



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



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 23 Friday 08 March 2024

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to share with you the latest updates from St. Matthew's as we reflect on another strong week of progress and achievement within our school community.

**Ofsted Monitoring Report:** Today marks another significant milestone as we received the final version of the Ofsted monitoring report letter from February's visit, which celebrates the substantial progress we have made here at St. Matthew's. I will be writing to you early next week to share the official letter prior to its publication on the Ofsted website. Your continued support has been instrumental in our journey towards excellence. Today we have released a communication which alludes to many of the positive comments we received.

**Attendance Excellence:** This week, we have witnessed remarkable attendance across the school, with Tuesday recording our highest attendance rate since the second week of term, reaching an outstanding 94.5%. This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our students and the strong support from our families. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our school community.

**Academic Endeavors:** Our GCSE practical exams have commenced, and I commend our students for their dedication to their courses. Additionally, Year 11 students have completed a second set of in-class assessments as they prepare for their final exams. Your hard work and perseverance are truly commendable.

**National Careers Week:** Our engagement in National Careers Week was a resounding success, with students actively engaged in a variety of activities. We have received praise from external visitors for the polite and engaged demeanor of our students, reflecting the values we instill at St. Matthew's.

**Continuous Improvement:** This week, we welcomed the Manchester Local Authority school improvement team to assess our progress across attendance, behaviour, and attitudes. Their positive feedback underscores our collective commitment to excellence, and I look forward to sharing some of the findings with you in the near future.

As we continue to support our Year 11 students during this crucial period, our dedication to elevating standards across the board remains as strong as ever. Together, we strive to provide the very best for all in our care.

**Reflections on Light:** In this Sunday's Gospel, we are reminded of the 'light' that has come into the world. Pope Francis aptly reminds us that "Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness." May we allow Jesus' light to illuminate our lives and guide our children towards a secure foundation.

Wishing you all a lovely and restful weekend.

God bless



## Attendance Information

**BE ON TARGET**



Did you know...  
Manchester LEA are now issuing fines for students who are persistently late to school. Please ensure your child arrives to school for 8.30am.

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



## 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 has been another very busy week right across St Matthew's. A major focus for all of us has been National Careers Week when we have been encouraging everyone to think about their futures. In our form time prayer this week we have focused on the fact that God has a plan for each and every one of us and so we need to try to work out what that calling from God is. We discussed how whatever job we choose to have we do that job in order to help those around us and in doing so we glorify God.

This week also saw us celebrate World Book Day and our staff prayer on Thursday was beautifully led by our Year 10 pastoral team on the wonderful way books can transform our lives. Mr Russell reminded us that the Bible is still the most sold book in history and how its teachings inspire us to seek justice, to show compassion, and to strive for a world filled with love and understanding.

On Friday a group of students from our St Matthew's choir were invited to lead a time of prayer at the Emmaus Trust Conference in Ashton. The students sang and read wonderfully and their hard work was appreciated by all those present from the Trust and from the Diocese.

As we reach the halfway point through Lent we remember that we are called to "rejoice" in the fact that Jesus has come to save us and so we continue on with courage to face the next week ahead of us.





# 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](mailto:N.Tormey@smrchs.com)



## This week was National Careers Week, and what a week it has been!

Monday saw the launch of National Careers Week with a screencast delivered to all pupils in form. Other form-time activities included a career-specific non-fiction guided reading text, and a special careers-related weekly PSHE bulletin. As pupils and staff made their way round the school, they could read the numerous door signs that had appeared on all classroom and office doors outlining previous job roles and education. These were a great conversation opener for pupils and led to some fantastic questions.



In the classroom, pupils in Year 7 to 10 across all subjects heard a subject-specific view of careers and how they might use that subject in the future. For example, the History Department asked their pupils to think about the most common career choice for History graduates. MFL considered demand for languages in the workplace. English explored how the skills developed in English lessons could be used from applying to college to starting up a business. PE staff explored outdoor education. Across all subjects, pupils were engaged and asked great questions.



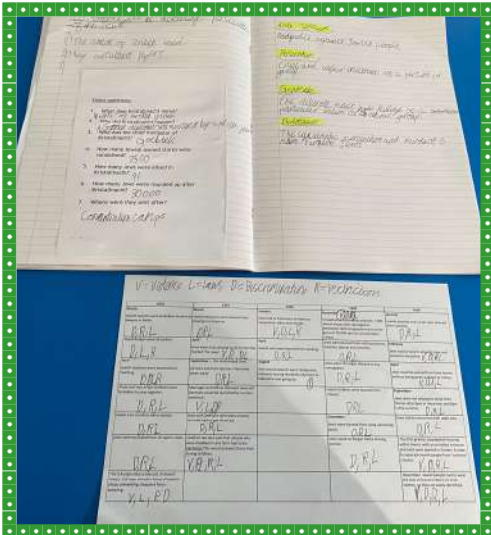
Each day started with an assembly that was delivered to all year groups. Outlining the skills that are required of all jobs, the assembly also encouraged pupils to think about the way in which jobs and careers have evolved during their lifetimes, and how careers might progress in the future.



A variety of speakers were invited into school, among them, a Quantity Surveyor and a Solicitor. Pupils appreciated learning about routes into careers, how varied these careers could be, and of course, how much they could expect to earn! College stands in the hall at lunchtime provided further opportunities to learn about options after school, with all year groups taking a keen interest in what they might do after Year 11.

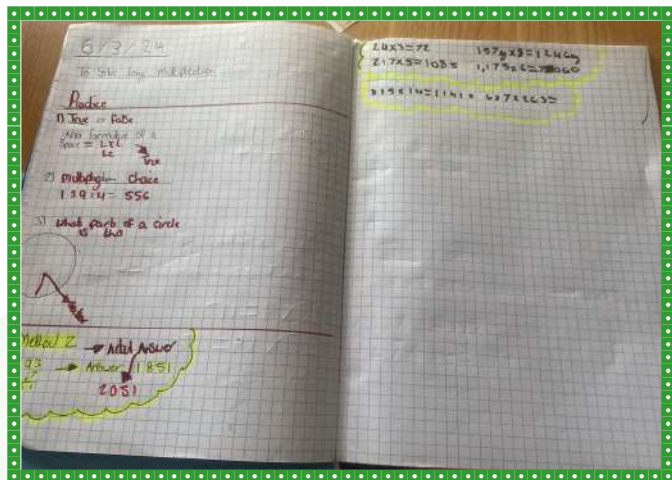


## Beehive



### Year 8

Brilliant retrieval practice from Lavanah in 8k . She is working really hard on her presentation at the moment.

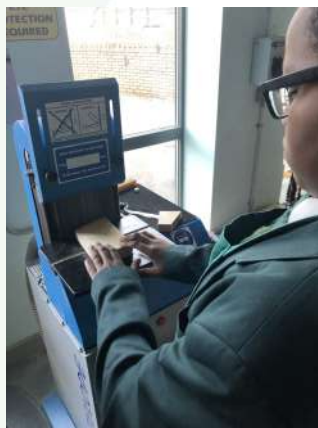


### Year 9

Oliver 9k did some fantastic work in history . He showed great compassion towards and

### Shout Out from Mr Napier

Some of 7K sanding their pencil cases in technology this week. They used the sandbelt as well as doing it by hand to ensure the wood was as smooth as possible before decorating it.







# Highlights of the week

## Year 11

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Brenda A ☆
  - ☆ ● Nosazena E ☆
  - ☆ ● Wintana T ☆
  - ☆ ● Delite A ☆
  - ☆ ● Blossom A ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**This weeks most improved form for attendance is Miss Elliott's**

**Well done everyone!**



**Class of 2024 Save the date**

**The prom date for you all this year is Friday the 28th of June!!**

The year 11 food exams have been nothing short of amazing and absolutely delicious! Massive well done! Special thanks to Mrs Hayes and Mr George !



Over the half term students from year 10 & 11 went on a 4 day trip to Barcelona! An amazing time had by all creating lots of great memories!



Pupils had the chance to explore the work of artists that lived within the city such as Gaudi and Picasso by visiting Park Guell, the 4D Gaudi experience and the Picasso museum as well as seeing Gaudi's architecture at the famous cathedral

Sagrada Familia. Our students also got to experience a walking tour of the city to see the popular street art culture and were able to see the huge variety of graffiti and street art made by local and international artists. We also enjoyed sampling the Spanish food and of course the sun with some time at the beach.



Thank you to all the pupils for being so fantastic and to Mr Atkin, Mrs Lee and Miss Elliott for their support. Miss Raynes



## Year 10

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● Miriam J ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ ● George P ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ ● Devine O ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ ● Praises K ☆☆☆
  - ☆☆ ● Agnes M ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week  
10H with 98.6%

63 students with 100% attendance

Well Done Everyone!

10B were completing online French RRR Sentence Builder work on the topics of a past concert, sport and fitness and technology in order to support their learning and to ensure that this is embedded in their long term memory.

A pleasure to teach and Well Done! Mrs Gyves-Walker



Year 10 studying hard across all lessons—We are very proud of you all





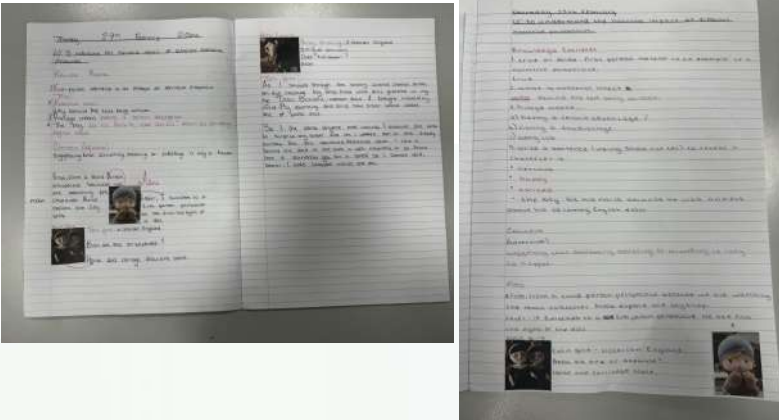
## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
  - ☆ ● Lexi ☆
  - ☆ ● Zainab ☆
  - ☆ ● Sharon ☆
  - ☆ ● Praise ☆
  - ☆ ● Rohan ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week 9H  
50 students with 100% attendance  
Well Done Everyone!

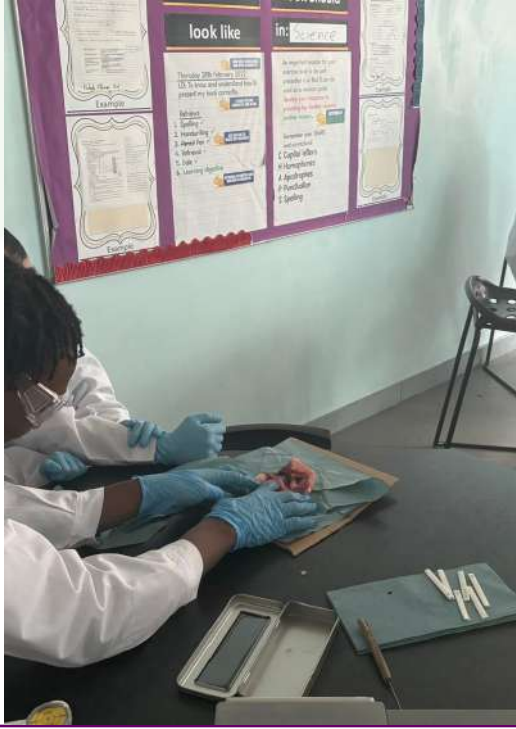
9H have had a brilliant week in English. They take great pride in their learning and their recent Orwell homework has been outstanding. It made me extremely proud to hear they've been running their own homework clubs and have been supporting each other with creative ideas. Keep up the remarkable effort! Mrs Garman



Beautifully presented books in English. They have been working on narrative writing this half-term, and these pics are a snap-shot of the work they've completed so far.



Year 9 boys football team unfortunately lost 3-2 in the final against Wight Robinson.



Mr Murphy's lesson concentrating on heart dissection



## Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Sofiat F ☆
  - ☆ ● Kim A ☆
  - ☆ ● Lyla F-M ☆
  - ☆ ● Paige S ☆
  - ☆ ● John D ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



**Highest attending form this week  
8G with 96% attendance**

**Well done!**

**40 students with 100% attendance**

From Mrs Garman:

8J have really impressed me this week with their eagerness to always have a go. Our new topic is Romeo and Juliet and the whole class volunteer for parts and read



enthusiastically. Ethan and Jessica are my Shakespearean stars of the week! Well done, 8J I'm proud of you all!

Tough Cookies:

Our KS3 pupils have had Kerry from Tough Cookies in this week discussing HSE and pupil wellbeing with a focus on what is Sexual Harassment. Year 8 have been great, some really mature and interesting questions and points raised. Kerry is very impressed with their work, she will be working with KS3 for 3 weeks in Half term 4 and Half term 5. Great work Year 8



Year 8 welcomed author Maria Adebisi as part of our World Book Day celebrations. They asked insightful questions about her book 'Koku Akanbi and the Heart of Midnight' and her experiences as an author. 25 students were rewarded with tickets to her workshop for their outstanding efforts with reading. They even got a signed copy of her book! Miss Bayode





# Highlights of the week

## Year 7

### Top 5 Achievers

- Lottie L
- Sarah M
- Emmanuella O
- Apithany P
- Daniella F

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Highest attending forms this week are 7F CAI

Well done everyone!

### Our Stars of the Week

Mrs Walsh's – Britney O Mrs Rolt's - Zia G  
Mr Johnston's – Mercy O Mrs Lennon's – Graziella A

From Mrs O'Connell—how proud I am of year 7D. Every single pupil was outstanding in their English lesson yesterday. They worked hard, fully engaged and contributed and were polite and respectful in every way. Keep it up!



Year 7 Textile students have done a fantastic job of making cushions. They have learnt about applique, tie dye and how to use the sewing machine. Well done year 7!!!



Year 7 have been orienteering during their PE lessons. It's been a lovely lesson to do with the sun shining!



# 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](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**

<b>HOT DELI</b> Garlic Bread Pizza Melt Bap/Boat Cheese On Toast/Bap Pizza Melt Quesadilla BBQ Melt Bap	<b>4OZ POTS</b> Selection of Fruit Pots Selection of Jelly Pots Selection of Yoghurt Pots Selection of Seed Pots
<b>COLD DELI</b> A Selection of Rolls: Ham, Cheese, Tuna, Chicken Mayo, Egg Mayo	<b>HOMEBAKES</b> Mini Muffin Mini Cookie Mini Shortbread Mini Flapjack
<b>DRINKS</b> 125ml Radnor Drink Carton 330ml Water Bottle 8oz Slush Small Generation Juice	

\* Not all items are available everyday