



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 22 Friday 01 March 2024

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers of St Matthew's students

As we embark on the new half term, it brings me great joy to welcome everyone back to St Matthew's RC High School after what I hope was a restful and rejuvenating break for all. I trust that the recent adventures, both near and far, have left lasting impressions and memories for our students and staff alike.

Our recent trip to Barcelona was a resounding success, filled with cultural exploration and meaningful experiences that undoubtedly enriched the lives of all who participated. Similarly, our PE excursion to the Lake District provided opportunities for adventure and camaraderie, albeit with a touch of exhaustion! I extend my gratitude to all who made these experiences possible and memorable.

It was heartening to witness the dedication of our Year 11 students, who chose to spend some of their half term holiday enhancing their chances of summer success by attending additional revision classes. Such commitment is commendable and speaks volumes about their determination to succeed.

I am pleased to report that our school community has returned with strong attendance across all year groups, with special praise to Year 7 for consistently surpassing 97%. This recognition only reaffirms our collective efforts in maintaining high standards of attendance, for which I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. Moreover, our school this week received national recognition for our strong autumn term attendance. This achievement is a testament to the unwavering support and dedication of our entire community.

In sports, our students have showcased remarkable achievements in basketball, athletics, and handball, reminding us that enthusiasm is indeed the key to unlocking life's greatest joys. Let us continue to foster a spirit of enthusiasm and resilience in all our endeavours.

As we begin the new term, let us not forget the spiritual journey that accompanies us through Lent. The Stations of the Cross, observed with reverence each Wednesday lunchtime by many students, offer us an opportunity to deepen our connection with God and rekindle our enthusiasm for life's wonders.

As we embrace the challenges and success that lie ahead, may we approach each day with renewed enthusiasm and a profound sense of purpose. Together, let us journey forward in faith, enthusiasm, and gratitude, embracing the fullness of life's blessings.

Have a lovely weekend and God bless



Attendance Information

BE ON TARGET



Missing just 2 days a month means that you miss 10% of the school year.

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



Let's Celebrate!

A huge thank-you to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support in ensuring that your child comes to school every day, on time to ensure that they are achieving the best possible outcomes.

In recognition of this support, we have been awarded with the certificate below which is a fabulous achievement.

- **Please continue to send your child to school every day.**



National School Attendance Award

2023/24 Autumn Term



St Matthew's RC High

Top 25% of similar FFT Secondary Schools in England



Chaplaincy Corner



This week we have continued our journey through Lent as we prepare to remember Jesus's death and resurrection at Easter. One of the main focuses during Lent is on how we pray and so in our form time prayers this week we learned a new prayer; the "Come, Holy Spirit". This short prayer can be used any time we feel like we need God's help in our lives and so we encouraged everyone to make these three words their own: Come, Holy Spirit.

Another focus during Lent is on charity and caring for those around us. This week in our assemblies

Mr Passarello and Mrs Lennon spoke about how anything that we "give up" during Lent should lead us to be more generous to those around us. As part of this, every student is receiving a St Joseph's Penny box to take home. Please place any loose change, even if its just pennies at a time, into this box and return it to school by the end of half term. All the proceeds from the St Joseph's Penny appeal go to support Caritas Diocese of Salford, which is a charity working with those most in need in our local area.

On Wednesday a group of students gathered in the Chapel to pray the Stations of the Cross, meditating on Jesus's last journey towards his suffering and death. All the students engaged very sensibly with this devotion and asked some wonderful questions. Stations of the Cross will continue to be prayed each Wednesday lunchtime starting at 1:30.



As we begin March we wish anyone with Welsh connections a very happy Saint David's Day (Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus) and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next week.



COMPETITION TIME

ADVENTURE AWAITS

Flash Fiction

Everyone starts with 12 points.
If you entered the Spooktacular, Christmas Cheer, or Love and War you gain an extra point per entry.

TASK: Create an epic story showing world building skills. Create a hero that is brave and resilient. Explore different worlds and cultures

DEADLINE: Monday 8th April

Each 300 words will cost you one point.

Using 1 point
pick one location



Magical Forest



Space



High Seas



Desert

Using 1 point
pick a story type



Save a loved one



Hunt for a mythical creature



Search for treasure



Escape



Find what is lost.

Any features you put in costs 2 points.



Map



Rope ladder



Rope bridge



Booby Trap



Cliff



Unicorn

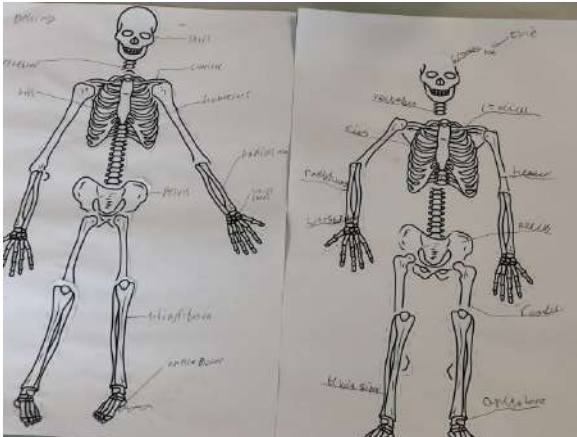


Troll

Send entries to: N.Tormey@smrchs.com

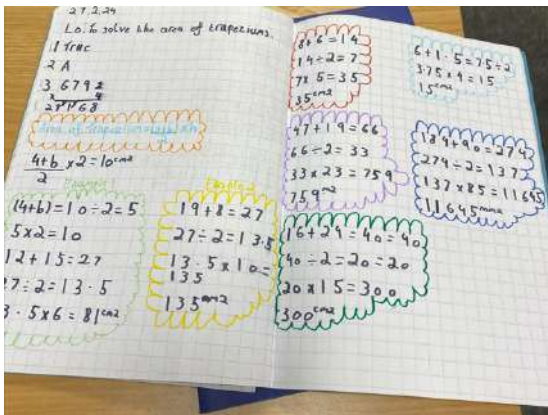


Beehive

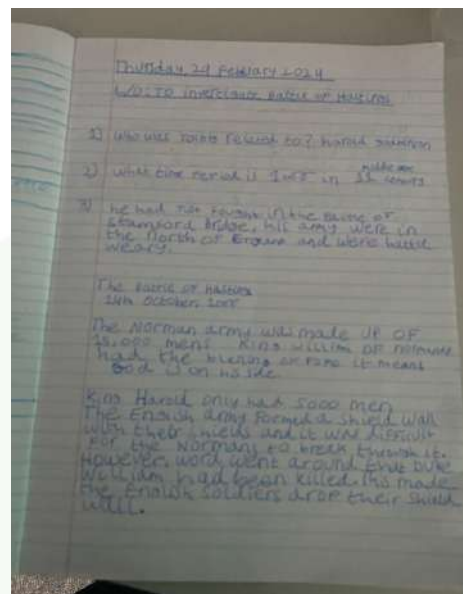


Year 7 working on the skeletal system, naming different bones and creating their own skeleton.

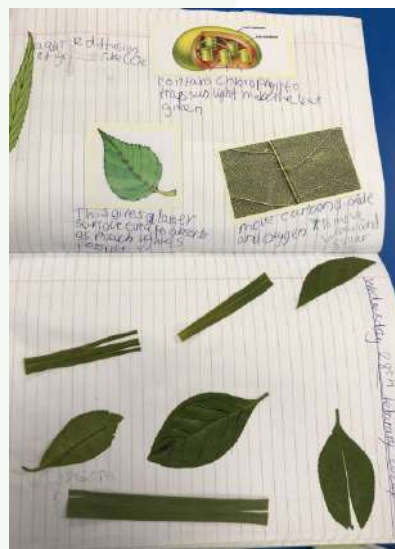
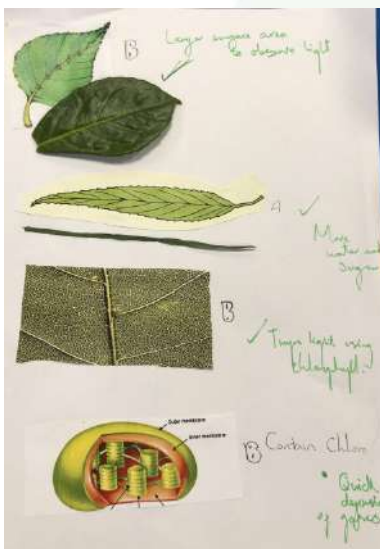
Year 8 Jacob H did some amazing maths worth on Tuesday . He presented it beautifully and showed great understanding .



We're very proud of him .



Ayo did some lovely work in History on The Battle of Hasting , he presented it beautifully . We're very proud of him



Year 9 looking at the structure and adaptations of leaves for photosynthesis. We collected some of the leaves our selves to help identify some of adapta-



Highlights of the week

Year 11

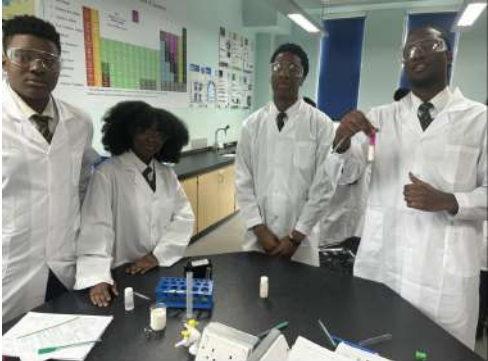
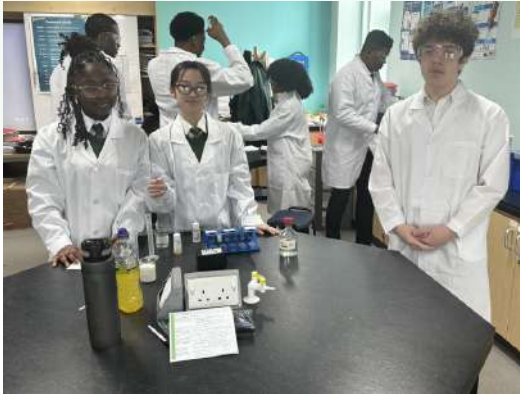
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
 - ☆ ● **Chloe** ☆
 - ☆ ● **Jesse** ☆
 - ☆ ● **Rijole** ☆
 - ☆ ● **Thea R** ☆
 - ☆ ● **Joan A** ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week
11D Mr Green's Form
 48 students with 100% attendance
 Well done everyone!



Class of 2024
 The prom date for you all
 this year is Friday the 28th



Year 11 Triple science class doing there required practical.



Year 10

Miss Jones Science lesson—well done everyone on a fabulous lesson, this week.



This week Year 10 GCSE Drama learners are completing their written evaluation following successful filmed performances of component one Devising Theatre. All three option classes have demonstrated impressive focus, preparation and 100% exam conduct during the assessment completion. Well done Yr10 GCSE Drama.





Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● Soreesa ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Lorendana ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Ruby H ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Favour ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Ewa ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week 9H
50 students with 100% attendance
Well done everyone!



Year 9 boys football team won **4-0** against St Monica's they are now through to the quarter finals in the Catholic cup.

On **Tuesday 5th March** the boys play Wright Robinson in the Manchester cup Finals. **GOOD LUCK TEAM**



9x working hard at soldering in RM! Great work from Miss Elliott



Well done to the Year 9 girls who took part in Handball this week. Superb effort considering it was the first tournament of Handball they had entered. Fantastic attitude and effort!



Year 9s have made a brilliant start to making their pyjama shorts and have been learning about all the construction methods needed. Great efforts from all pupils, can't wait to see the finished shorts. Well done year 9
Miss Raynes



Highlights of the week

Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers
 - Demi Leigh H
 - Precious N
 - Desmond O
 - Daniel I
 - Rossira M
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week
8G with 96% attendance

Well done!

40 students with 100% attendance



A huge shout out from Miss Elliott:

Just look at Kayden G's amazing YouTube animations.

A massive well done for his dedication to digital drawing



Video Games: The Biggest Hits and Their History!

KingCarrot
53 subscribers

Subscribe

10 | Share | Download | Clip | Save



Miss Elliott's top art award this week goes to: **Jude - 8H** and **Harry 8A** for their great modern day interpretations of the stations of the cross.



Year 7

Top 5 Achievers

- Posi B
- Yusra G
- Curtis M
- Ubaid R
- Thea R

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week are 7C STa & 7J LMo both with 100% attendance

Well done everyone!

Our Stars of the Week

Mrs Walsh's – Arman S Mrs Rolt's - Verity L

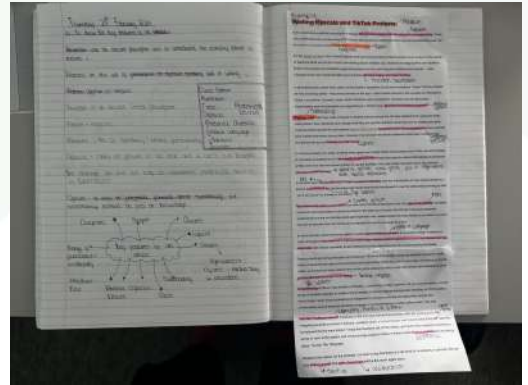
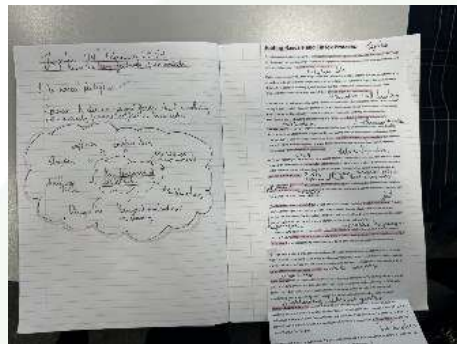
Mr Johnston's – Blaze R Mrs Lennon's – Posi O

From Mrs Garman—7G have made an incredible start back. They consistently put their very best into everything they do and are a



complete joy to teach. Their enthusiasm and passion for learning is infectious. Keep being stars, 7G!

I'm beyond proud of you all!



From Mr Moran— 7B! Great session in the library. Saffie Garratt has been amazing in recent weeks. The turnaround in effort and achievement has been outstanding.



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.

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

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