



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



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 17 Friday 19 January 2024

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well despite the challenges presented by the recent snow and ice. I extend my sincere gratitude to each and every family for your strong commitment to ensuring your children attended school this week. I understand the challenges that the weather can bring and I would like to congratulate the student population for their conduct and attitude this week.

It is with great pleasure that I share the news that attendance across the school remains strong, surpassing both national and regional averages. Your dedication to your children's education is evident, and we appreciate the collaborative spirit that contributes to the success of our school community.

I am delighted to report that Year 11 students have seamlessly settled back into lessons after their Christmas break. Many are actively engaging in the extensive intervention program and period 6 revision lessons, demonstrating their commitment to being well-prepared for the upcoming summer exams. The positive progress and enthusiasm displayed by Year 10 students are also noteworthy, with improved attendance and significant strides in their GCSE subjects.

A special thank you to those who attended the Year 7 Parents Evening last night. It was heartening to witness the strong turnout and the positivity that permeated our conversations. Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive for continuous improvement, and we appreciate everyone who took the time to share their thoughts. Your support is never taken for granted, and together, we look forward to shaping the next phase of our school's development.

I would like to remind you that the Year 9 Parents and Options Evening is scheduled for February 14, 2024. I anticipate this to be another wonderful opportunity to connect with even more parents and discuss the educational journey of your children.

In reflecting on this Sunday's Gospel, we draw inspiration from the narrative of Jesus gathering the first community of disciples. As Pope Francis encourages us, let us be active presences in our community, fostering an environment where everyone thrives. Our school community, rich in diversity, continues to flourish on a daily basis, and it is a joy to witness.

I want to express my pride in the numerous opportunities our students have to be active participants in both our school and the wider community. Many have embraced service roles, embodying the values that make our school community special.

As we approach the weekend, I wish each of you a lovely and restful time. May God bless you and your families, and may the positive spirit of our school community continue to shine brightly.

Thank you for being an integral part of St. Matthew's School.

God bless



# 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**

**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



**BE ON TARGET**



If your child has attendance below 92%, you must provide medical evidence to enable the absence to be authorised.

This can be a photograph of medication or appointment card/ letter.

Please email medical evidence to:  
[attendance@smrchs.com](mailto:attendance@smrchs.com)

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





## **'Riding the Rapids'**

Do you have a child who has been referred to the Social Communication Pathway (SCP) for assessment of neuro-diversity, or has received a diagnosis of Autism?

We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting a post-diagnosis course, for parents and families, led by the Thrive in Education practitioners.

This pilot project, in association with CAMHS, will begin after Easter.

Places are limited to 10 families per cohort and each course will last for 10 weeks.

We intend to offer this support on a rolling programme.







It's been a busy for our Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEAIG) provision. Here's what's already happened so far this academic year:

- Careers meetings with Mrs Worrall, Careers Advisor, having been taking place. Most of Year 11 have had at least one meeting; several others have had subsequent meetings to talk more about choices.
- Mrs Worrall has also started to meet with Year 10.
- Late September saw the hugely successful Post-16 Fair in the Sports Hall. With a variety of educational providers and employers available, this was a great opportunity for Years 10 and 11 to explore their options once they leave. The providers commented how engaged the pupils were which shows how committed Key Stage 4 is to fully understanding where they could end up.
- Mrs Worrall spoke to the entire Year 9 cohort about help with careers and what options post-16 they might have.

Over 100 Year 9 and 10 pupils responded to a survey to gauge their thoughts on their futures, and how we might help them work toward their dream careers. Thank you to all those who took part: you are helping us shape our provision.

There's more to come:

- A parent voice survey will be sent out to understand what parents know about CEAIG. We look forward to analysing the results.
- In February, Medical Mavericks will be in school working with a select number of pupils who might be interested in health-related careers.
- From 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March we will mark National Careers Week with a variety of activities across the entire school.

Later in March, Year 10 pupils will have an opportunity to take part in the National Apprenticeship Event at the Etihad Stadium, where they will be able to meet with apprenticeship providers, colleges and employers.

If you want to find out more about what we offer, and for sources of further information, see <https://www.smrchs.com/pupils/careers/>



St. Matthew's  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

COMPETITION TIME



# THROUGH THEIR EYES

POETRY COMPETITION FOR 11-18 YEAR-OLDS



WHOSE POINT OF VIEW  
WILL **YOU** CHOOSE?

YOU COULD BE PUBLISHED AND EVEN  
WIN £50 AND A TROPHY!

SEE THIS TEACHER FOR MORE INFORMATION:

YOUR ENTRY NEEDS TO BE HANDED IN BY:

[WWW.YOUNGWRITERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.YOUNGWRITERS.CO.UK)

We Pray · We Care · We Achieve





*Love*

*&*



*War*

**Deadline: Friday 9th February 2024**

## THE RULES

♥ Entries must be between 400-2000 words.



You can focus on one theme or blend both themes together.

♥ All participants will get a entry prize.



Anything considered inappropriate will be edited out.

♥ Your story must have a title.



Include your name and form group on your submission.

## STORY SELECTION

Tense

Past

Present

Future

Genre

Romance

Fantasy

Other

Setting

Ancient

Modern

Other

Voice

1st

Omniscient

Unreliable

Ending

Happy

Sad

Ambiguous

**Send to: [N.Tormey@smrchs.com](mailto:N.Tormey@smrchs.com)**





## Chaplaincy Corner



This week saw the launch of our Key Stage 3 Bible Club which was a great success, with many students coming to share their faith and biblical knowledge. We discussed Jesus's healing of the blind beggar in Luke 18, focusing particularly on the faith and humility shown by the blind man in asking for his sight back rather than for money. Bible Club continues each week on Tuesday lunchtime for KS3 and Wednesday lunchtime for KS4.

In our form time prayer this week we have been focusing on the theme of Christian Unity. Jesus prayed that all of his followers "may be one...so that the world may believe" (John 17:20-21). Each year the World Council of Churches asks all Christians to pray in a special



way for this unity among believers and we have been taking part by thinking about the theme of unity from different Christian perspectives.

This week we have also announced an exciting opportunity for Year 7 pupils to take part in at the end of the school year. In July we will be taking a group of Year 7s to Savio House in Bollington for a two night residential retreat. This will be an opportunity to step back from our day to day lives, to have fun together in the countryside, and to think about the theme of "building bridges", both with each other and with God. Full details of this retreat can be found on ParentPay and in the letter send to parents/carers on Monday.

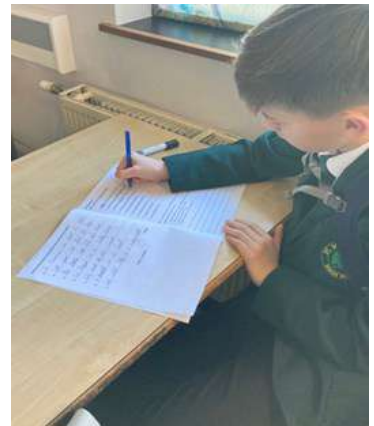




## MFL

Our MFL students are in the middle of their mid-year exams and their preparation and effort during this exam period has been and continues to be exemplary. Mrs Gyves-Walker rewarded her 8Y

German class with a 'sweet treat' for their excellent effort and impeccable behaviour during their assessment on Thursday. Archie C was outstanding and here he is completing his exam.



Mrs Callison is very proud of how well her year 9 and 10 pupils have applied themselves to their mid-year listening and reading exams! Keep up the good work!



Year 11 have reflected on their PPE scores and the MFL Team is really proud of the effort and preparation that went into these exams by the French students. Phase two intervention started on Monday for a group of targeted pupils who are all committed to improving their grades and Mrs Gyves-Walker cannot wait for our next lunchtime session next week!

Year 10 have been completing their speaking exams in French this week and have prepared their general conversations, as well as their photo card answers, to the highest standard. Bravo – Madame Gyves-Walker est très fière de vous! Agnès and Israella kindly allowed their speaking tests to be photographed and both girls did extremely



**Finally, our word of the week is 'Sveiki', which means 'hello' in Lithuanian!**



The Christmas Card competition winners are listed below. All the pupils will be receiving vouchers in the coming days. A big thank you to Ms Prendergast for organising her annual Christmas Card competition!



- Aarush year 7 – Italian
- Reaan year 8 – Arabic
- Najma Year 8 – Spanish and Farsi
- Daniele Year 8 – Lithuanian
- Lydia Year 8 – A variety of languages and amazing facts!

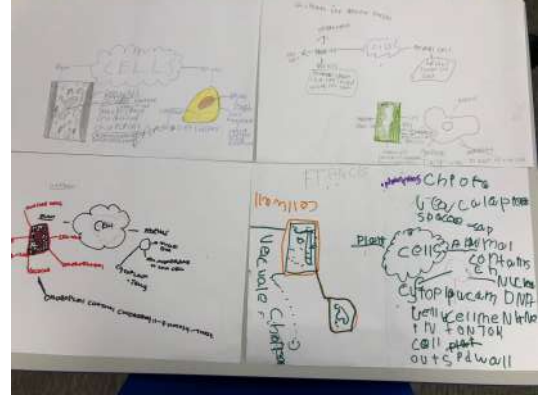
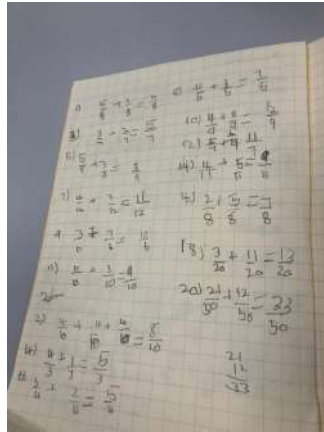
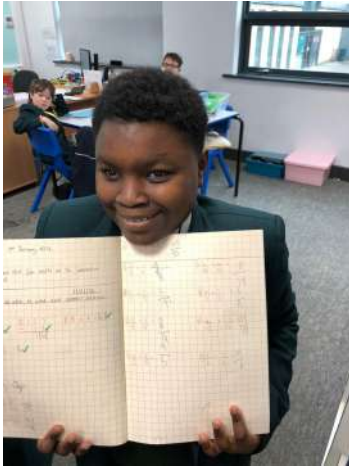




# Highlights of the week

## Beehive

The Y7s continued their hard work revising in Maths and Science lessons this week. We are so proud of your hard



The Y8s had time to become little chefs this week enjoyed their pizza cooking lesson! The pizza turned out wonderfully.



The Y9s finally created their own volcanic eruptions and loved every minute of it!



A very proud Miss Mallinson and all the team







St. Matthew's  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

# PROM SHOUT OUT

## Year 11



St. Matthew's  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

## PROM WEAR APPEAL 2024

We are requesting contributions of prom dresses, suits and accessories to assist families in need around the end of the school year.

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Donate a Prom dress/suit;
- Donate accessories like shoes or shirts;
- Donate your time or a gift voucher to provide hair, make-up or nails; and
- Share this post with your friends, family & local businesses.

[www.smrchs.com](http://www.smrchs.com)



### SPREAD THE WORD!

Anyone who wants to donate please contact Mrs Bunn  
[k.bunn@smrchs.com](mailto:k.bunn@smrchs.com)



## Year 10

- ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆  
 ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆  
 ☆ \* Safina ☆  
 ☆ \* Molly ☆  
 ☆ \* Miriam ☆  
 ☆ \* Loveth ☆  
 ☆ \* Charlie ☆  
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week is 10D Aha. With 100% attendance Well done!

49 students across year 10 have 100% attendance

10H have just finished their Form Time reading book, *The Upper World*. They absolutely LOVED the book. Particularly, the boys in my form were so engaged and some were even trying to sneak a peek ahead to try get to the next parts each week! It is such a good choice for their age! Even the students that initially claimed reading was 'boring' clearly enjoyed the storyline and it was just so lovely to have this experience with them. It made the weekly sessions of reading something to look forward to, and definitely showed a lot of the pupils just how exciting reading can be.



Great start back to the year for year 10 . Superb!!



### SHOUT OUT TO:

10Y2, are amazing. Their willingness to get involved, give their opinion and interpretation is phenomenal. They are really getting into their GCSE anthology and demonstrating great work ethic. Well done, Miss Rayson.



Precious – Head of Year award this week from Mrs Newey . Outstanding intervention and support in the school community

Mr Halls form reach 100% attendance outstanding commitment and achievement





## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Houleye ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Elisha S ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Loredana ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Rodiyat ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Fatima ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Highest attending forms this week is 9C Well done!**

**Knocking 9H off the top spot!!**

**146 students across year 9 have 100% attendance**

### SHOUT OUT FROM MISS O'CONNELL!

would just like to say how positive and pleasant SIX year 9 groups have been whilst I have been covering Geography. Despite experiencing this disruption, they have responded well which has allowed me to fully support their learning. In particular, 9D were marvellous in terms of every pupil working hard, behaving well and supporting a happy environment.

The other groups were 9E, 9F, 9C, 9A and 9J who all displayed a really positive attitude.



I have just had a brilliant lesson with 9H lesson 5. All learners were engaged in the learning. Four learners were awarded Actor of the Week certificates, Georgie Lee Thorpe, Evie B, Myles B and Oliver F. I also sent a praise text home for those four students and all other learners have been awarded achievement point. I am really pleased with the way this class always engages in Drama, particularly impressed with the extra effort made by Dennis and Rocco.  
Miss O'Brien

Well done to the Year 9 Football team who progressed to the semi finals of the Manchester cup this week beating St Peters 7-1. Superb performance and still remain unbeaten this year.

**Well done Year 9 Keep up the good work!**  
**Mrs King, Ms Rossie and Mr Robinson**

9K - Great revision work leading up to recent their recent assessments with me in science and geography. All of the class then showed wonderful behaviour during the assessments and tried their hardest! Well done!! Mr Napier







# Highlights of the week

## Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ • Aneela B ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Lottie L ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Daniella F ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Abraham A ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Sarah Mc ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

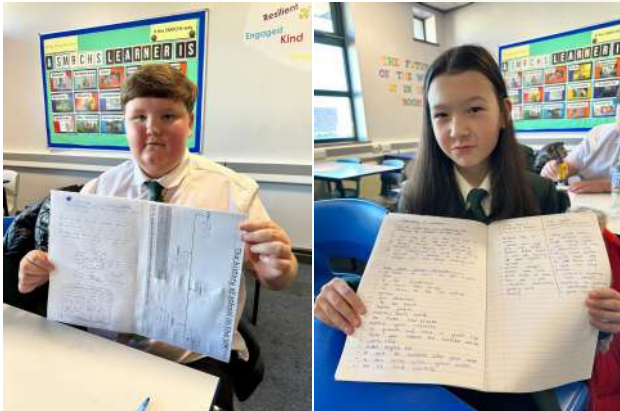


**Highest attending forms this week**  
**7H CBa**  
**Well done!**

**19 pupils across year 7 have 100% attendance. Lets aim for higher!**

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Our Stars of the Week** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ Mrs Walsh's – JJ B ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ Mrs Rolt's - Dena J ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ Mr Johnson's – Thea R ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ Mrs Lennon's – Daniella F ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

What a great turn out for Y7 parent's evening this week! We hope you enjoyed meeting all of your child's teachers and are proud at hearing how hard they have been working during their mid year assessments!



Miss Begum -Lovely work from Jamie and Lottie! Brilliant work from Y7 in PSHE about the history of schools in the UK, students were engaged and well behaved.



Some Lovely work from Y7 was displayed at parent's evening.



4E have been so excited to learn about Frankenstein! Its been non stop enthusiasm and its catching! Well done, Miss Rayson.

7K - Great revision work leading up to their recent assessments with me in science and geography. All of the class then showed wonderful behaviour during the assessments and tried their hardest! Well done!!





# 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**

