's
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14 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS BEHAVIOUR & PUNCTUALITY

WIN £30 VOUCHERS
OF YOUR CHOICE
TUE 05 DEC - FRI 22 DEC

Every student who is in school on time and has
no behaviour points will be entered into this

**FANTASTIC PRIZE DRAW
+ LOADS OF OTHER
AMAZING PRIZES
UP FOR GRABS!!!**



We Pray · We Care · We Achieve

We Pray · We Care · We Achieve



14 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE

Any student that reaches
100% attendance between

TUE 05 DEC - FRI 22 DEC

will be in with the chance to WIN...

AN AMAZING CHRISTMAS

GOODIE BAG



We **Pray**
We **Care**
We **Achieve**



Important message

There are still many students who have a debt on their Parent Pay Account. We are making contact with you to discuss on a one to one basis what needs to be done next.

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	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



Year 10

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

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week
10A—96.87% attendance

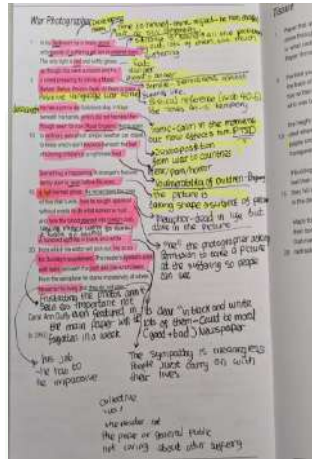
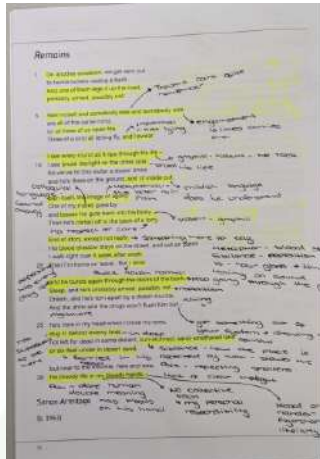
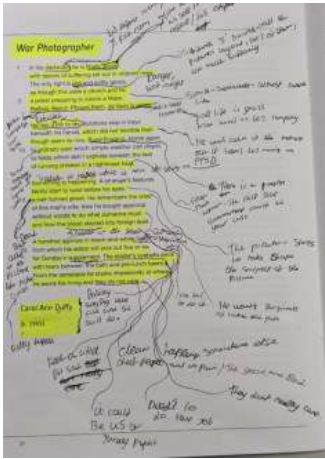
Well done!

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

Shout Out

From Miss Rayson -

how amazing 10Y2 have been again this week, specifically Skye, who has been amazing while doing poetry. I am so impressed with them, keep up the hard work! Here are some amazing annotations from Skye, Chanel and Harry.



Peer Reading Programme

Thank you to some of our Year 10s who have been trained up as Reading Mentors. They have been paired up with a Year 7 student for our Peer Reading Programme.





Highlights of the week

Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ • Mohamad A ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Lawrence B ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Cutis M ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Afnan I ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Oleksander N ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



**Highest attending forms this week
7E—7Est
Well done!**

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

- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- ★ **Our Stars of the Week**
- ★ Mrs Walsh's – **Mohamed A – 7C**
 - ★ Mrs Rolt's - **Mary Ann D – 7C**
 - ★ Mr Johnson's – **Destiny O – 7J**
 - ★ Mrs Lennon's – **Jamila W – 7D**
- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Staff Shout outs

7C are being incredible in English at the moment. They are working hard, engaging fantastically and are making great progress. I very much look forward to the amazing things we'll do in our lessons Mrs Taylor



The Y7/8 Futsal team came 4th at the Manchester tournament this week!
Player of Y7- Eman
Well Done! Miss Waters

7x/Te3 have spent 13 weeks working hard on building their own wooden pencil cases!

They look amazing! Well done from Miss Elliott



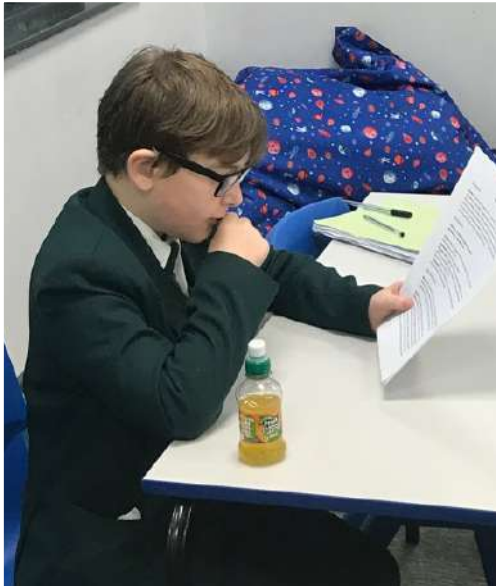
Quiet club monitors. Temi 7E and Theresa F
Miss Alexander



Beehive

Students enjoyed reading aloud in Mr Napier's form, with great support from Miss Wilson when it was their turn to receive the travelling crib in form. All the pupils were listening carefully and respectfully to those who read (Francis, Vincenzo and Logan).

Miss Rayson applauded Joshua and Riylan who were great going to her form to read their short part as they delivered the crib to her form.



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



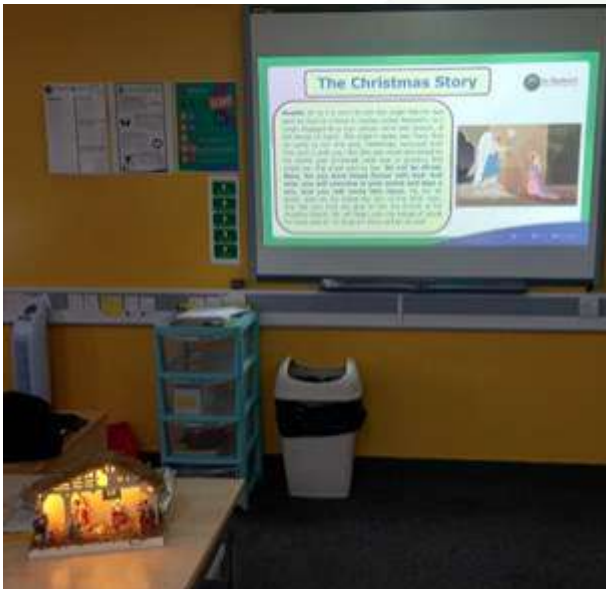
Chaplaincy Corner



Happy New Year! This week we have begun the season of Advent and this marks the start of the Church's liturgical year. Our main focus this week has been the beginning of advent. On Tuesday we lit our advent wreath during the rewards livestream. We look forward to lighting an extra candle each week during our assemblies as we wait patiently for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, at Christmas.

This year each form will welcome a "travelling crib" into their form room for a day and a night, offering shelter to Mary and Joseph as they make their journey to Bethlehem. As the crib moves on each morning, the form who receives it holds a short liturgy of welcome, focusing on the Bible stories of Jesus' birth and singing a Christmas Carol. The light up cribs remain in the classrooms all day so that everyone who goes into those classes is reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

We also celebrated the feasts this week of St Nicholas (the origin of Santa Claus) and the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Inspired by St Nicholas we reflected on that we should do good things simply because they are good and help other people, rather than always doing good things in order to be praised or to receive achievement points!



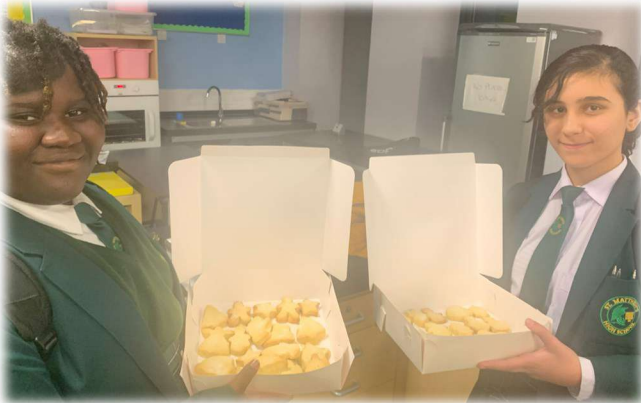
Staff prayer this week was fantastically lead by the Science department, focusing on the idea of "time" and how we use it and how we waste it. Advent is a time of waiting and so let us take each day and each hour as it comes and use the time

together that God has given us. May God bless you all this weekend and bring us back together next week to continue our journey towards the Feast of Christmas.



The Great St. Matthew's Baking Club...

Mrs Hayes is very pleased with the Baking Club and their 'yummy' festive delights and looks forward to next weeks 'goodies'. It's a pleasure to see the students enjoying learning new techniques and methods to build on their baking skills.





Spotlight on SEND – Identifying needs

Moderate Learning Difficulties

What is MLD?

Pupils with moderate learning difficulties (also known as global learning difficulties) have a general developmental delay. They have difficulties with learning across all areas of the school curriculum. Those with MLD comprise the largest group of pupils with special educational needs in mainstream schools. Many of these learners have a delay of about three years and consequently need a high level of support within the mainstream classroom.

Many pupils with moderate learning difficulties can also be suffering from low levels of self-esteem and motivation. They may become resentful and refuse to attempt new work as they perceive themselves to be likely to fail before they start. It is likely that they will become over-reliant on support staff to help them with tasks and they will need much encouragement and praise to persuade them to attempt new challenges, which are within their capability and develop greater independence.

Children with MLD may:

- have immature listening/attention skills
- have immature social skills
- rely on a teaching assistant to direct them within the class situation
- have a poor auditory memory
- have a poor visual memory
- have difficulty acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills
- have difficulties with comprehension skills
- need a high level of support with investigation and problem-solving activities.
- have poor verbal and non-verbal reasoning skills
- have difficulties with applying what they know to other situations
- have some motor coordination difficulties.

Support strategies

You may need to:

- ensure that learning activities are broken down into small steps and are clearly focused
- simplify or abbreviate class tasks
- provide a multi-sensory approach to learning
- use visual and concrete materials to aid understanding
- keep language simple and familiar
- keep instructions short and concise
- ask children to repeat instructions in order to clarify understanding
- provide alternative methods of recording, such as labelled pictures, diagrams or flow charts
- allow extra time to complete a task
- monitor and record progress so that each small achievement is recognised
- organise activities to develop listening and attention skills, such as sound tapes
- practise a range of sequencing activities, such as pictorial activity or story sequences, word/sentence sequences, days, months and number sequences
- help learners organise their written work by using writing frames



Praise every effort and successful achievement of new skills.





Shout our for PPE exams

Sending a HUGE shout out to all of our Year 11 students who have sat their exams in the NOF and Beehive. The team have been amazed by your consistent positivity and fabulous attitude to the exams. You have all been a credit to yourselves and your families.

Well Done!

Thanks to the staff who continue to make all of this possible. The students have been put at ease by the meticulous planning and consistent messages, especially from Miss. Cooper, Miss. Smith and Mrs. Darlington.





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



St. Matthew's
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Christmas Carol Concert

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

FREE ADMISSION



St. Matthew's
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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

