



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 24 Friday 15 March 2024

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are looking forward to a weekend together. As we journey through March, today we are excited to finally share more good news with you all.

We are thrilled to announce that we can now share the official Ofsted monitoring letter prior to its publication on their website next week. The letter reflects significant advancements in various aspects of our school, indicating that we are firmly on track with our journey of continuous improvement.

As a school committed to providing high-quality education, it's essential to recognise that our efforts are subject to rigorous scrutiny from various agencies. We are delighted to report that the feedback we have received from both Ofsted and a recent local authority visit reaffirms our dedication to excellence.

In today's newsletter, you will find excerpts from both the Ofsted letter and the local authority visit, highlighting the positive observations and affirmations of our progress. We hope that this will instil continued confidence in St. Matthew's among our valued parents, guardians and families.

We want to emphasise our unwavering commitment to excellence. Our journey towards providing the best possible education for our students is ongoing, and we are determined in our pursuit of achieving excellence in every aspect of school life.

This Sunday's gospel resonates deeply with our values at St. Matthew's. It reminds us of the importance of following Jesus by embodying kindness, helpfulness, peace-making, and prioritising the needs of others. Just as Jesus welcomes all who seek to follow him, we, too, welcome every member of our school community with open arms, ready to support and guide them on their journey.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to nurture and inspire the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and doers.

Warm regards and God bless



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Round Up

Headteacher's Message Ofsted Highlights

Ofsted-

Since the last monitoring visit, the school, in partnership with the trust and LGB, has worked swiftly and determinedly to make considerable improvements to the quality of education that pupils receive.

Pupils' behaviour has transformed since the last monitoring visit.

Pupils also appreciate the changes that have taken place. They are increasingly proud to wear the badge of St Matthews on their blazer.

Manchester Local Authority Quality Assurance visit.

St Matthew's is unrecognisable from the school it was 18 months ago. The difference in culture and ethos, the expectations on all stakeholders, the buy-in and team effort from all stakeholders is stark.

Staff and students are rightly proud of the changes that they have achieved together. Students articulate that the school is now more organised, everyone is in lessons where they should be, and nobody has a reason to be out of their lessons.



Attendance Information

BE ON TARGET



If your child has a medical appointment, they can come to school first to get their mark and sign out for their appointment. They can return to school after their appointment. This means they keep their full

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



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VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Attendance Is Everyone's business

SMRCHS ATTENDANCE PRIZE DRAW

MONDAY 18/03/2024 TO
THURSDAY 28/03/24

Attend school on time for 9 days to be
entered into this fabulous competition!

Up for grabs... Easter Egg Hampers
+ Extra Easter Egg Prizes... **BE IN TO WIN!**





Chaplaincy Corner

As the month of Ramadan begins, we hold in prayer our muslim staff and students, that this time of prayer and fasting may be fruitful in their lives.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

We began this week by thanking God for our mothers and for all the women in our lives as we continued the celebrations of International Women's Day last Friday and Mother's Day on Sunday. On Tuesday we reflected on the passage from the Gospel which reads: "Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life." This is the good news of the Christian faith – God love us! Let us never forget how much God loves us!

This weekend is the Feast of St Patrick and so we wish everyone a happy St Patrick's Day, especially those with Irish connections. We look forward to hearing how you celebrate this great day.

As we come towards the end of Lent we are encouraged to look at the times when we have made poor choices and have sinned against God and against each other. Lent is a perfect time to say sorry to God for those times when we have not loved as well as we should, and so we are offering everyone the opportunity to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) or to speak to a priest. Everyone is welcome to come and speak to a priest, but only Roman Catholics may have the sacrament of confession. If your child would like to do one of these things then please fill in this google form before Monday morning so that we can arrange the correct number of priests to come in. The form can be accessed using the QR code or with this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/LjtwaRmMsP>





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



Highlights of the week

Beehive

Year 7

Using the iPads for the maths work.

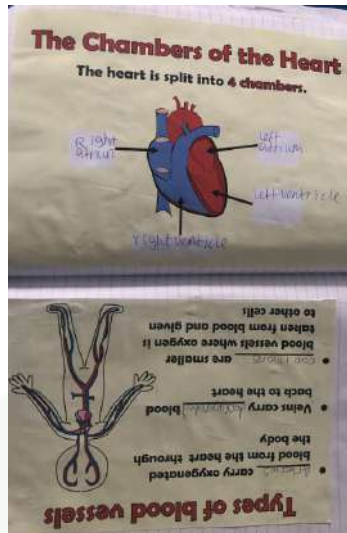
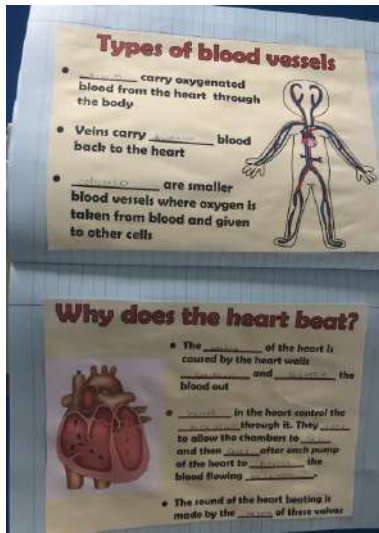


Year 11

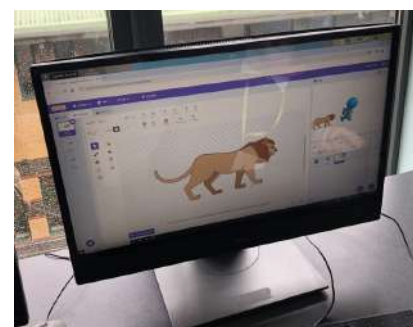
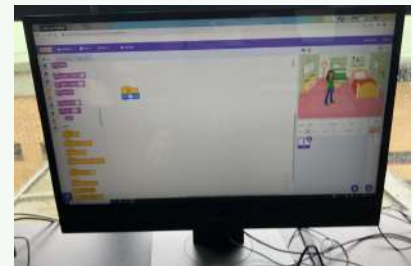
Beehive completing their rates of reaction practical work



Year 9k work around the heart and circulatory system.



Year 7k creating their own animations in scratch during their computer lessons.



Year 7k Geography research work about the importance of looking after the oceans





Highlights of the week

Year 11

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Shaymaa ☆
 - ☆ ● Lacey ☆
 - ☆ ● Micaela ☆
 - ☆ ● ISA ☆
 - ☆ ● Kareena ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

This weeks most improved form for attendance is Miss Elliott's 42 students with 100% attendance
Well done everyone!

Save the date

SMILE PLEASE! Wednesday 27th March 2024 Individual and Group Photo's



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

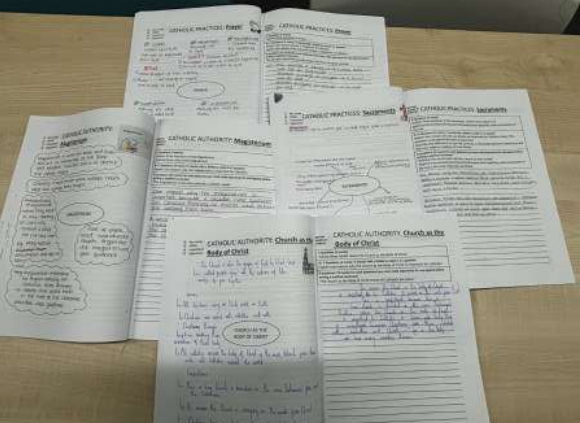


From Miss Cooper

Just a positive shoutout for 11Y5 RE.

They have worked so incredibly hard all year and they are always pushing themselves to do better as individuals. There is such a nice learning environment every lesson and I really enjoy teaching them.

I have attached some pictures of the amazing revision and exam practice they've been doing for their GCSEs recently.





Year 10

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Megan D ☆
 - ☆ ● Unity O ☆
 - ☆ ● Divine O ☆
 - ☆ ● Libaan M ☆
 - ☆ ● Chloe W ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week
10F Mr Smyth with 98.4%
60 students with 100% attendance
Well Done Everyone!



From Ms Ackers Yr10 GCSE Drama class have started looking at the C2 scripted exam. They have been exploring the text 'ASBO' and we've seen some really good ideas and standards from some pupils. Particular praise goes to Miah, Charlie, Callum, Divine, George, Sarah, Jamie, Connor, Millie, Jayden, Neve and Matthew.

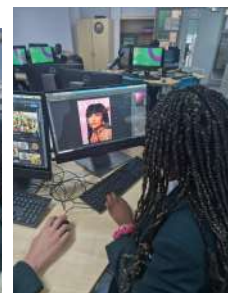


Some very high skilled edits being created in media by Aba, Praises and Victor.
Miss Elliott

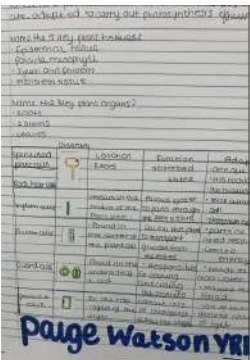


Yr10 Boys enjoying a boxing training session.

Such Focus, determination and control Well done boys!



Y10 were learning about bacterial infections today and had a very mature attitude towards discussions around different types of infections.
Miss Ray



This term Year 10x2 Science have produced amazing work on the topics of Cells and at issues in Plants followed by Covalent and Ionic Bonding.

This is helping them to answer the longer questions in Science such as Paige's work here.



Some brilliant physical photomani-pulation created by Y10 photography students, Charlie, Agnes, Remia and Richard.
Miss Elliott





Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Soreesa ☆
 - ☆ ● Othul ☆
 - ☆ ● Elizabeth ☆
 - ☆ ● Awet ☆
 - ☆ ● Kailen ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week again is 9H

46 students with 100% attendance

Well Done Everyone!

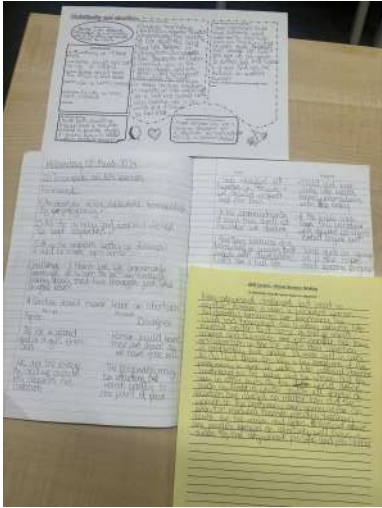
Year 9 are exploring Stanislavski in performance this half term and we are really impressed with the creative contribution, in particularly the effort and engagement of boys.

A massive well done to Brodie, Chib, Oba and Nirvair for their focused demonstration of characterisation when adopting Stan's system of 'Given Circumstance and the 'Magic What If'.



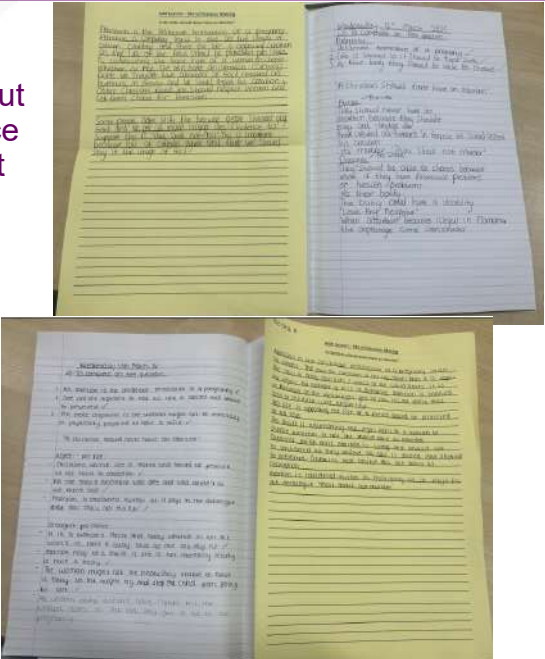
Miss O'Brien

Praise for 9I, they are always AMAZING in RE. a fantastic lesson where all pupils were engaged in planning and starting an extended writing piece about the pro-life vs pro-choice abortion debate. Look at these fabulous book examples.



They are a joy to teach, every lesson.

Miss Cooper





Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● John W ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Alvin T ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Oluwatobiloba A ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Luke M ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Elizabeth O ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week
8G with 96% attendance

Well done!

40 students with 100% attendance



From Ms Ackers

8B were once again excellent when creating their Greek Theatre performances. A particular shoutout to Toby, Neve, Lacey, Ocean, Ava, Eliam, Miguel and Sonia.

8C Eliezer, Brian and Goodluck were fantastic in creating their performance work.

From Mrs Garman:



8J have really impressed me this week with their behaviour in the library. I'm really proud of Christy's motivation to improve his reading - he comes to read to me most break times! Excellent effort, as always!



From Miss Elliott

8H for their efforts in photography replicating the stations of the cross in Art.



Highlights of the week

Year 7

Top 5 Achievers

- Bazaleel K
- Saul S
- Kelvin P
- Apithany P
- Daniella F

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week are 7A ACo

Well done everyone!

Our Stars of the Week

Mrs Walsh's – Bazaleel K

Mrs Rolt's - Iwinosa E

Mr Johnston's – Joshua I

Mrs Lennon's – Maryam O



Yr 7 .. Making delicious chocolate chip cookies!



7K have been learning about the battle at Stamford Bridge in History this week



Cedar, Testimony, Iwinosa and Jamila completed their Lexonik advanced intervention just before the half term. They received their certificates this week! Well done to them as they worked incredibly hard during the 6 weeks!



From Mr Moran
David M - huge, huge

improvement in every way. On time to lesson, works well in lesson, getting good scores in his work. No longer easily distracted.

Daniel O - very polite, always asking if I am okay and being super helpful. Puts me on a positive keel for the whole day.

8 pupils who are perfect in every lesson for Mr Moran are - Salomeia, Sefora, Kindness, Graziella, Richlove, Crystabel, Benedicta and Casey-Leigh!



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