



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 18 Friday 26 January 2024

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers of St Matthew's students,

I hope this message finds you well and you are preparing for a joyful weekend with your families. I am delighted to share with you some positive updates from another rewarding week at St. Matthew's.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to report that we've experienced strong attendance across all year groups, and it's been rewarding to witness so many students actively engaging in our diverse array of extracurricular activities. This level of participation speaks volumes about the enthusiasm and dedication of our student body.

This week, we welcomed a specialist safeguarding team from the Emmaus Trust to review our procedures and interact with both staff and students about life here at St. Matthew's. I am proud to announce that the report we received was overwhelmingly positive, acknowledging many of the improvements we have diligently implemented. While we celebrate this achievement, we understand that our journey towards excellence is ongoing, and we remain committed to continuously enhancing all aspects of our school community.

Additionally, we've had the pleasure of welcoming a significant number of new starters across all year groups. It has been heartwarming to observe how seamlessly they have integrated into our school family. I am particularly impressed by the kindness and support our existing students have extended to the newcomers, exemplifying the caring and inclusive ethos that defines St. Matthew's.

As we reflect on the week's events, I am reminded of the importance of good teachers including all our staff at St Matthew's, as highlighted in this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus, the ultimate teacher, demonstrated through his actions the transformative power of guidance and compassion. At St. Matthew's, we recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children, and we are privileged to collaborate with you in nurturing their growth and development. Let us draw inspiration from the profound teachings of Jesus, which illuminate the path to true happiness and fulfilment.

In the words of Pope Francis, "Jesus is a teacher of truth and life who shows us the way that leads to happiness." May we continue to emulate his wisdom and grace in all that we do.

Wishing you a restful and happy weekend

God bless

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



Year 11

Top Achievers

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★
- ★
- ★ **Top Achievers** ★
- ★
- ★ * Cayden ★
- ★
- ★ * Maria ★
- ★
- ★ * Chloe ★
- ★
- ★ * Ruby ★
- ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**Highest attending forms this week
is 11A Well done!**

**38 students across year 11 have 100%
attendance**

Student Notice

"Praise to Prom" was launched this week! Make sure to get your cards filled in our first winner will be announced on Friday
Good luck everyone!



Well done to
Aitor and
Ellora on
100%
attendance
from
Miss Elliott.





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PROM SHOUT OUT

Year 11



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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



SPREAD THE WORD!

Anyone who wants to donate please contact Mrs Bunn
k.bunn@smrchs.com

Thank you for the items donated so far.



Year 10

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Safina ☆☆
 - ☆☆ * Molly ☆☆
 - ☆☆ * Miriam ☆☆
 - ☆☆ * Loveth ☆☆
 - ☆☆ * Charlotte ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week is 10D Aha. With 92.07% attendance Well done!

63 students across year 10 have 100% attendance

Year 10 Textile students have made a fantastic start to their coursework component and have been investigating the textile artist Jackie Gale to produce their own machine applique samples



Year 10 B and Year 10 C Health and Social Care - I am really proud of the hard work and focus from both Health and Social Care classes since we returned in January. Well done , keep it up ! Mrs Walsh



Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Soreessa ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Elizabeth ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Loredana ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Fatima ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Houleye ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Year 9 art classes have done brilliant work with their portraits Miss Lee



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week is 9C AGAIN ...Well done!

146 students across year 9 have 100% attendance



Well done to the year 9 girls who attended handball on Wednesday evening

Mr Hall a huge shout out to 9C and 9J for their conduct during the mid-year assessment they completed this week. All pupils demonstrated outstanding attitude to learning throughout the assessment.

Miss Moore—shout out to 9J for excellent resilience and maturity during their Maths assessment

Mrs Garman— shout out to 9H. They are a dream to teach in English, they are curious, dedicated and hard working - they also have a cracking sense of humour! Well done 9H, keep up the fantastic effort!

Well done Year 9 Keep up the good work!

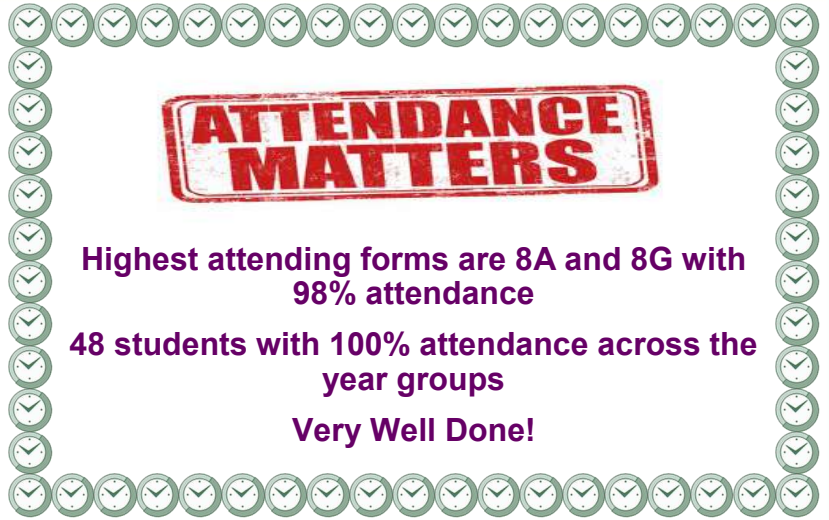
Mrs King, Ms Rossie and Mr Robinson



Highlights of the week

Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers**
- Angel J
 - Hailey I
 - Tobias P
 - Casey P
 - Ava I
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



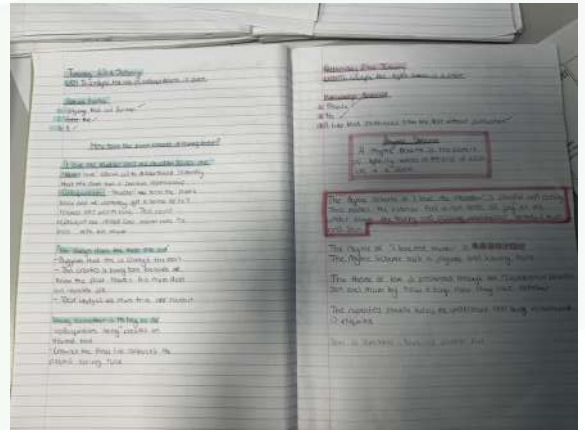
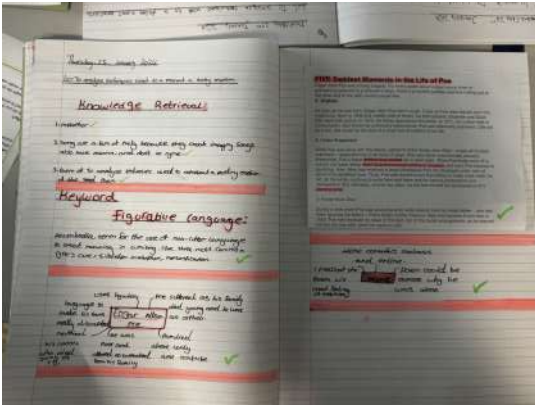
Highest attending forms are 8A and 8G with 98% attendance

48 students with 100% attendance across the year groups

Very Well Done!

Mrs Garman—English:

8J continue to be exemplary students in English. They are dedicated to their learning, and also their meticulous presentation of their work! They are keen, funny, and a genuine joy to teach. I always look forward to our lessons. Keep it up 8J - I'm so proud to be your teacher!



Mr Hall- RE:

A massive shout-out to 8B and 8G for their approach to revision for their mid-year assessments. All pupils were engaged in the lesson as they prepared for their exam next lesson. Big shout out in particular for Toby, Ava, Miguel, Neave and Adnan in 8B and Nissi, Chinaza, Tolu, Mason, Karrez and Alberto in 8G.

Good luck to all in your assessment.

Miss Ackers- Drama:

8B have been working really hard to create excellent quality performances for their mid term assessments. All pupils were engaged and focused. A particular shoutout to:

- Ava Neave Marci Lacey Thaleaya Sonia Adnan Chidinima Toby



Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Joan A ☆
 - ☆ ● Sarah Mc ☆
 - ☆ ● Daniella F ☆
 - ☆ ● Emmanuella O ☆
 - ☆ ● Apithany P ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

- ★
- ★ **Our Stars of the Week** ★
- ★ Mrs Walsh's – **Emmanuella O** ★
 - ★ Mrs Rolt's - **Chloe C** ★
 - ★ Mr Johnson's – **Billy B** ★
 - ★ Mrs Lennon's – **Germain A** ★
- ★



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week
7I ABe

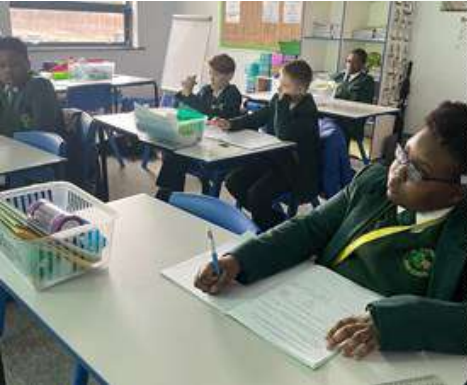
Well done!



Y7 girls football team beat King David 4-5 in the Manchester cup and are through to the semi finals!



7K working hard in History with Mr Hughes, learning all about the Saxons



Ms Sandiford would like to give a shoutout to Artis, Destiny, Francis and Jayden completing Flash Academy. Massive shout out to them all for their engagement and progress!



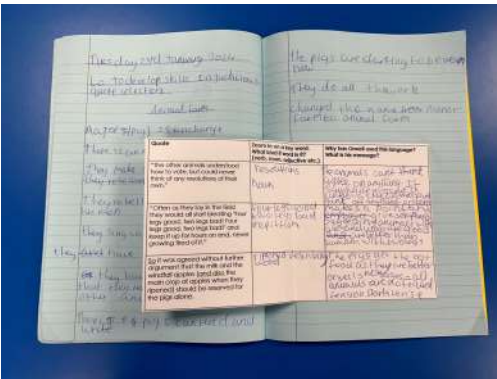
7B really enjoyed performing a section from **Frankenstein** this morning, they put their knowledge of the characters and stage directions into action perfectly!"



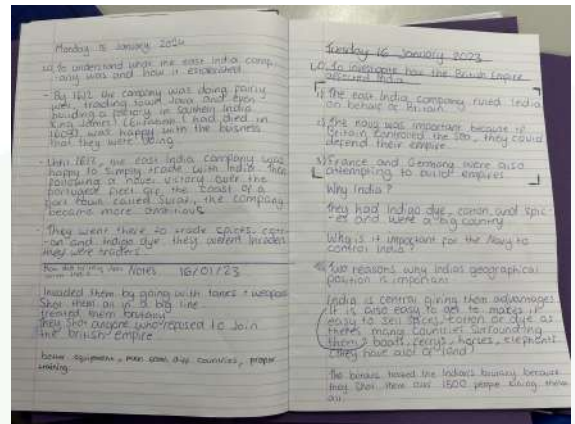
Highlights of the week

Beehive

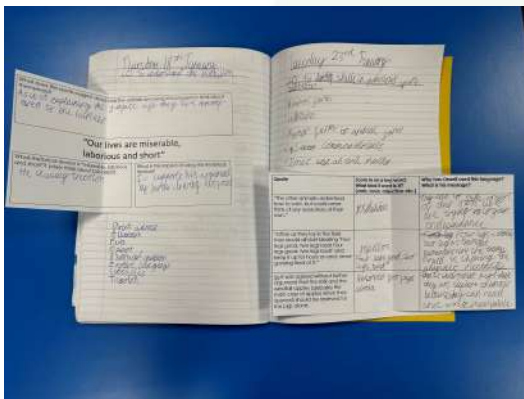
Y7 began reading through the play 'Frankenstein', as they continue exploring Gothic novels.



Y8 made a great start in their new History topic of the British Empire and are making great progress.



Y9 started reading 'Animal Farm' and are learning how to look at key events and analyse quotes.



During lunch time in the Beehive, KS4 enjoyed some games of Headbandz!



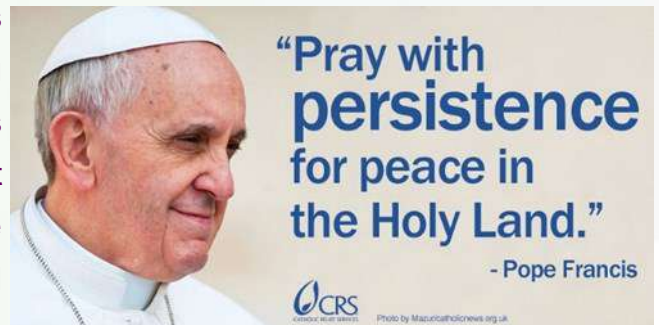
A very proud Miss Mallinson and all the team
Well done teams Beehive!



Chaplaincy Corner

The Gospel last Sunday told us the story of the calling of the first four followers of Jesus: Simon, Andrew, James, and John. In some of our form time prayers this week, therefore, we have looked at what it means to be a “Disciple” (someone who learns from a master) and what it means to be an “Apostle” (someone sent out on a mission). Later in the week we celebrated the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Paul used to persecute and attack the Church before he had an experience of the Risen Jesus, and this allowed us to reflect on the fact that God can call anyone to be part of His plan for the world, no matter what they have done so far in their life.

This Saturday the UK marks Holocaust Memorial Day where we remember the 6 million Jewish people killed by the Nazis, as well as all the other people who have suffered and died because of genocide. This year we mark this day in the context of the horrible war taking place in Israel, Palestine, and Gaza and so as well as remembering all those who have lost their lives in genocides we have placed a large emphasis on prayer for peace in our troubled world. Let us all continue to pray every day for peace.



There has been increased interest among Year 11 students in volunteering on the Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. This week thanks to school funding and some generous donations we have been able to readvertise this trip at a significantly lower price. Volunteering in Lourdes changes both the lives of the volunteers and of those whom we help and so we are incredibly proud of all those who have signed up to give their time, effort, and money to take part in this experience. For more information on this please see ParentPay.





BE ON TARGET



Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

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



How to identify SEND needs

Ask yourself, when it comes to SEND, are you confident enough to identify barriers that students in your lessons are facing?

- What you might see physically
- What you might see when marking work
- How children can mask their difficulties

If you answered 'NO', then please use the SEND strategy booklet on SharePoint.

This resources contains information about a range of SEND needs that will help to frame your thinking.

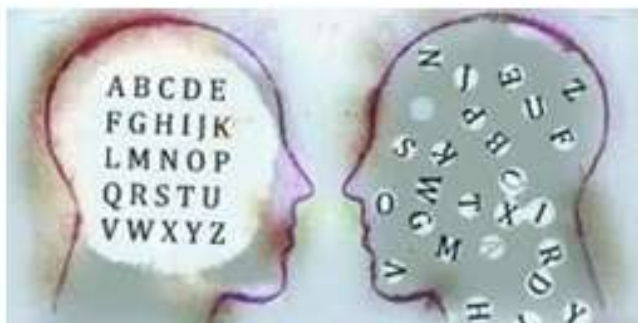
Once you have checked the booklet and are ready to make a SEND referral, please complete a form located on the SEND SharePoint home page.

There are 2 referral forms:

1. General SEND referrals
2. SEMH only



As always, if you are unsure, please don't hesitate to ask the SENDCO team for guidance. Cheryl Holt and Lowrie Cooper are based in The Hive office, ground floor, OLC (next door to the sensory room).



SEND Surgery

We are offering a 'drop in' surgery on the following days:

Cheryl—Monday after school in the conference meeting room.

Lowrie— Weds and Thursday lunchtime in T2

SEND strategy booklet

This year you will find all the information you should need about our SEND pupils on the SMRCS SharePoint.

We will be paperless so you will not get a booklet with this information.

This software enables us to update information regularly about the pupils ensuring you have information as up to date as possible and so it is important that you log on and check this information regularly.

Step by step guide:

1. Click the SharePoint icon on your desktop
2. Click the Manchester Bee icon/ Know your pupils
3. All About Me profiles and other one page profiles are in the folders.

Stage on Path Profile	Stage in SEND
DB A	A – Low Level SEN
DB B	B – Medium Level SEN
DB C	C – High Level SEN
DB CP	E – ECP
DB	Removed from SEND list (continue to monitor)



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





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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

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





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 returns to school next week.

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

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

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!

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 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