



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



# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 21 Friday 16 February 2024

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

As we conclude another enriching half term at St. Matthew's, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you and your children for contributing to the continued success of our school community.

I am immensely proud to commend our students for their exemplary conduct, positive attitude, and welcoming demeanour during the recent Ofsted inspection. The lead inspector conveyed her appreciation, highlighting the pride of our students in being associated with St. Matthew's. Such recognition stands as a testament to our collective achievements over the past ten months.

I wish to express sincere appreciation for your invaluable support and kind words shared through the parent survey. Your feedback reinforces our commitment to maintaining excellence as a Catholic school community.

While celebrating these accomplishments, our focus remains steadfast on our core mission of nurturing academic excellence, achievement and spiritual growth. I would like to again show my appreciation to all the dedicated parents and families in ensuring regular school attendance, which significantly surpasses national averages and increases the probability of achieving stronger academic outcomes.

It is heartening to note the increasing participation in our extracurricular activities, with 60% of our students engaging in at least one activity. We aspire to raise this figure even higher, encouraging every student to explore and benefit from our diverse range of offerings.

I extend my gratitude to you for your contributions to the success of Culture Day. Witnessing our children proudly embrace their cultural identities through vibrant attire bring a sense of happiness and joy, reaffirming our commitment to celebrating diversity.

As we embark on the solemn journey of Lent, let us heed Pope Francis' words and embrace this season as an opportunity for spiritual renewal through fasting, prayer, and acts of charity. Let us reflect on ways we can strive for personal and collective improvement, aligning our actions with the values of compassion and kindness.

Together, let us continue to foster an environment where our children thrive academically, spiritually, and culturally.

I hope you enjoy a restful and peaceful half term holiday with your families.

God bless



## Attendance Information

**BE ON TARGET**



We hope you all have a wonderful half-term break. School opens to all students on Monday 26th February 2024.

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



# Spotlight on SEND



**Middleton Campus** Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, M24 6XH  
**Rochdale Campus** St. Mary's Gate, Rochdale, OL12 6RY  
t. 0161 643 7560 | e. [enquiries@hopwood.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@hopwood.ac.uk) | [hopwood.ac.uk](http://hopwood.ac.uk)

## SEND Parent/Carer Coffee Morning at Hopwood Hall College

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Learning Support Team at Hopwood Hall College are holding a Coffee Morning for parents and carers of current students with SEND, and also, the parents and carers of new learners with SEND who will be transitioning to college in September 2024.

The Coffee Mornings will take place on

- Friday 15th March 2024 at the Rochdale Campus, 9am - 11.30am
- Friday 22nd March 2024 at the Middleton Campus, 9am - 11.30am

There will be guest speakers and also a chance to network with other parents/carers and also ask any questions you may have. These guest speakers include representatives from:

- Hopwood Hall College Learning Support Team
- Hopwood Hall College Careers Team
- Hopwood Hall College – current students supported by the Learning Support Team
- Hopwood Hall College SEND Student Ambassadors (their experience of being a student at Hopwood Hall College)
- Rochdale Local Authority Independent Travel Training Team
- Rochdale Parent Carers Voice

You do not need to stay for the whole morning and are welcome to 'drop in' at a time that suits you.

There is limited parking at both campuses and you will be required to sign in at Reception. Tea and Coffee refreshments will be provided.

If you are able to attend, please confirm your attendance by emailing Learning Support Coordinator Emma Croft, [emma.croft@hopwood.ac.uk](mailto:emma.croft@hopwood.ac.uk)



Funded by





# Careers Update

This week has been an extremely busy week for Careers. On Monday, over 100 pupils took part in Medical Mavericks workshops. Pupils have also been having appointments with Careers advisors, a continuing programme that ensures pupils understand what their next steps could be, and how they could achieve that. A diverse range of careers have been



## Medical Mavericks at St Matthew's!

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February, over 100 pupils in Years 9 and 10 took part in workshops run by Medical Mavericks, an organisation that aims to inspire future doctors, nurses, midwives and any others who are perhaps considering a health-related career.

Armed with blood pressure monitors, a reflex hammer, vision-altering glasses, a gadget to see your veins, an ECG machine, a mock-up of key hole surgery and even an arm with fake blood, the two facilitators allowed pupils to have a go at a number of health-related tasks, including:

- Testing reflexes
- Using a pulse oximeter
- Trying to glasses that simulate various visual impairments
- Setting up and taking an ECG reading
- Using ultrasound to see veins
- Taking a temperature (everyone's was normal!)
- Taking a blood pressure reading
- Testing their skills at key hold surgery
- Taking (fake) blood from a (fake, but very realistic) patient

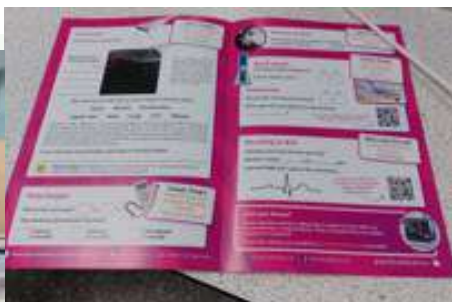
The pupils' engagement was universally fantastic, and it was great to hear conversations along the corridors about how they'd taken blood in a lesson!

The workshop was offered to pupils in Year 10 doing Triple Science and Health and Social Care, and any pupils in Year 9 who are considering either or both of these options in Key Stage 4.

discussed in these meeting, as have destinations following St Matthew's.

Careers Advisor Mr Hunt said of pupils "It's been a pleasure working at St Matthew's! Pupils have been lovely and really engaged, both year 11 and year 10."

After half term, as a school community we will celebrate National Careers Week (week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> March). Keep a look out for further information.





## Chaplaincy Corner

This week marked the beginning of the season of Lent, the time in the year where we prepare to commemorate Jesus's suffering, death, and resurrection. As part of this preparation we take time to look at our lives and to accept that we are all sinful, we all make mistakes, and so we need Jesus as a Saviour. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when we traditionally place ash on our foreheads as a sign of our sinfulness. Every member of our school community had the chance to receive ashes after a short recorded service by



Mr Sharrock. Many students and staff

received ashes and so began this season of Lent by offering themselves to God.

Our culture day on Thursday also offered an opportunity for forms to discuss how our various cultures affect our relationship with God. Many forms had a spirited discussion and came up with some great ideas before thanking God for the wonderful diversity of race and culture in our school.

We ask God's protection on all travelling over the half term break, especially those going on the technology trip to Barcelona where they will encounter the beauty of God's creation through the wonderful design capabilities of artists and architects.

We wish everyone a happy and holy half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back to continue our Lenten journey together towards the joy of Easter.





## Beehive

A very proud Miss Mallinson and all the team

**Year 7** celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making some wonderful pancakes! Thank you, Mr Napier, from all the KS3 Beehive students.



**Year 8** were also working hard in English this week as they finished their topic on Poet-

**Year 8** were working on finding the circumfer-

ence of a circle this week and made some great progress.

### Sonnet 130 – William Shakespeare

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Corals far more red than her lips' red;  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.  
I have seen roses damask'd, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;  
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.  
I love to hear her speak, yetwell I know  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;  
I grant I never saw a goddess go;  
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.  
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
As any which the bellies of false compare.

Handwritten notes and analysis of the poem, including a summary and a comparison to other poets.



**Year 9** continued to understand quotes from their English topic reading through 'Animal Farm'.

Quote from Chapter 7	What does this suggest about the character? How does this differ from earlier chapters?	What language features can you see? What do these suggest?	What is the impact of the language?
Napoleon acted swiftly and ruthlessly.	Has no care for others He's a dictator	Violent imagery	Violent and ruthless character
Now when Squealer described the scene so graphically, it seemed to the animals that they did remember it	Manipulative leader	Descriptive language	Reminds the battle as graphic
When they had finished their confession, the dogs promptly tore their throats out, and in a terrible voice Napoleon demanded if whether any other animal had anything to confess	It shows manipulation - dogs are ruthless	Violent imagery suggesting animal carnage is violent	Shows the chaotic
[Squealer] announced that, by a special decree of Comrade Napoleon, 'Beasts of England' had been abolished. From now onwards it was forbidden to sing it.	Loyal to Napoleon	Squealer is guilty of dropping song power calling Napoleon comrade	Shows the dropping of the song

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## Year 10

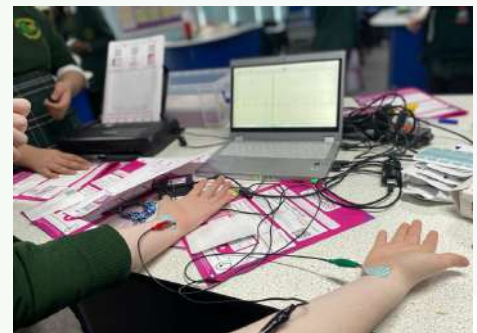


♦ Mrs Walsh is very proud of 10B and 10C Health and Social Care . They have all worked really hard this half term on their Component 1 PSA.

• 10x1 are complete stars in English! They are mature beyond their years and are incredibly dedicated to their learning. The standard of work they produce, day in day out, is astounding. Well done, 10x1, keep being brilliant! Mrs Garman

Medical mavericks- physiological measures of health . Blood pressure, Heart Rates, BMI , temperature,

Looked at growth plates, reflexes, eye conditions and key hole surgery !







## Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● **Daniella F** ☆
- ☆ ● **Emmanuella O** ☆
- ☆ ● **Cassie J** ☆
- ☆ ● **Thea R** ☆
- ☆ ● **Joan A** ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



**Highest attending form this week 7C STa**  
**Well done!**

- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- ★ **Our Stars of the Week** ★
- ★ Mrs Walsh's – **Luke W** ★
- ★ Mrs Rolt's - **Kelvin P** ★
- ★ Mr Johnston's – **Somtochi O** ★
- ★ Mrs Lennon's – **Cassie J** ★
- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



- ◆ Mr Moran would like to give recognition to the students in his French Lessons that give 100%. There are too many to name but well done to 7A, 7C, 7E and 7G!
- ◆ Mrs Ubadike- Shoutout to 7B students for their excellent effort and engagement in science lessons.
- ◆ Mrs Wilson - Francis for his happy positive attitude in school . He always has a smile on his

**SHOUT OUT** 7K made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. Pupils whisked up the mixture and were then involved in frying the pancake before choosing their own toppings of strawberries, chocolate/strawberry sauce, biscoff spread, lemon and sugar. All the



pupils seemed to love making them and were very creative



with their topping choices and designs.



Mrs Lennon was very impressed with Y7 in their tech classes this week. One class were making pencil cases and food tech were making cheese and onion pasties. It smelt delicious!



Shout out to 7A who have created these amazing portraits learning to mix skin tones in art! From Miss Elliott





# Modern Foreign Languages

Year 9 French have started the topic of healthy eating and achieved really well in their mid-term exams. Mrs Gyves-Walker is particularly proud of the following students, whose excellent attitude to learning both at home and in school has resulted in them achieving over 90% in the mid term exams! Bravo les gars!



Lucia, Eshall, Omor, Precious, Kelvin, Stacy, Denisa, Salem, Fatima and Amelia.

With options on the horizon, we enjoyed talking to our students about the importance of opting for a modern foreign language and showing them video clips about where languages can take them.

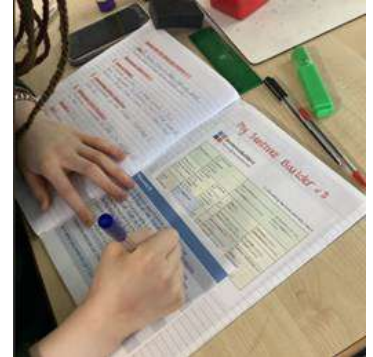
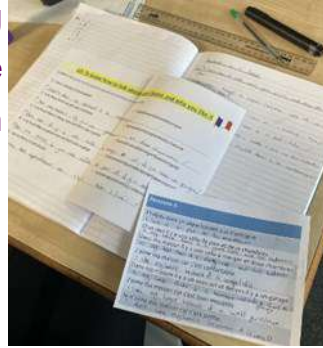
 <b>DESTINATION MFL</b> DEPARTURES		
06:00	open your mind	check call
06:22	see the world	go to gate
06:56	reduce racism	boarding
07:03	work abroad	gate A23
07:14	footballer	gate E22
08:25	translator	gate opens at 8:00
08:57	teacher	gate opens at 8:30
10:10	journalist	gate opens at 9:50
11:00	pilot	wait in lounge
11:45	marketing	wait in lounge
11:50	the UN and EU	gate opens at...
14:20	Politician	gate opens at...





## Year 8

French have begun the topic of talking about where they live and here is some excellent work completed by pupils from 8X.



## Year 7

French were completing some excellent speaking work playing 'Guess Who' to describe physical appearance.

Mrs Gyves-Walker's form 9D really embraced 'Culture Day' and here are some of the wonderful traditional outfits Abdullah, Isiuwa, Nobuhle, Fatima, Loredana, Esse, Olabisi and Faith wore to celebrate the cultural diversity at St Matthew's RCHS.



Finally, our word of the week is 'Buongiorno', which means 'hello/good day' in Italian!



**Wishing you all a happy and restful half term break!**

**Team MFL**



# 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 after the February half term.**

**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