



St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 25 Friday 22 March 2024

Confidential

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of another successful term at St. Matthew's, we want to take a moment to pass on our gratitude to all of our families for your unwavering support in ensuring that your children attend school every day. Your dedication has truly made a difference, and we're thrilled to announce that our attendance rates continue to rise well above the national average for the year to date.

Maintaining this high attendance is crucial, especially as we approach the final week of term. It's important to reiterate the strong correlation between regular school attendance and academic achievement. Your efforts significantly increase your child's likelihood of performing at their best.

This past week, we hosted a highly successful Year 11 Parents Evening, and it brings feelings of happiness in school to witness our students in good spirits as they enter the final stretch before exams. With their hard work and dedication, we're confident they're well-prepared for the challenges ahead.

Looking forward, we'll be implementing the first phase of our mobile phone strategy after Easter, alongside initiatives to reward students who consistently arrive at school early and on time. More details on this will be shared soon.

Additionally, this Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It's a time for reflection and praise, and at St. Matthew's, we take pride in acknowledging and rewarding our students' efforts. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child this weekend, celebrating their achievements and the praise they've received.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Wishing you all a lovely weekend filled with blessings.

Warm regards and God bless



Attendance Information

**BE ON
TARGET**



School is open on
Thursday 28th
March 2024.
All students should
attend school as
usual on this day.



Students need to be in school to maximise their **LEARNING AND 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	

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



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
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 we come towards the end of another term in school, preparations are in full swing for our celebrations of the holiest days of the Christian year. The fact that Easter is early this year means that we are in school for most of "Holy Week" and so it will be a week filled with prayer. Each year group will have a student led "Celebration of the Word" during which we will use Scripture to help us to walk with Jesus as he prepares to be crucified for our salvation. Over the past few weeks we have already been walking this journey with Jesus through our praying of the stations of the cross, but next week this will take centre stage.

Last year, our diocesan schools taking part in the St Joseph's Penny appeal raised enough money to:



Provide **30** local families living in poverty with crisis grants for essential household items;



Take **10** local people experiencing homelessness off the street into safe, secure and supported accommodation;



Serve **20,000** hot meals to local people experiencing poverty, homelessness or isolation;



Equip **15** refugees living across the diocese with English lessons and wellbeing support for an entire year.

In form time prayer we have also been reminded about our St Joseph's Penny appeal which aims to turn spare pennies into real support for those most in need in our area. The impact the collection had last year can be seen in this image. Please add any final change to your box and bring it back in next

We wish you all a blessed weekend and look forward to walking this Holy Week with you.



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

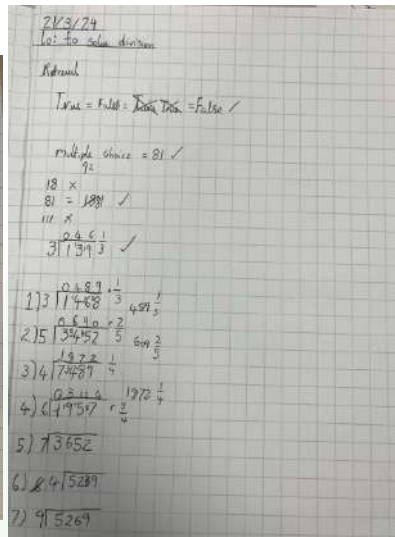
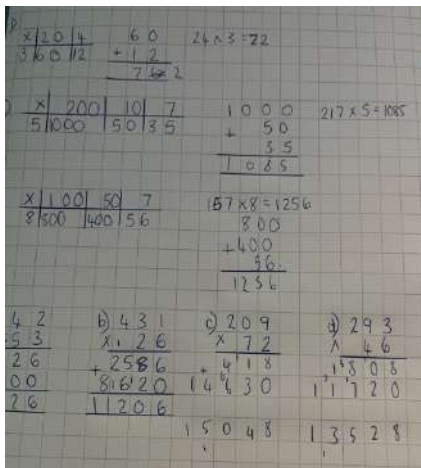


Beehive

8k showing great understanding and compassion while learning about the slave

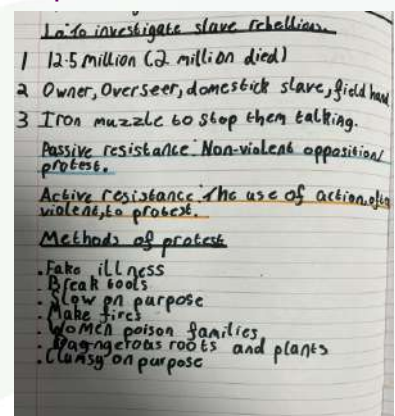


Year 8 numeracy skills division and Year 9 numeracy skills multiplication



Year 8

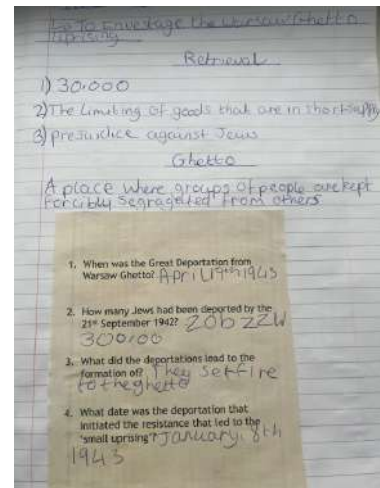
Learning more about the slave trade, some beautiful presentation of work.



Year 9

Warsaw Uprising
More beautiful presentation of work

Two of our beehive pupils engaging in some fine motor and finger strengthening exercises using therapy putty





Highlights of the week

Year 11

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Fabiha ☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Rijole ☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Stanley ☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Lemuel ☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Shaymaa ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

This top attending from is Miss Rayne's

29 students with 100% attendance

Well done everyone!

Save the dates

SMILE PLEASE!

Wednesday 27th March 2024 Individual and Group Photo's

Class of 2024



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

We will let you know once the tickets are available on Parent Pay.



Year 10

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ ● Patryk S ☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Safina O ☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Molly L ☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Abeeha F ☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● Sophie M ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week
10F Mr Smyth with 98.4%

60 students with 100% attendance

Well Done Everyone!

Year 10 visited the National Apprenticeships Fair at the Etihad Stadium, finding out about apprenticeships, careers and higher education.



From Mr Lamming

y10 football squad have had a successful week beating the East Manchester Academy 1 - 0 and William Hulme's Grammar School 4 - 2



WELL DONE 10B ON WINNING THE ATENDANCE AWARD





Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ • Cain B ☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Rose A ☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Rohan ☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Zara ☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Manar ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Highest attending form this week again is 9H
44 students with 100% attendance

Well Done Everyone!



Some fabulous feedback from across the school for year 9 this week.

Well done to you all, keep up this fantastic work and attitude.

We are a very proud year 9 team.



Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Charlotte K ☆
 - ☆ ● Noruwa O ☆
 - ☆ ● Chidinma E ☆
 - ☆ ● Ava I ☆
 - ☆ ● Tobias P ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week
8A with 96.7% attendance

Well done!

39 students with 100% attendance



From Mr Collins

8E worked in lesson today, they approached the difficult topic of slaves' experience on plantations with real empathy and maturity, please pass this on to the form. Great work 8E!

From Mrs Holt:

8F completing art-work on the 'Kingdom of God'. Some beautiful representations of the pupil's visions of how it would look. Mrs Holt is very proud of your efforts well done.



STEM Trip

Mr. Oduniyi arrange for some of our year 8 Pupils attended a STEM trip to look at and discuss women in STEM. They pitched projects and developed theories and skills with other schools on the day. The feedback from the STEM co-ordinator was that the pupils were amazing and a perfect representation of the school. Well done Year 8





Highlights of the week

Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ ● **Louie G** ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● **Yusra G** ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● **Thea R** ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● **Miron H** ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ ● **Curtis M** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Highest attending this week are
71—7 ABe
Well done everyone!



Year 7 Girls football team came
3rd place in the catholic schools
tournament with Player of the

tournament going
to Melissa who
didn't let any
goals in at all.
Well done girls!!



- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Our Stars of the Week** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ Mrs Walsh's – **Louie G** ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ Mrs Rolt's - **Bernice K** ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ Mr Johnston's – **Miron H** ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ Mrs Lennon's – **Esther S** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Year 7 Boys football team
beat MCA 4-3. Great match
boys!





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