



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 19 Friday 02 February 2024

Headteacher's Message

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

I hope this message finds you well. As we navigate through the new term, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt congratulations to so many members of our community for an outstanding start, despite the challenging weather conditions we've faced. It's truly inspiring to witness our students' resilience and enthusiasm for learning, even amidst the cold, wet, and windy days.

I am immensely proud of the high attendance rates and the positive attitudes displayed by our students. Seeing them come to school prepared, respectful of others, and eager to learn brings joy and reaffirms the privilege we have as educators to watch them grow and flourish.

As we move forward in the coming weeks, I want to emphasise the importance of reinforcing the basics. We will be focusing on ensuring that our students understand and adhere to our school rules, which are designed to create a conducive learning environment for all. Your support in ensuring your child arrives punctually for the 8:25 am start, in the correct uniform, and ready to engage in lessons with energy and effort is greatly appreciated.

Regardless of the year group our children are in, our ultimate goal remains the same: to help each student achieve their full potential academically and personally. For our Year 11 students, I commend their dedication to their studies and their active participation in after-school revision sessions. Your commitment to their education is evident, and I have every confidence that they will continue to excel this year.

In reflecting on this Sunday's Gospel, let us draw strength from the message of healing, peace, and hope that it brings. In times of difficulty, worry, or sickness, let us remember the words of St. Thomas More, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

As we approach the weekend, I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating time with your loved ones. May you find moments of peace and inspiration in the days ahead.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in nurturing the growth and development of our students. Together, we can make a difference.

God bless,

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



Attendance Information

BE ON TARGET



90% attendance every year of your school career means you miss a whole academic year of school.



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



KS3 SMRCHS LEARNER AWARDS

This week the Year 7 pupils received their Silver smrchs learners awards and Year 8 received their Bronze smrchs learner awards.

Pupils can earn this award if they have 97% + for attendance, over 100 achievement points and regularly attend one of our extra-curricular activities.

Year 7 will be working to their Gold awards between now and Easter and Year 8 and Year 9 towards their Silver awards. This is the criteria for their next awards:

SMRCHS LEARNER AWARDS 2023-2024



Can you achieve the SMRCHS Leamer Award?
This is an award that will recognise and celebrate your personal achievements and commitment to the St Matthew's community.

Criteria: Stage Two
Silver Award September 2023-24

- ☺ I have attendance above 97%
- ☺ I have over 500 achievement points
- ☺ I have read a book from the SMRCHS ultimate reading list
- ☺ I have regularly attended an extra curricular activity

STAGE 4
Term 3
YR7 Graduation
Platinum

STAGE 3
Term 2
GOLD

STAGE 2
Term 1
SILVER

STAGE 1
Transition
Bronze

SMRCHS LEARNER AWARDS 2023-2024



Can you achieve the SMRCHS Leamer Award?
This is an award that will recognise and celebrate your personal achievements and commitment to the St Matthew's community.

Criteria: Stage Two
Silver Award September 2023-24

- ☺ I have attendance above 97%
- ☺ I have over 300 achievement points
- ☺ I have read 1 book from the SMRCHS Ultimate reading list
- ☺ I have regularly attended an extra curricular activity

STAGE 3
Term 3
GOLD

STAGE 2
Term 2
SILVER

STAGE 1
Term 1
Bronze



Working Hard and Good Attendance certainly pays off.

This week our fabulous students have enjoyed their visit to our unique Rewards Vending Machine.

With lots to choose, from books, pens and other stationery items they walked away very pleased with themselves.





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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





Chaplaincy Corner



Our main focus this week in our form time prayer has been on “Racial Justice Sunday” which was celebrated in Catholic Churches last weekend. As well as praying for racial justice and for all those who have been and are affected by racial injustices which exist, we also looked at the religious basis for why racial justice is so important. The Book of Genesis tells us that each and every human being is made “in the image of God” (imago Dei) and so everyone has the same rights and is due the same respect. We learned about Sister Thea Bowman who was the first African-American nun in her religious order and was a great speaker on issues relating to racial justice.

Wednesday this week was the Feast Day of St John Bosco, an inspirational 19th century priest who had a special care for looking after and educating young people, especially those most in need. We were pleased to be able to take 5 former students back to St John Bosco Primary School to help them celebrate their feast day. We took part in their Mass and then our students helped out the primary school children with their special arts and crafts activities to mark the feast day. We were incredibly proud of the way all of our students represented St Matthew's and we look forward to continuing our relationship with all of our local Catholic primary schools.



On Thursday excitement grew for all those going on the Rome trip in less than 10 weeks as we gathered as a group for the first time and organised room sharing and hoodie ordering – it is really starting to get close and we can't wait to be there together.



On Friday we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple which is traditionally the last day of the Christmas season, so let me take one final opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas!

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.



HUGE DRAMA SHOUT OUT FROM MISS O'BRIEN

GCSE Drama students are preparing for their component 2 'Performance from a Text' exam and two of our 39 learners are 'Set Design' entries.

This week they have put the final touches on their designs ready for the exam visit on Wednesday 7th Feb.

Massive well done to Jaiden for his work on Blood Brothers and Enrique on his Shakers set.





Beehive

Y7 had a great DT lesson this week, working hard on creating their own pencil holders.



This week in Science, Y9 made their own food molecules and broke them apart to represent the role of an enzyme.



Our Y11s took part in some peer mentoring in the Beehive workroom, which was very successful!

Thanks for your support Y11!

A very proud Miss Mallinson and all the team



Highlights of the week

Year 11

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ **Top Achievers** ★
- ★ * Tilly ★
- ★ * Ella ★
- ★ * Chloe ★
- ★ * Wayne ★
- ★ * Abigirl ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week is 11D Well done!

36 students across year 11 have 100% attendance



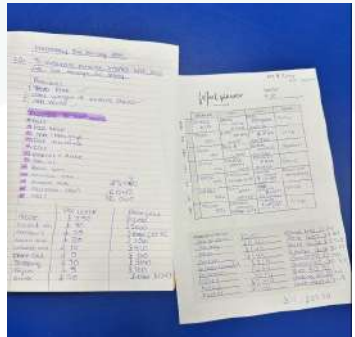
Year 11 boys showing at St Matthew's "We Care" by asking a new student to our school to sit with them at lunch so he wasn't on his own! #proud



Mrs Lennon's class started revision for the Judaism part of their RE GCSE exam. Each student was given resources to aid their revision at school and at home.



Mrs Bunn visited Miss O'Briens drama lesson and was so impressed with the acting and maturity ! Well done as always you make me proud!!



Mrs Begum sent over this amazing work from PSHE and the work year 11 have been doing around budgeting.



Year 11 at the poetry live trip this week the students that went on the trip represented our school so well ! Your amazing !



From Mrs Garman: 11x2 are incredible in English! We have been on a journey together and I'm really proud of where we are. They are committed to their education and always push themselves further. I'm excited to witness the incredible things they will undoubtedly achieve. Keep it up 11x2, the sky is your limit!



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PROM SHOUT OUT

Year 11

Student Notice "Praise to Prom"

2 lucky students will win their prom tickets today
Good luck to you all!



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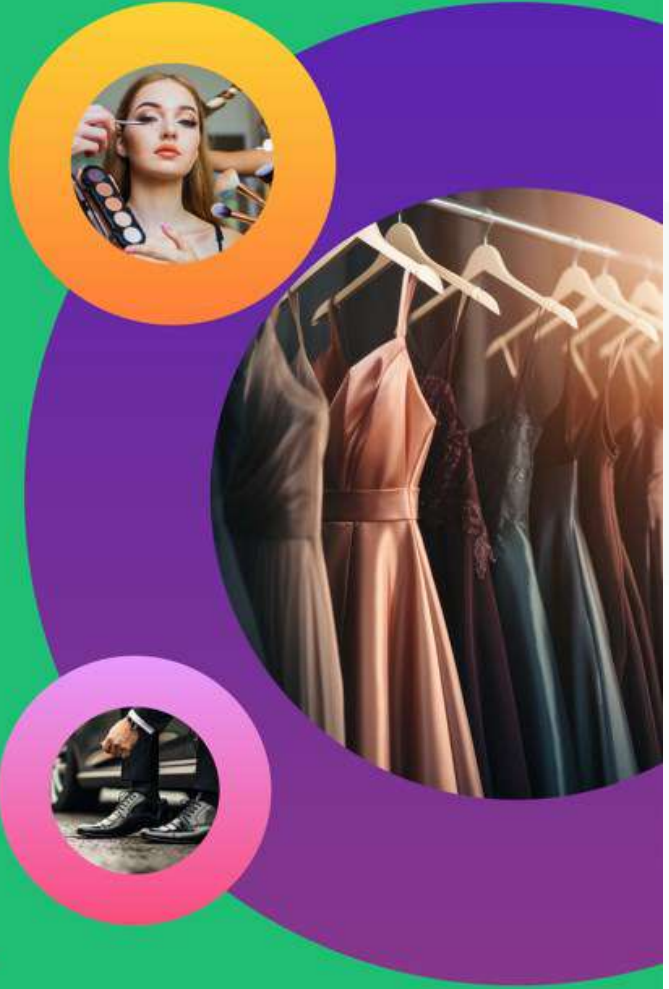
PROM WEAR APPEAL 2024

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 your contributions so far.

Year 10

- ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆
 ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
 ☆ * Lillie K ☆
 ☆ * Louie G ☆
 ☆ * Jael-marie A ☆
 ☆ * Yusra G ☆
 ☆ * Thea R ☆
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week is 10F Mr Smyth with 99.7% attendance Well done!

59 students across year 10 have 100% attendance

Congratulations to Miss Aylis & Mr Smyth form students who smashed attendance this week . Both receiving an attendance trophy filled with tasty treats !



It has been a creative week for year 10s in Art and Science



Making Pasta in Food Technology from scratch. Mrs Newey even got into the art





Highlights of the week

Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Soreesa ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Elizabeth B ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Loredana ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Houleye ☆☆
- ☆☆ * Rohan ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

62 students across year 9 have 100% attendance

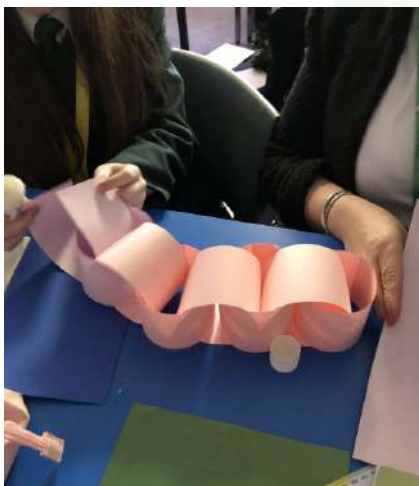


Miss Elliott—Shout out to Myles B for his amazing change in attitude and focus when soldering in RM.



Well done to the year 9 Football team who beat Walkden High 2-0 in the last 16 of the Greater Manchester County Cup. They now progress to the quarter finals. They are playing in the Manchester Cup Semi Finals on Monday 5th Feb against Trinity.

GOOD LUCK!!



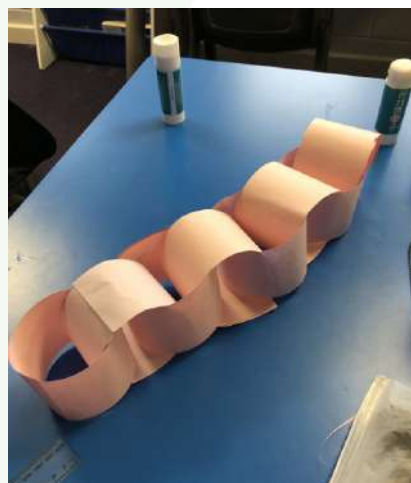
9K making 'food molecules' with paper chains and then taking on the role of breaking them down as the enzymes.

Great effort from Mr Napier



Miss Raynes Textile class really focused and producing some excellent work

Well done year 9



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** ☆
- ☆ • Harry W ☆
 - ☆ • Precious N ☆
 - ☆ • Kiyva-Leigh D ☆
 - ☆ • Francis M ☆
 - ☆ • Macie B ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Highest attending forms are 8A and 8G both with 96% attendance

46 students with 100% attendance across the year groups

Very Well Done!

Ms Travis, Ms Ray and Ms Flitcroft are very proud of Year 8

Fantastic behaviour shown in assembly, really good standards for attendance and uniform.



Miss Harrison—Science:

REALLY impressed with 8Es focus in science class. Especially well done to Chantelle, Mia, Mariatu and Angel! Keep it up 8E!

Miss Garmen- English:

Cody C, 8A is excelling in Miss Taylor's English class! I am beyond proud of the effort he is putting in and it is lovely to see the pride he is taking in his learning. Well done, Cody!

Miss O'Brian and Miss Ackers- Drama:

Year 8 have done fantastic work in their Drama assessments. Some amazing performances, you should be very proud of your achievements and how hard you have worked. Well done





Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ • Sarah M ☆
 - ☆ • Lottie L ☆
 - ☆ • Daniella F ☆
 - ☆ • Emmanuella O ☆
 - ☆ • Joan A ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- ★ **Our Stars of the Week** ★
- ★ Mrs Walsh's – Richlove C ★
 - ★ Mrs Rolt's - Abel M ★
 - ★ Mr Johnson's – Jim Mc ★
 - ★ Mrs Lennon's – Chris C ★
- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



Highest attending form this week 7J Ms Moffatt
Well done!



Mr Hall would like to give a shout-out to 7B who have continued to set the standards high as they continue with the new unit in RE. Their engagement in every lesson is

outstanding and they are an absolute pleasure to teach. This week we have been looking at the different natures of Jesus and analysed the Icon of Christ. Big shout out in particular goes to Natan, Abraham and



From Miss Owolabi:
A big shout out to 7F and 7J. Privileged to have both forms for Drama. It was absolutely a pleasure to be in the classroom and watch them practice and perform a script. The confidence to get up and speak in front of the class was mind-blowing. Tremendous efforts, everyone was engaged plus participating. Their acting skills were superb and it was a pleasure to watch how they interacted with each other and how they interrupted the script. Amazing efforts from everyone and keep this up. You



7G are genuinely the most hardworking and dedicated

Year 7 class I have ever had the pleasure of teaching! Every single lesson is a dream, and not only are they intelligent and diligent, they are also incredibly kind. What a joy they are! Well done 7G - keep up the amazing work! Mrs Garman.

Mrs L Lennon would like to give a shout out to Chika and Archer in 7G for amazing reading and participation in English! So impressed, well done!

A Very Proud Mrs Rolt, Mrs Lennon and Mr Johnston. Keep up this fantastic work.



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





Important message

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 next week.

If you are struggling to clear debt on your account, 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	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