



St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 3 Friday 22 September 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another week at St. Matthew's, I wanted to take a moment to express my happiness and pride in the incredible achievements and positive developments we have witnessed in our school community.

Throughout this week, I have had the privilege of personally witnessing some truly excellent teaching and witnessing our students deeply engaged in their learning. It is inspiring to see their dedication and enthusiasm for knowledge.

This week, we also celebrated the feast day of St. Matthew's, and it was a truly heartwarming experience to welcome our colleagues from our partner primary schools to our Mass on Thursday. The sense of community and togetherness was palpable, and it reinforced our commitment to providing a nurturing and inclusive environment for our students from the ages of 4-16.

In particular, I want to commend our Year 11 students for their impressive levels of engagement, both in terms of attendance and participation in period 6 lessons. It's remarkable to see over 150 students staying behind each evening to receive extra support from our dedicated staff. This kind of dedication is what truly sets our students apart and will pay dividends during the summer exam season.

Our Year 7 students have settled in beautifully and are already enjoying their learning journey with us, while Year 10 has made an excellent start to their GCSE courses. Additionally, we are pleased to report good levels of attendance across all year groups, which is essential to ensure that your children make the best possible progress during their time here at school. Year 7 lead the school on attendance levels followed closely by year 11.

I'm also delighted to share that we have seen a significant reduction in the number of students arriving late to school. This is an area that we will continue to focus on throughout the year because punctuality is key to creating a conducive learning environment for all our students.

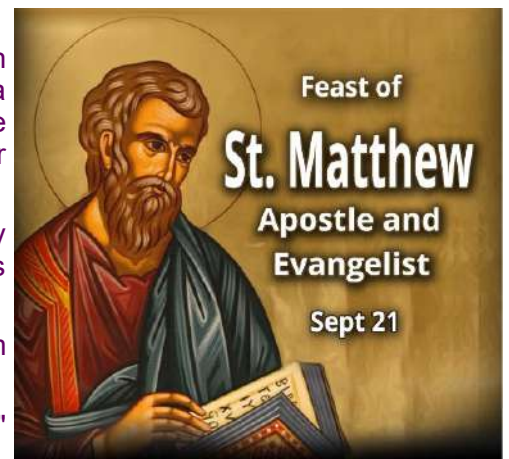
As we approach the weekend, I would like to wish you all a lovely and restful time with your families. May it be filled with happiness and positive moments.

To conclude, I'd like to leave you with a powerful quote from St. Matthew that resonates with our educational mission:

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Let us continue to work together in the spirit of unity and support, ensuring the success and well-being of our students.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your children's education.

God bless you and your families





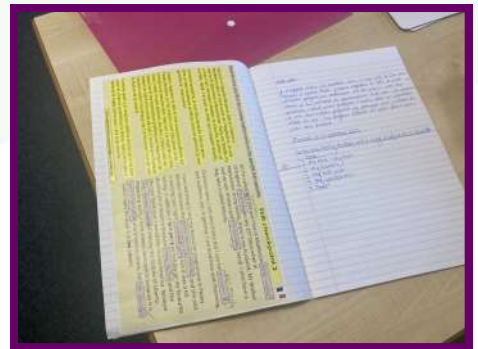
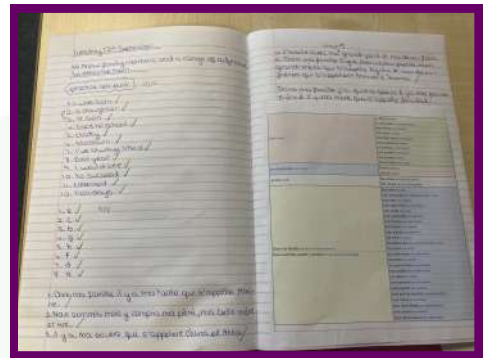
Year 10

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- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ • Remia M ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
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- ☆☆ **Shout Out From Maths...** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ Top 3 achieving pupils for Sparx Maths ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • O.Chukwujekwu ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
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 - ☆☆ • S S. Claudio ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ Well Done from Mr Smyth, you all receive a ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ weeklong lunch-time queue jump pass and that's ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ well worth the hard work and effort!! ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
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MFL

Y10 Have made an excellent start in foreign language classes so far this new term, they are setting their standards high and demonstrating a great attitude to learning more in this subject.



Keep it up, applauds Mrs Gyves-Walker



Enjoying Textiles...

Well done to the year 10 Textiles class who have made such a great start to their Btec course. Pupils have produced these beautiful artist and fashion designer research pages on Damian Hirst, Alexander McQueen and Matthew Williamson. Already looking forward to our next lessons said Miss Raynes



Year 7

Another great lesson, some fantastic feedback from your teachers Year 7.



First of many formal assessments

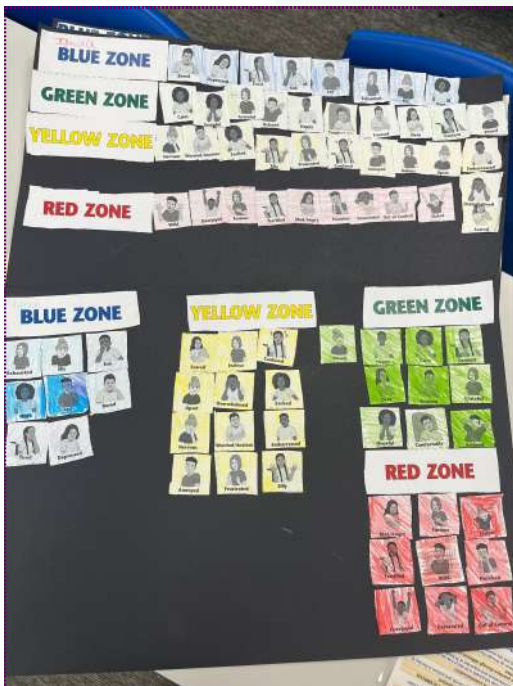
Year 7 Textiles pupils have worked incredibly hard on their first formal assessment. Students have been completing design specifications and planning out what their cushions are going to look like. Incredibly proud of the detailed work and can't wait to start making the cushions. Miss Raynes is looking forward to what is produced.

Shout Out

A bit shout out to 7I from Miss Hassan for consistently fantastic work in French. They are always enthusiastic, hard-working and make great contributions every lesson. Excellent behavior and uniform standards too.



Beehive



Year 7 Beehive students have been introduced to the 'Zones of Regulation,' this week. We use the ZoR curriculum across our Beehive forms to support recognition of emotions and encourage self-regulation. The Year 7s will be looking at 'triggers' for certain moods and behaviours. They will discuss ways in which they can regulate to get themselves back into the 'green zone,' and ready to learn.

Well done Beehive team!

Miss Tilbury is very proud of your all.

Keep up the hard work!



RE

The RE department have been amazed at the outstanding start to this academic year. The pupils are engaging in their learning and showing a real passion for religion. Each year group are looking at the following topics.

- ◆ Y7 – Covenant and Creation
- ◆ Y8 – Evil and Suffering
- ◆ Y9 – Meaning of Life
- ◆ Y10 – Catholic Beliefs and Teachings
- ◆ Y11 – Arguments of the existence of God

RE Stars of the Week

Every member of the department has been very impressed with the following pupils who have made a significant contribution in class or produced an outstanding piece of work.

What's New?

Look out for the new display up on the top floor showing the teachers 'Stars of the Week'.

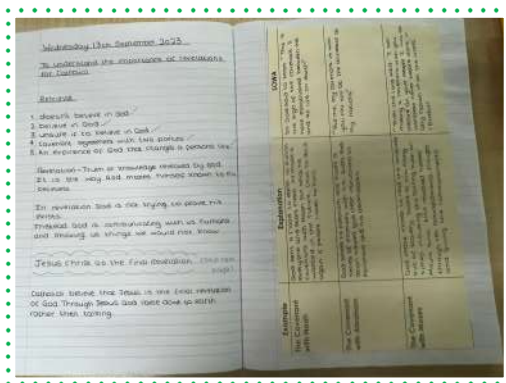
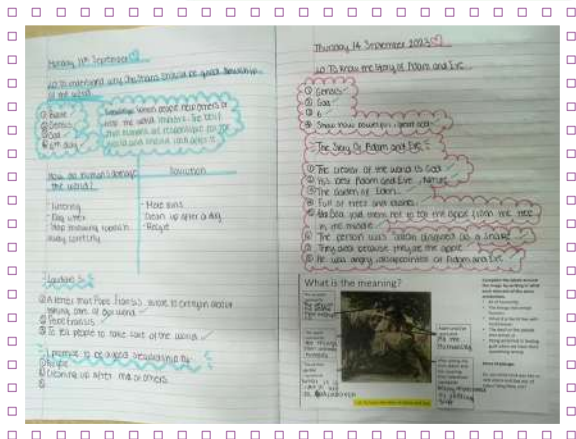
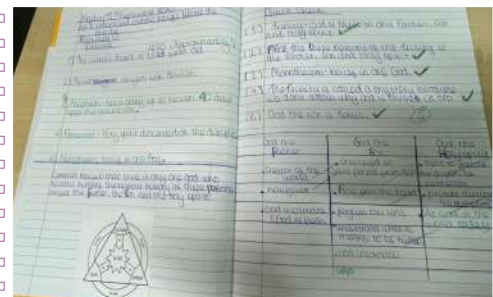
Y11s - Every Wednesday week 'B' will be RE Lesson 6 for those pupils who have been targeted.

Look out for the list and we're looking forward to seeing you on the 3rd floor.

Here's just a selection of the fantastic pieces of work the students are producing:

Well done to the following pupils;

- Miss Taylor - Jakub 9D
- Miss Cooper - Rocco 11E
- Mrs Holt - Kevin 11I
- Mrs Lennon - Thea 7C
- Mrs Hill - Benedicta 7A
- Mrs McCloud - Amadou 10I
- Mrs Wrigley - Justine 10D
- Mr. Hall - Evie 11B





Chaplaincy Corner

This has been a very special week for St Matthew's as we celebrated the feast day of our patron saint on Thursday. The week began with the sad news of the death of Nathaniel Shani and we have prayed for his eternal rest and for the consolation of his family and friends, many of whom are in our school community. In our



assemblies this week Mr Sharrock, assisted by several readers from each year group, has led a time of prayer to celebrate the feast of St Matthew. These focused on the life of Matthew and on one of the central messages of the Gospel that he wrote. In the very last line of the Gospel of St Matthew Jesus

says to his disciples and to us: "And know, I am with you always, even until the end of time" and each student and member of staff has received a prayer card reminding them of this presence of Jesus through every moment of our lives. Form time prayers have also focused on what it means to have a patron saint and what it means to ask the saints in heaven to pray for us. On Thursday evening we hosted our St Matthew Partnership Mass which was attended by representatives of the local Catholic primary schools. In the homily given by Canon Paul Daly we were encouraged to make sure that we use wisely the gifts and talents given to us by God. May God bless you all and bring us back next week happy, healthy, and holy.





Attendance Matters

A key priority in school this year is to improve attendance for all pupils.

As the Attendance Team, it is our role to support families to ensure that students attend school every day.

High levels of attendance = high levels of attainment.

Each week, we will be sharing 'Attendance Facts' to help support you to encourage your child to attend school every day.

If your child has a minor ailment for example a cough or a cold, menstrual symptoms, please send them to school. If they are unwell, we would contact you. Often, when students arrive to school with their friends, they feel much better.

This weeks 'Attendance Fact':

'If your child has ½ day of per week it is equivalent to having 19 days off each year'

In addition, there will be new attendance initiatives for students each half-term.

This term, the form with the highest attendance will win a full English breakfast during form time:

Year 8—Friday 29th September

Year 9—Friday 06th October

Year 10—Friday 13th October

Year 11—Friday 20th October

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



Very well done to 7B who won the reward breakfast this week with 100% attendance last week:



What's On Offer At Break & Lunch time

With much greater choice, complexity, and more opportunities to spend money in the cafeteria it is important you discuss what your children are choosing and ensure they are getting a healthy balance with their choices. This will help you decide on the right amount of break and lunch money to allocate to your child's Parent Pay account.

Some parents chose to pay for the cost of lunch only, while others give their children a bit extra to cover a snack at morning break or for an additional drink. Whatever you decide you should expect to budget somewhere between £12.50 - £20 a week.

If your children are on Free School Meals the £2.50 allocated to their Parent Pay account each day will not show on Edulink or on your Parent Pay account, but rest assured it is sat there waiting to be spent. Any unspent money is carried over to the next day. At the end of the week any unspent money will be removed.

It is very important to ensure your children manage their Free School Meal allowance properly and are mindful that if they spend money at break they will not have enough money to buy a meal deal at lunch time, unless you add money to their account.

Please take a look at the following menus, deals and price lists and talk to your children about how best they can maximise their spend, there is a lot of choice and it would be good for them to look through the menus with you.

The Blue Dot Deal 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.

HOMEBAKED & SWEET TREATS

Cake Slice	£1.15
Rocky Road	£1.70
Croissant	£1.55
Pain Au Chocolat	£1.55
Cookie Small	£1.15 / 85p
Muffin Small	£1.30 / 85p
Flapjack Small	£1.15 / 85p
Brownie Small	£1.15 / 85p
Chocolate Straw	£1.15
Cheese Straw	£1.15

Innovate IFG

COLD DRINKS

Water 330ml	80p
Fruit Slush Small	£1.45 / £0.90
Capri Sun	£1.30
Dalston's Cans	£1.40
Radnor Fruit Carton - 200ml	£1.10
Radnor Splash Bottle - 500ml	£1.15
Milk Cartons	£1.00

Innovate IFG



What's On Offer At Break & Lunch time

**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**



What's On Offer At Break & Lunch time

Innovate IFG

GRAB & GO

HOT

Breakfast Roll	£2.05
Breakfast Pot	From £2.00
Breakfast Baguette	From £1.40
Pasta Pots	Small £2.15 Large £2.50
Ciabatta	£3.20
Toastie	£2.15
Panini	£2.60
Combo Pots	£2.65
Loaded Nachos	£2.25
Dough Balls	£1.40
Burrito	£2.65
Chicken Wings	£2.15
Pizza Slice	£1.50

COLD

Roll	£1.00
Sub	£2.05
Wrap	£2.60
Pasta Pots	Small £1.00 Large £2.50
Baguette	£2.65
Sushi	£3.00
Fruit Fruit Pot	55p £1.00
Naturally Range	From £2.85
Dip Pot - Houmous	£1.20
Edamame Beans	£1.60
Self-Serve Salad	From £1.80
Yoghurt/Jelly Pot	£1.00





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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!



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

No recourse to public funds (NRPF)

Free school meal eligibility has now been permanently extended to children in all households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to maximum income thresholds and savings. If you are in this category, please ask the Finance Office finance@smrchs.com for a paper application.