



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 4 Friday 29 September 2023

Headteacher's Message

As I write this week's entry to Round Up, the sun is shining and the children are smiling on their way into school. I want to thank you for ensuring your child attends school every day and commend you for your commitment to improving our overall attendance. As you are no doubt aware, there is a direct correlation between strong attendance and academic achievement, and this past week has been a testament to that. Our school has been buzzing with activity, from sports fixtures and events to an inspiring trip to the theatre. We are thrilled to witness the enthusiasm and participation of our students in these extra-curricular activities.

To stay updated with the latest happenings at St. Matthews, please keep an eye on our social media pages. We love sharing the exciting moments and achievements of our students with our wonderful community.

Next week, we prepare to host our open evening for year 5 and 6. We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming new prospective parents and families, and we hope to provide them with a glimpse of the enriching educational environment we offer here.

Additionally, we want to extend our gratitude to all those who attended our Year 10 Maximising Achievement Evening. It was a pleasure to share valuable tips and strategies with you, and we hope that these insights will contribute to your child's success.

As the weekend approaches, we hope you have a delightful and relaxing time with your loved ones. May your family be blessed with happiness and good health.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and trust in St. Matthews. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our students.

Warm regards,

Mr Nightingale

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37



Year 11

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ **Top 5 Achievers** ★
- ★ • Shaymaa ★
- ★ • Dontay ★
- ★ • Chana ★
- ★ • Evie ★
- ★ • Neive ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Highest attending is Mr Green's form 11D
Well done 11D

Mrs Bunn has been focusing on Maths this week it was an absolute pleasure to join Mr Matthew's and Mr Walkers Maths lessons this week, the engagement was amazing ! Even Mr Gorey got involved. I'm so proud of you all!



Year 11 football St Matthew's VS Our Lady's first game of the season a 7-2 win for St Matts brilliant performance and amazing team effort !

Year 11 enjoyed a College Visit from Loretto this week. They were all so interested to listen to some of the career paths they may choose when they move on into further education.





Year 10

IT'S A WEEK OF EXCELLENT SHOUT OUTS ACROSS YEAR 10

Miss Newey, Mr Russell and Miss Lee are all very proud.

Drama Applauds from Miss Ackers

Some excellent work again from my Yr10 drama class. Really mature themes explored with great skills! Once again incredible!

Special shout out to **J Twigg, C McConville, C Entwistle, Tegra, Kalu, G Partington, N Mullery McCourt, M Jefferies, N Osemwengie and M Hanvey**

Art appraisals from Miss Richards

I just wanted to give **Ollie** from form 10G a shout-out. She has been coming to art club almost every day and using the resources & time to make sure she is up to date with her artwork. She is ahead of the class in terms of completed work and on top of that she is always a pleasure to be around and is very helpful!!

Olivia in 10B art is working well too! **Millie** in 10B art also works very hard and it doesn't go unnoticed how focused she is in class. Well done, **Millie!**

Stephanie in 10B art is always working really hard and is making really good progress, putting lots of effort into her work. Well done, **Stephanie!**

Most of the pupils in 10G art are absolutely amazing and a pleasure to teach!

English Shout Outs!

All working really hard in English and showing sound knowledge of *An Inspector Calls*.

D Agyemang M Day E Bresllin A Pham

Well done and keep up that hard work! **Miss Bayode**

English 10x1 are already proving themselves to be the most studious and hardworking class I've ever had the pleasure of teaching! They go above and beyond to challenge and push themselves to be even better and achieve more. I am immensely proud of their effort and attitude and cannot wait to witness the incredible things they'll achieve in KS4.

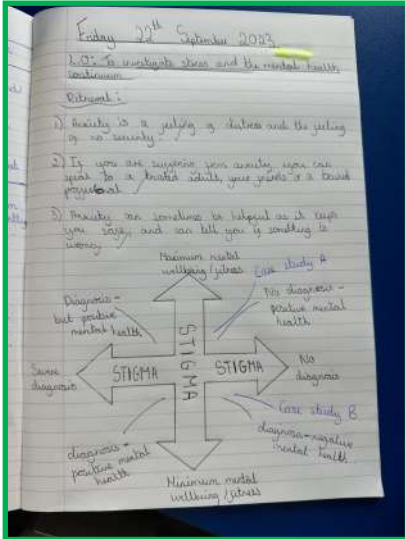
Well done everyone and keep up the hard work! **Mrs Garman**



Year 10

AND THERE'S MORE TO SHOUT OUT,

Year 10 you should be so very proud of yourselves



Just to let you know Princewill did amazing last lesson really stood out in PSHE and the girls have all been working perfectly. Such good discussions around mental health and beautiful book presentation! **Miss Begum**



Miss Elliott had a BIG shout out to 10C photography who had a great first shoot photographing the school.



Mrs O'Brien cannot praise her Year 10 drama classes enough. What a great start to GCSE Drama, showing some fabulous potential. Shout outs to:

Jayden B, Austin T, Codie AC, Lexi N.

Great effort from Herrmionie L, Amadou B, Olimiji B, Lois D.

Keep up this great effort contribution and focus, very well done.

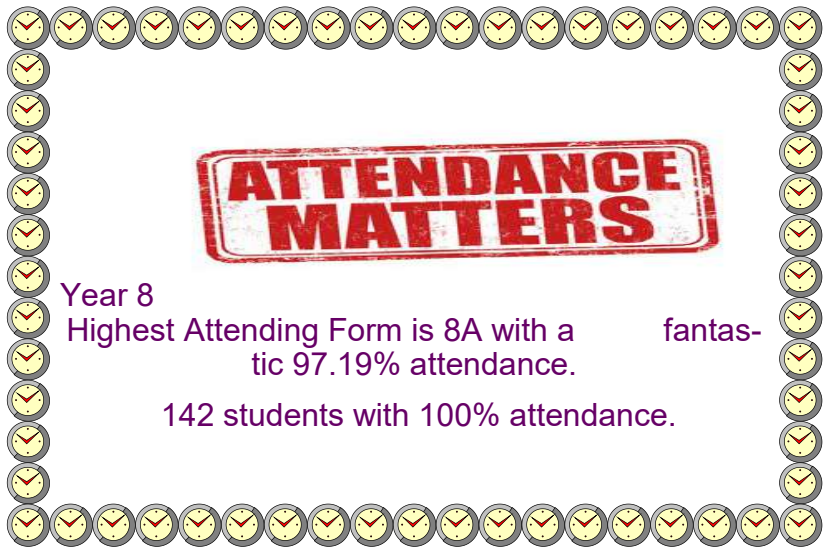


Two fabulous students receiving recognition—very well done !



Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers**
- * Larisa C
 - * Elisha K
 - * Rodrigo J
 - * Elizabeth F
 - * Ruby-Ann K
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Year 8
Highest Attending Form is 8A with a fantastic 97.19% attendance.
142 students with 100% attendance.

8A Shining Again....

8A were experimenting with electrical forces this week in Science with **Mr.Green**, pupils discussed how electrostatic charges can be conductive with objects brought close to the charged object as it electrically charges the object making their hair stand on end. They used the Van De Graaff to test the theory, even Ms.Travis joined in and enjoyed the lesson.



Drama engagement

Year 8 added a new Non-Naturalistic technique to their performance skills by incorporating 'show imagery' within a Brecht inspired piece. Brilliant creative engagement, well done !



Enjoying the outdoors

PE lessons are always a favourite, all focused on **Mr Gorey**, great lesson.





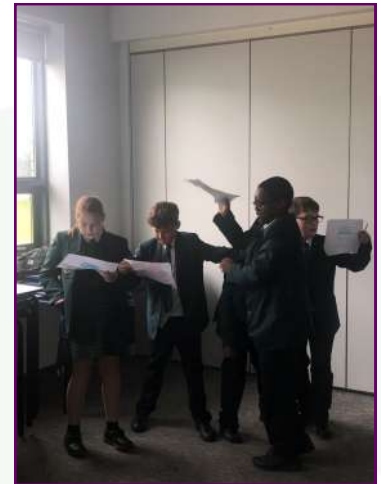
Year 7

Another Fantastic week, Yr 7—Textiles, Drama, PE & Achievements



Pupils have completed amazing mood board homeworks to help them with their cushion ideas. Really looking forward to seeing all their design ideas next week.

Well done from Miss Raynes



Beehive

Year 7 Beehive form enjoying their reading time. It is always lovely to watch the students pair up and read together. We try to read as often as we can, often starting our English lessons with comprehension and inference challenges.

Books are important for the mind, heart & soul!

Well done Beehive team!

Miss Tilbury is very proud of you all.





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
The big question “Should all Christians take care of the earth?”
- ◆ Y8 – Evil and Suffering
Job and how we must continue to have faith in God.
- ◆ Y9 – Meaning of Life
Do religious experiences lead to a belief in God ?
- ◆ Y10 – Catholic Beliefs and Teachings
How are humans created in the image of God ?
- ◆ Y11 – Arguments of the existence of God
Do miracles and visions lead to a belief in God ?

RE Stars of the Week

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

Well done to the following pupils;

Miss Taylor – Marissa 11
Miss Cooper – Joshua 10D
Mrs Holt – Caiden 11
Mrs Lennon – Ana-Maria 11
Mrs McCloud – Finlay 10B
Mrs Wrigley – Oscar 11J
Mr. Hall – Harley 11

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.

The list is now up and we need to improve on the numbers from last week. Look forward to seeing you.



Sporting highlights

PE

Year 7/8/9 girls and boys competed in the City wide competition at Wythenshawe park.

They showed resilience and determination to compete against pupils from other schools. A special mention – Olivia Mc who came 6th place. Well done Olivia and to everyone of you who participated. Very proud of you all!





Annie Production

KS3 visited the Opera House in Manchester this week, huge fans of Annie and it showed in their happy faces throughout. Fabulous behaviour and looked very smart, comments from the Opera House staff were very complementary.



Thrilled you all enjoyed it so much !



Flash Fiction Competition

SPOOKTACULAR



- ✗ No Happy Endings
- ✗ No Dreams, No Nightmares
- ✗ No 'and then I woke up'

- ✓ 800 word limit
- ✓ Include Original Title
- ✓ Send your entry to

N.Tormey@smrchs.com



YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR FIRST NAME AND SURNAME ON YOUR SUBMISSION.

THIS, THAT OR THE OTHER

PROTAGONIST	Witch	Human	Zombie
SETTING	Outdoors	Creature's Lair	Abandoned Place
THEME	Apocalypse	Last 1 Left	Lost
PLOT	Rescue	Curiosity	Revenge
ENDING	Ambiguous	A Costly Win	A Failure
STYLE	A Rescue	A Warning	A Rumour

Choose one option from each row that must appear in your story.



Chaplaincy Corner

Last Sunday we celebrated the 109th International Day of Migrants and Refugees and so many of our form time prayers this week have reflected on this important issue. We have focused particularly on the importance of the welcome that we give to migrants and refugees when they arrive in our local area and in our school, recognising that even if we don't speak the same language as them there are lots of ways that we can make them feel welcome.

In our chaplaincy group this week we thought a bit about what it means to come from a family which might not all be of the same religion and then we did some practical preparations for next week's prayers by separating all our rosary beads into packets of the right size for each form group.

Our Muslim prayer group has also continued to meet during Friday lunchtime.

It has also been an exciting week for many Year 9 and Year 10 students who have booked on to the school trip to Rome next Easter and there are still a few places available if any other Year 9 or 10 students would like to come with us on this exciting adventure. Full details can be found on Parent Pay.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful weekend.

God Bless.





WHAT PEOPLE THINK DYSLEXIA IS

Earthbound Mothers



- Writing things backwards
- A sign of low intelligence

WHAT DYSLEXIA ACTUALLY IS



- Letter reversals
- Slow reader
- Struggle with directions
- Delayed language development
- Struggle with copying written text
- Forgetful
- Poor self esteem
- Low mood
- Anxiety
- Unmotivated to learn
- Poor concentration
- Headaches
- Stomach ache
- Feeling dizzy
- Observant
- Poor coordination
- Strong sense of justice
- Mispronouncing words



Next week is *Dyslexia Awareness Week*. The theme this year is 'UNIQUELY YOU'

- ⇒ You are special
- ⇒ You are distinctive
- ⇒ You are exceptional

From 2nd to 8th October, we will be celebrating individuals with dyslexia from all backgrounds and walks of life. We will enjoy learning about individual journeys with dyslexia and discovering the diversity of experience in our community.

Having dyslexia can bring its challenges but it also shapes experience and perspective and makes you Uniquely You. We want to inspire everyone to value and appreciate individuals with dyslexia.

Key characteristics

A dyslexic pupil may:

- Use bizarre spellings and have poor phonological awareness
- Frequently lose the place when reading and see blurred or distorted word shapes
- Confuse some high frequency words, such as was/saw
- Reverse letters and number digits (beyond the age where this is normal)
- Write words with the correct letters in the wrong order
- Write sequences of letters and numbers in reverse
- Have difficulty remembering a word and substitute other words instead
- Have great difficulty organising themselves and their belongings
- Be unable to remember simple sequences, such as days of the week
- Experience problems following oral instructions
- Have poor sense of time and direction
- Make frequent errors when copying, especially from the board
- Have some coordination difficulties
- Have low levels of motivation and self-esteem.



Attendance Is Everyone's business

Attendance continues to be a key priority in school this year for all pupils.

If students are not in school, they are not learning.

Thank you to the parents and carers of students who are sending their children into school every day. These students will be getting the full benefits of lessons and school life.

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.

As you will be aware if your child has been absent, we are out doing home visits to try and encourage students to return to school. We are required to ask for medical evidence if a student's attendance is below 93%.

Please try to send your children to school every day to give them the best possible chance to be successful young people.

This weeks 'Attendance Fact':

"EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS"

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

Each half-term there will be new attendance initiatives for students.

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

Year 9 – Friday 6th October

Year 10 – Friday 13th October

Year 11 – Friday 20th October



Attendance Is Everyone's business

Congratulations to 8F who won the reward breakfast this week with 97.30% attendance last week:



**The winning form for breakfast on Friday 6th October is 9H with 97.65% attendance – congratulations to all students in Mr Jones' form.
We'll be seeing you here next week!**

Year group	Number of students with 100% attendance w/e 22/09/2023
Year 7	148
Year 8	136
Year 9	151
Year 10	149
Year 11	158

742 students had 100% attendance last week. Congratulations to them all.

Can your child achieve 100% attendance next 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.

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

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



What's On Offer At Break & Lunch time

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.

**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

40Z 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





Parent Pay—How To

There are still many students who do not have an active Parent Pay Account. Please contact the school if you have not received your unique username and password to activate the account or if you need assistance.

Your child will need their account setting up as they may need to purchase academic items or if they want to go on school trips.

When calling select to speak to Finance or email

parentpay@smrchs.com

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