



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



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 20 Friday 09 February 2024

## Headteacher's Message

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

I hope this message finds you well and looking forward to the weekend. I want to extend my gratitude to you for your support during this week's Ofsted inspection. Your support truly makes a difference and is deeply appreciated. The parent feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive as we look to work together to drive further improvement in the school.

The visit, albeit slightly delayed, was an ungraded one, and I'm delighted to share that the inspection team recognised the tremendous progress we've made together. Their comments about the feedback from parents via the survey and the delightful children we serve was one of my highlights of the two days.

While I can't reveal the outcome just yet, rest assured that I'll promptly inform you of our next steps once the judgment is confirmed.

Looking ahead, we have three important events next week. The first is the distribution of ashes to students who wish to receive them as we observe Ash Wednesday. Additionally, we'll celebrate our annual 'Culture Day' on Thursday before the school is closed on Friday for an INSET day. Please keep an eye out for communications regarding attire guidelines for the day. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our cultural diversity and celebrate the unique individuals within our community.

Furthermore, Thursday evening marks our Year 9 Parents and Options Evening, a crucial step in selecting GCSE subjects for years 10 and 11. Please book your appointments with your child's teachers as soon as possible.

In reflecting on this Sunday's gospel, which illustrates Jesus' compassion in healing a leper, let us remember the importance of compassion in our daily lives. At St. Matthew's, we strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings of others, embodying the spirit of compassion exemplified by St. Vincent de Paul.

As we approach the weekend, I wish you all a lovely time with your families.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. It is a pleasure to serve this community.

God bless



## Attendance Information

**BE ON TARGET**



When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for future success.

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



## Chaplaincy Corner

In last Sunday's Gospel reading we heard about Jesus healing many people and so we



have focused our form time prayer on the theme of healing and prayer for the sick. Monday evening brought the news that King Charles has been diagnosed with cancer and so on Tuesday we prayed in a special way for the King, that he might be given strength. We also prayed in thanksgiving for all the wonderful work performed by carers, nurses, and doctors, both in our NHS and around the world. We all paused for a moment to think of a time when a healthcare worker has helped us or our



loved ones and we thanked God for the ministry of that worker.

Thursday was the international day of prayer against human trafficking and we all watched a video about this horrible sin which unfortunately is still a reality for millions of people around the world and which Pope Francis described as a "sin against humanity".

Anyone visiting St Matthew's in the last week will have seen that our dining hall has been



transformed into a much brighter place to be with the addition of lots of large posters around the first floor balcony.

One section highlights the fantastic work going on to make reading a central and visible part of everyone's daily life. The other section of posters is made up of a beautiful set of "Stations of the Cross" which firmly brings the life, suffering, death, and resurrection to the centre of our school. The Stations of the Cross remind us of the wonderful news that Jesus Christ died to bring us back to God. We will be talking more about these Stations of the Cross during Lent, which begins next Wednesday with Ash Wednesday.

Wishing you every blessing as we prepare for the final week of this half term.

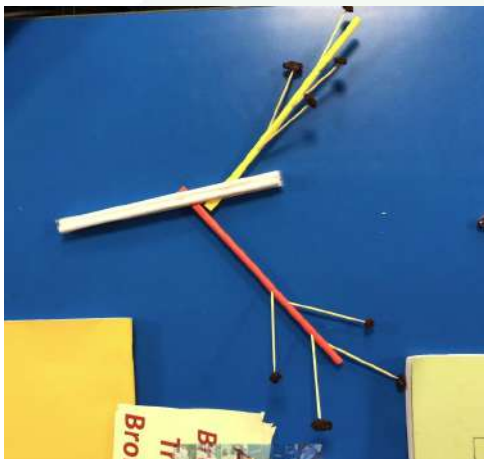
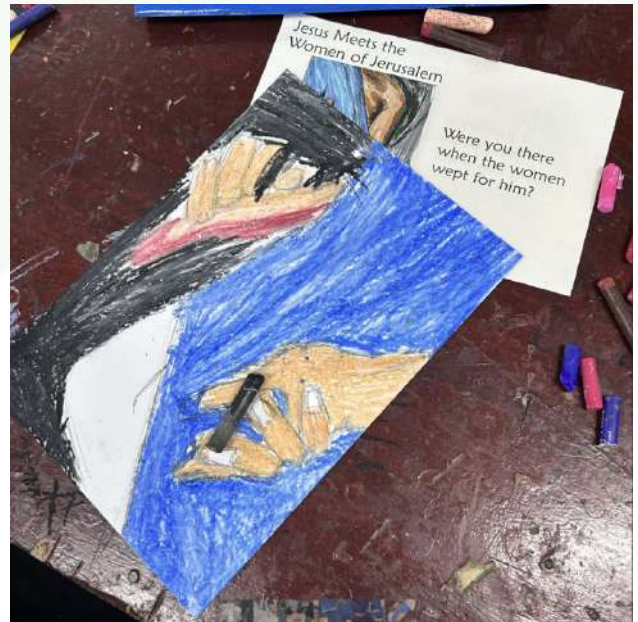
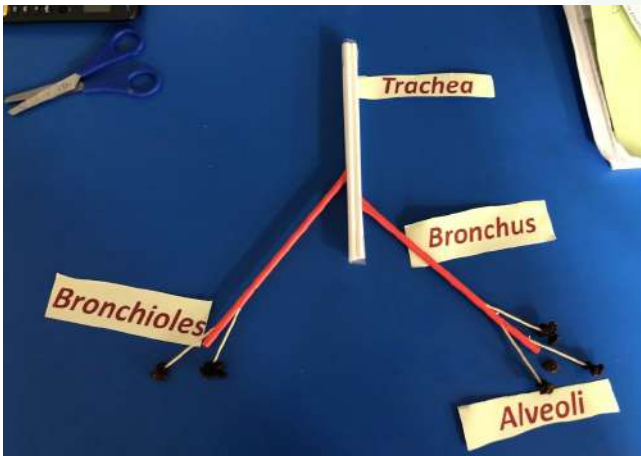


## Beehive



Year 11 had fantastic science lessons this week carry out experiments. Mr Brown was extremely proud of your skills and behaviour. Well done!

The Year 9s also worked hard in Science this week, creating amazing Respiratory System models. They used straws - trachea and (bronchi) tooth picks - bronchioles) and raisins - (alveoli).



A very proud Miss Mallinson and all the team

Well done teams Beehive!

Year 8s showed their creative side in Art this week, making oil pastel drawings. Great work!





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# PROM SHOUT OUT

## Year 11



### Student Notice "Praise to Prom"

The 2 lucky students winning their prom tickets so far:

**Week 1—Olivia—Congrats**

**Week 2—Delite - Amazing**

**WHO WILL BE THE LUCKY WINNER THIS WEEK???**



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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](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)

**Thank you for the contributions so far.**

## Year 10

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆  
 ☆ \* Lexi E ☆  
 ☆ \* Chanel K ☆  
 ☆ \* Nourah F ☆  
 ☆ \* Shawne A-A ☆  
 ☆ \* Kathryn L ☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week  
 is 10F Mr Smyth with 98.4% attendance  
 Well done!

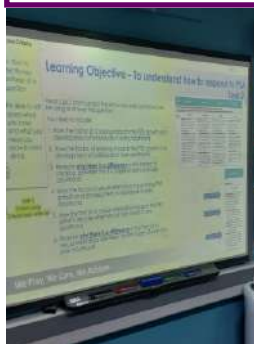
58 students across year 10 have 100%  
 attendance



**BTEC ENTERPRISE:** Both Year 10 classes  
 have started their formal controlled  
 assessments in Enterprise this week.  
 Pupils have shown that they fully  
 understand the significance of this work in  
 contributing to their final grade. They have



shown a very mature approach, been  
 focused throughout the sessions, and  
 worked hard to produce high quality  
 responses.



Great work  
 from year 10  
 in there  
 health and  
 social class  
 Mrs Walsh



10B French  
 practising their  
 translation skills  
 whilst playing  
 'One pen, one  
 dice!'





# Highlights of the week

## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Soreesa ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Elizabeth ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Ruby H ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Houleye ☆☆
- ☆☆ \* Rohan ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

53 students across year 9 have 100% attendance

**Shoutout for 9B and 9F.** They have both been amazing this week – well done to each and every one of them. It's been a pleasure teaching Animal Farm to them Mrs Taylor

**9A** were great in English despite having a room change and new teacher; so co-operative, respectful and mature.

**9K** were amazing in IT; so enthusiastic, polite and generally delightful. Miss O'Connell



**st.matthews2023** Congratulations to the Year 9 Football Team on reaching the Manchester Cup Final after beating Trinity 5-2 in the Semi Finals. Well done to all!! 🙌 ⚽



Well done Year 9 Keep up the good work!

Mrs King,  
Ms Rossie  
and  
Mr Robinson



# Highlights of the week

## Year 8

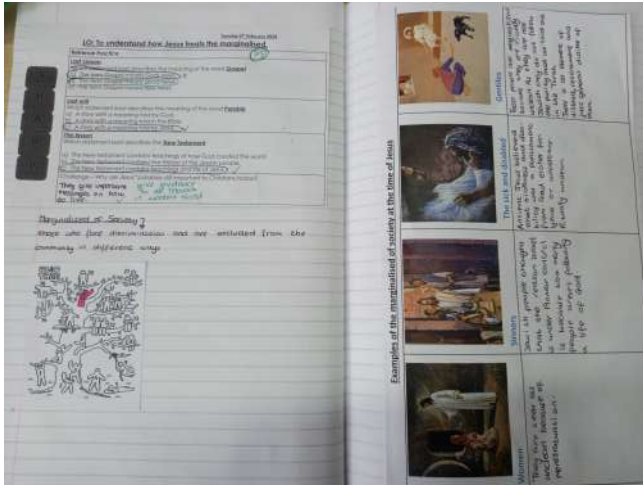
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ • Jake H ☆
  - ☆ • Ashton M ☆
  - ☆ • Oliver –Joe A ☆
  - ☆ • Joshua M ☆
  - ☆ • Kobie S ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



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

42 students with 100% attendance across the year groups

**Very Well Done!**



Great work from Year 8 making Apple Crumble, applying their knowledge of dairy and the reactions when cooking with the rubbing in method to make a delicious dessert. They all listened perfectly and applied their skills, great work year 8.



**Mr. Hall- RE**  
After the success of our mid-year assessments 8B have continued with some amazing work in RE. This weeks lesson have looked at 'How Jesus treats the marginalised' with some beautiful work being produced. Big shout out to Ava, Toby, Hailie, Aneela, Miguel, Neave and Adnan who consistently set high standards in lesson.  
**Keep it up 8B.**



**Miss Ackers: Drama**

I just wanted to send a message to say how fantastic 8D were this morning. It was Miss O'Briens Yr8 drama class ( and they were so quiet, so well behaved and perfect when leaving the corridor while the GCSE Drama exams were being filmed. It was really lovely to see.

Keep up this hard work year 8. Ms Travis, Ms Ray and Ms Flitcroft are very proud of Year 8



# Highlights of the week

## Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● **Aneela B** ☆
- ☆ ● **Eminence U** ☆
- ☆ ● **Mercy O** ☆
- ☆ ● **Jj B** ☆
- ☆ ● **Germain A** ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- ★ **Our Stars of the Week** ★
- ★ Mrs Walsh's – **Ubaid R** ★
- ★ Mrs Rolt's - **Rossana M** ★
- ★ Mr Johnston's – **Aditya P** ★
- ★ Mrs Lennon's – **Crystabel I** ★
- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week **7B EST**  
**Well done!**



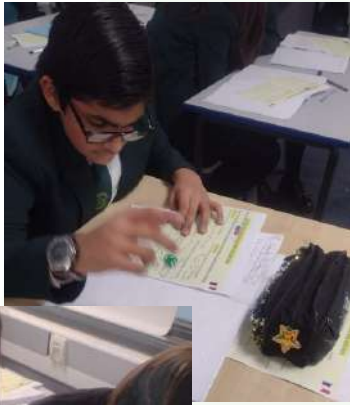
Mr Hall - 7B continue to set the standard with another outstanding week of learning. We have been looking at the

difficult teachings of the Trinity and Heresy. Shout out for the following pupils, Abraham, JJ, Mercy, Sarah and Oscar. Well done 7B!



Mr Moran would like to give a shout out to 7C, praise for Afnan and Safie who have been working really hard

in their French lessons!



Y7 Boys football team won 4-0 to Altrincham Grammar. Great effort by all the boys and a well deserved win!



Joshua and Cedar are both over 100 pages into our SMRCHS Ultimate Reading list! Well done boys!



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](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