



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



# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 16 Friday 12 January 2024

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well and that you and your family enjoyed a joyful and peaceful Christmas period together. As we have welcomed everyone back to school for the new term, it brings me great joy to share that our students have settled in well, looking as smart and well presented as they did back in September.

I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support with ensuring your children have the necessary uniform and school equipment. I have taken all of the assemblies this week and have been truly impressed with the smart focused approach of each year group.

This term holds significant events, including two important parents' evenings for Year 7 and Year 9. For year 7, it will be important to see how your children are progressing in school and how well they have settled more generally. For Year 9, in particular, the options process has begun, and the upcoming parents evening is crucial for making informed decisions about their subjects.

To enhance our students' organisation and reduce reliance on the Edulink app, we have distributed small pocket planners containing key information and their timetables. This step is part of our efforts to gradually limit mobile phone use in school.

As we embark on this new term, January marks a month of new beginnings. In this Sunday's Gospel, we learn about the two disciples of John the Baptist making a fresh start, uncertain but knowing what they needed to do – start afresh and get close to Jesus. As Pope Francis wisely said, "Let us allow God's constant help to make us new people."

May this term be filled with growth, learning, and positive new beginnings for each student. Thank you for your continued partnership in the education journey of our students.

God bless

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



**BE ON TARGET**



Research shows daily school attendance positively impacts students' social, emotional, and cognitive development. School participation maximises life opportunities for all students. It gives them the foundation they need to succeed in school and life.

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.

**The Attendance Team would like to take this opportunity to thank-you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and wish you all a very peaceful and joyous Christmas.**

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

**We still have some students who have debt on their Parent Pay Account, we will be making contact with you to discuss this on a one to one basis.**

**In the meantime please check Parent Pay and top up funds to clear any debt if you are in a position to do so before your child/children return to school after the Christmas holidays.**

**If you are struggling to clear this debt, we suggest your child/children bring a packed lunch each day upon returning to school 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



## 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	

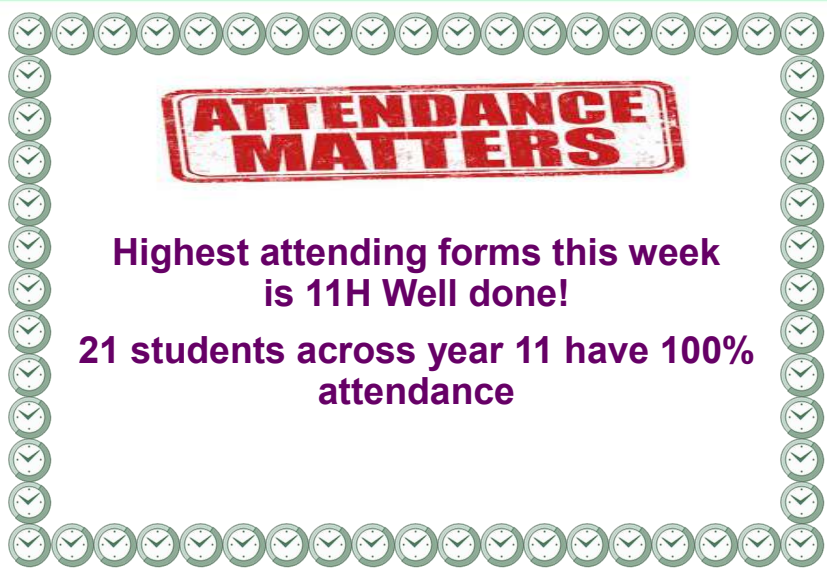
\* Not all items are available everyday



# Highlights of the week

## Year 11

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ **Top 5 Achievers** ★
- ★ \* Chloe S ★
- ★ \* Keyla ★
- ★ \* Leigha ★
- ★ \* Wayne ★
- ★ \* Alexis ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Highest attending forms this week is 11H Well done!

21 students across year 11 have 100% attendance



### TEACHER SHOUT OUTS TO YEAR 11

Mrs Bunn wants to shout out the whole of year 11 for their amazing start they have had to the new school year !! #CLASSOF2024

Miss Cooper -11X1 were amazing in RE this morning. They were all very engaged in our topic of Catholic worship music and completed some brilliant work.

Please give a special shoutout to Cameron B who was brilliant entertainment with his hymn singing!

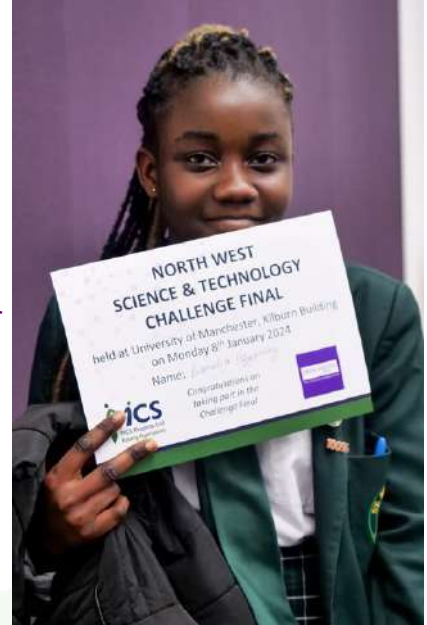
Miss O`Briens Form will be rewarded with a breakfast on Friday Morning for the way they behaved during the fire drill! What an amazing example.





# Highlights of the week

Daniella Agyemang a 10 STEM student who won the Manchester STEM challenge in Summer 2023. On the 8th of January 2024, she took part in the Northwest STEM Challenge Final, which saw pupils across Northwest England who have won in their region competing to be crowned Northwest Champion. Although she did not win this time around, she however showed great effort, teamwork, and creative thinking in supporting her teammate in completing the task. The STEM team and members of the St Matthew RC High School Family are proud of her.



**From Ms Tormey -**

Please can I give a shout out to 10Y3 who worked really hard in their literature exam, and met the exam standards. I'm really proud of their focus, resilience and hard work. '

Congratulations to Ollie and Anthony for a great smart start in Maths – receiving this weeks Hoy award from Mrs Newey

## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆  
 ☆ \* Elisha S ☆  
 ☆ \* Emma L ☆  
 ☆ \* Sharon M ☆  
 ☆ \* Natalie ☆  
 ☆ \* Rose ☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Highest attending forms this week is 9H Well done!**  
**146 students across year 9 have 100% attendance**



Great win in the county cup second round for the year 9 football team beating Trinity 5-0. Top effort by all!

9F showed incredible focus in their mid-year assessment – I was super impressed! Mrs Taylor



Yr9 have made an impressive start to the new year in Drama. Excellent effort and engagement whilst rehearsing and performing extracts from the play DNA by Denis Kelly. Well done to all, especially Devine, Stephen and Taio pictured above from 9J. Ms O'Brien

Great to see all the Year 9 forms receiving their first options presentation this week delivered by Mr Atkin.

Well done Year 9—Great start to the year. Keep up the good work!

Mrs King



# Highlights of the week

## Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Angel J ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Larisa C ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Felicia A ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Lyla F-M ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Merit E ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Highest attending forms are 8G with 96% attendance

31 students with 100% attendance across the year groups

Very Well Done!



Mr Brown's Form 8B recently finished their Form Time Guided Reading boko 'Onyeka.' They enjoyed it so much that they designed some alternative front covers.



Miss Tormney:

Please can I give a shout out to 8B and 8C who worked incredibly hard in their Mid-Year this week. They were really focussed and met the exam standards.

Well done to both classes.

Mr. Skelton:

The Y8 football club was great again this week. 30 pupils braved the cold with a competi-

Miss Waters:

Felicia, Pauline, Lyla, Norua and Precious have been outstanding in both X Country lesson this week



# Highlights of the week

## Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● **Aneela B** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● **Jenson T** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● **Adelana O** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● **McKenzie O** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● **Marcel W** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



**Highest attending forms this week  
7C STA  
Well done!**

**19 pupils across year 10 have 100%  
attendance. Lets aim for higher!**

- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- ★ **Our Stars of the Week** ★
- ★ Mrs Walsh's – **Basit A** ★
- ★ Mrs Rolt's - **Coumba B** ★
- ★ Mr Johnson's – **Lawrence B** ★
- ★ Mrs Lennon's – **Dorothy AE** ★
- ★
- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



7B working hard in English with Mrs Strickland

Ms Garman is really proud of 7G for sitting their mid-year exams with impeccable exam behaviour!

Ms Tormey would like to give a shout-out to 7I, 7F, 7D and 7H. They have behaved impeccably in their mid-year exams this week.

All pupils in these classes have hit the standards for exam expectations and I am beyond proud of every single person.

Mr Moran would like to give a shout-out to Crystabel I in 7G, who has achieved 100% in every piece of RRR this year!

Mr Napier is very proud of 7K who have created revision mind maps, getting ready for their mid-year exams in science and geography. They have all worked extremely hard and tried to practice different revision techniques.

Well done!





## Chaplaincy Corner

We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and that the light of Jesus Christ was able to enter into your hearts and homes. We ask God's blessing on 2024, that it might be a year of growth and of peace.



Our main focus this week has been on the Feast of the Epiphany which was celebrated on Sunday. This feast marks the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. During our form time prayers we have looked one by one at these three gifts: what they are and why each one was given to Jesus. We learned that gold was a symbol that Jesus is a King. Frankincense (often just called incense) is used as a symbol of God's presence among us and so symbolises that Jesus is truly god. And finally, myrrh was used to anoint the

dead in the ancient world and so this gift symbolises that Jesus would have to die in order to save humanity and bring us back to God. At the end of the week we focused on the many gifts that God has given to us asked God to help us to use them well in the service of others.

Our Key Stage 4 Bible Club began again on Wednesday with an opening discussion on the book of Revelation. We will continue looking at this book next week. Next week we will also have the first meeting of our Key Stage 3 Bible Club and so anyone in years 7, 8, or 9 is warmly invited to join us in T7 on Tuesday Lunchtime.

We wish you a blessed weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back next week.

*You are invited to...*

**KS3 Bible Club**



**Every Tuesday  
Lunchtime in T7**



# 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**

