



St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter Company of the state of th

Week 7 Friday 20 October 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to share with you the fantastic progress we've made at St Matthew's over this past half term. Each and every day, we've witnessed remarkable improvements, and I wanted to take a moment to celebrate and acknowledge these achievements with you.

This week, our school had the privilege of hosting several distinguished guests, including the Northwest DfE Regional Director and her team, the Director of Education from the Salford Diocese, the CEO of The Emmaus Trust, the Secondary School Director, and the Manchester Quality Assurance team. Their visits provided us with invaluable feedback and insights into the positive changes we've been implementing at our school. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, reaffirming the rapid progress we are making.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you, our dedicated parents and guardians. Your unwavering commitment to ensuring your children attend school regularly is truly commendable. We are proud to report a high number of students with 100% attendance, and our school's attendance figures are above both national and regional levels. Your support plays a significant role in the success of our school community.

As we approach the half-term break, I encourage you to take this time to relax and enjoy quality moments with your family. I hope you have a restful and rejuvenating break.

Before we part for the holidays, I'd like to share a thought from the Sunday's Gospel according to St. Matthew: "Give back to God what is God's." This verse reminds us of the importance of gratitude in our lives. By being grateful for the blessings and successes we've achieved together as a school community, we not only acknowledge a higher power in our lives but also put ourselves in the right frame of mind. Gratitude is not only beneficial for our well-being but also a key to finding happiness in life.

God bless you all, and I look forward to welcoming our students back after the holiday. Thank you for your continued support, and let's keep striving for excellence together.

Mr Nightingale

Headteacher





St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter Column Column

Message from Manchester Quality Assurance Team to the staff and pupils.

Thank you for having me in school on Tuesday, it was lovely to be back and to speak with some of you again. It was clear to see that the changes you are implementing are having a dramatic and tangible impact on the culture and environment. Corridors were orderly and cleared quickly between lessons and after lunch. Lunchtime was calm and a pleasant environment for all students to socialise and enjoy their lunch. The lessons I saw were disruption free and I could see that teachers and students were enjoying their relationships and the learning that was taking place. The students too were able to articulate the difference. They told me that it was calmer now, and they were enjoying being in school. They really appreciate the changes you have made so thank you for all your hard work. I left feeling so happy for you all and for your students. But more widely, I left feeling incredibly optimistic for our education system, that this can indeed be done. You should all feel proud.



NOT TO MISS...

- Year 8 & 9 Romeo and Juliet trip
- •Wednesday 1st November
- •Starring past SMRCHS pupil Conor Glean!
- See Edulink/ParentPay for further details £30





20 Oct - 18 Nov Romeo & Juliet

by William Shakespeare directed by Nicholai La Barrie

Don't miss out on this incredible production.



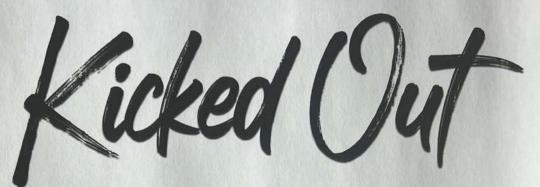
Special Visit

We are delighted that A M Dassu is coming to speak to all Y7 pupils

Welcome award-winning author

A M Dassu

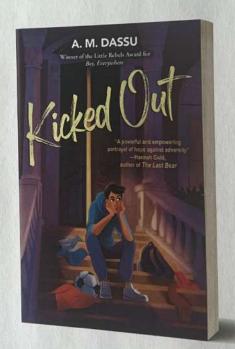
to celebrate the publication of



the highly-anticipated sequel to the award-winning BOY, EVERYWHERE.



'A powerful & empowering portrayal of hope against adversity. A M Dassu is one of our most authentic voices in children's literature' Hannah Gold, Author of *The Last Bear*





winner of the
 Little Rebels Award for Radical Fiction 2021.





Year 11

Top 5 Achievers

☆• Master T

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- Lewis T
- Hollie W
- ☆. Karoline L
 - Alfie D



Highest attending form this week is AGAIN Mr Millington's form - 11E

Well done!

124 students with 100% attendance Lets aim for higher in the new term!



have been exploring examples of moral and natural evil with Mrs Lennon in RE

Year 11 have received a reward breakfast for E and E this week! Well done







Attendance Draw

Year 11 have launched an attendance draw ... the winners this week up to now have been Kevin and Wintana!





Shout Out ...

From Mrs Walsh who is proud of the hard work focus and determination that year 11 HSC have shown in HT1.

She is looking forward to working with you all in half term 2.



Year 10

Top 5 Achievers

- ☆ Remia M
- ★ Molly L

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- ☆ Safina O
 - Praises K
- ☆ Henok G



Highest attending form this week is

Mr Smyth's form 10F with a fantastic 98.24% attendance

Well done!



Shout out form Mr Walton-Whitelock

The year 10 media class as a whole have made great strides so far with creating their first set of graphics in Photoshop. The whole class has currently been terrific this half term

Outstanding standouts also: Taelee H-L, Luke K, Kelven D, Meya S, Kayden A and

Calum W.





Year 10 attended the post 16 roadshow this week and met colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers who visited St Matthew's to share the sorts of thing the future might hold for them. They left with much to talk and think about.

Year 10 HSC Mrs Walsh is really proud of the hard work, focus,



determination and motivation that Year 10 HSC have shown during half term 1. She is looking forward to working with you further in HT2!

Miss Rayson would like to shout out to her year 10 class 10Y2, I've been really impressed with their approach to starting GCSE.

Specifically Luke.O and Ollie.M for their efforts, and Ellie.C and Neve.M for always being so hard working



Year 9

Top 5 Achievers

- - Finley

\$

- Lacey
- Zara
- Natalie



Highest attending is Miss Quigley's form 9E Well done!

Mrs King is extremely proud of you all.



challenging themselves to gain as many points as possible in 'Pot the Ball' about the advantages and disadvantages of technology! Mrs Gyves Walker "A pleasure to teach"



Shout out... to Jayden
McCarthy in 9K...really improved week of behaviour and cooperation. He attended and completed all his computing work and achieved 100% in his assessment..
Well done says Miss Tilbury





Some challenging work from 9B and 9F who have generally been performing excellently in maths. 9B were involved in an Interview lesson and I was extremely proud of them, Mr Atkin and Mrs Jones expressed how impressed they were. They are an excellent example of the high standards I want from Maths at KS3 says Mr Robinson



Well done to the year 9 football team who won 4 – 1 in the English schools first round

Praise from Mr Atkin

9B were amazing this morning, stand out pupil for me was Cody S-B!

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Year 8

Top 5 Achievers

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- ★ * Felicia A
 - Ava-Jayne G
 - * Kayden G
 - * Najma B



Highest Attending Form is 8A again with a fantastic 98% attendance.

112 students with 100% attendance.

Lets keep improving on these numbers Year 8 Miss Travis is a very proud Head Of Year.



Poppy Day Beautiful poppies painted with acrylic paint by Yr 8 for remembrance day.

8B have had an amazing term. Their hard work resulted in some outstanding pieces of writing during our AIM lesson. Pupils planned and evaluated the statement "Evil and Suffering proves that God doesn't exist". Pupils showed resilience and determination to succeed in this piece of work. Keep it up 8B, Mr Hall is looking forward to seeing you make more progress next term.









Mrs O'Donnell gives a huge shout out to Ocean, Thaleaya, Daisy and Emmanuel H who all completed their Lexonik Advanced intervention! They worked so hard every week and gave 100% effort!



Year 7

* Top 5 Achievers

- Nikasalee R
- Somtochi O
- Lawrence B
- Yusra G
- ☆ Cassie J

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Highest attending form is 7A

Highest achieving form is 7E

131 students with 100% attendance

Well done Year 7! A Proud Mr Johnston, Mrs Rolt and Miss Lennon



Mr Johnston Mrs Lennon



Mrs Walsh is very proud of the hard work, commitment and kindness that Year 7 have shown in their first half term at SMRCHS. Well done, I am very proud of your achievements and I am looking forward to seeing you flourish in half term 2. Enjoy your half term break. Mrs Walsh

7J completing a practical.

They were measuring the melting point of stearic acid.

Mrs Rolt



Miss Elliott's weekly top art award

1 student wins a certificate and chocolate prize every lesson

Y7 top art award winner this week: Leo J.

There will also be a competition for 1 winner to win an art prize leading up to Christmas.

All students were well behaved and contributed well to the lesson. Well Done from Mr Green



MORE Y7 SHOUTS OUTS...

- ◆ 7G have made an incredible start. They consistently put in 110% effort, and they have maturity beyond their years! It is a real pleasure to be their form tutor and their English teacher. I cannot wait to witness even more of the incredible things they'll achieve at St Matthew's. Mrs Garman
- Id like to shout out to 7E and 7F, when we were on the walking tour a member of the public walked up to us and asked which school we were from as they were so well behaved in the Royal Exchange, she commented that her niece had come to SMRCHS and hoped they would be as successful as her. it was really lovely! Miss Rayson
- ♦ I am super proud of my Spanish and French classes (7B, 7F, 7H, 7I) for their great effort and attitude with their speaking check points this week. These students went above and beyond: Gold, Kiki, Thaiyen, Rawand, Olivia Marshall, Britney, Freddie, Eminence, Abraham, Melody. Miss Hassan
- Just to say it been great to see so many Y7's at Football and Netball club this half term. A very talented group of girls, which I'm sure we will see huge success in the competitions after half term. Miss Waters
- ◆ Hard work from Matthew C, McKie W, Joshua S, and Riylan Mck have all shown great effort in Science. Mr Napier

Hard work from Evie McN, Joshua S, Ayo O, Logan C and Destiny O have all been excellent in Geography

Beehive

A very proud Head of Beehive, Miss Tilbury.

Our Year 8 Beehive form have been working really hard in Art. They made poppy sculptures and then this week have been painting them. It is clear to see the time and effort they have put into their designs.









Chaplaincy Corner

The week has seen a wonderful variety in the chaplaincy department. On Monday we celebrated the feast day of St Margaret Mary. Our form time prayers about St Margaret Mary were recorded by students who had attended St Margaret Mary's RC Primary School and Mr Sharrock was pleased to be able to spend the afternoon in the primary school helping the Year 5s to celebrate their feast day.

He was very impressed by their artistic abilities and was delighted that so many of them are looking forward to joining our St Matthew's community in a couple of years' time.

This week has also seen the end of our Harvest Collection and we were able to hand over a good number of non-perishable foods to the Manchester Central Foodbank to support those in need in our local community.

Students Divine, Ikpo, Leo and Abishan were on hand to help Mr Sharrock give the donation over to the Foodbank.



We have also continued our praying of the Holy Rosary together and this week our prayer had a particularly special flavour because each of the ten "Hail Mary" prayers was recorded in a different language by our staff and students, embracing and celebrating our multicultural school. Look out for a recording of this multi-lingual rosary on our school Facebook page.

As we come to the end of our first half term together this year we give thanks to God for all that He has given to us in these seven weeks and we entrust our half term break to His watchful care.

We wish you every blessing for the week ahead and look forward to welcoming you back refreshed to continue our journey through life together.



Post 16 Event

On Wednesday 18th October, 20 providers, including colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers visited St Matthew's for this year's Post-16 event. Years 10 and 11, along with their parents, were able to find out more about the choices they have when they leave school, and came away with prospectuses, leaflets and many ideas about their futures, some of which they had never ever thought of. It was fantastic so see so many of our students engaging in meaningful discussions about their future and gaining the tools to make informed choices.









Manchester Walking Trips

A huge shout out from Mr Napier to forms 7I and 7K from not only Mr Napier but the tour guides as well.

The tour guides feedback they were the most well-behaved group out of all the forms that have done the tours and we feel really proud of how they represented St Matthew's throughout and in lots of public places.

The pupils were engaged asking and answering all the questions from the tour guide and it was fantastic seeing them take a real interest in our great city. Pupils form both forms showed lots of knowledge about the city and famous landmarks already which was great to hear too.











External Feedback ...

It's true what they say, people very often forget to send positive feedback and praise where it is due, ... so when someone takes the time and effort to send something to shout about, that's exactly what we do at St.Matthew's ...

We were delighted to receive this feedback following our visit.

Dear Headteacher,

As a retired high school teacher I am very aware members of the public are quick to criticise students and teachers. I am sending praise .

Your students and staff who attended the Royal Exchange Theatre on Friday 13th October 2023 were a credit to your school. Polite, respectful and engaged in the activity.

A delight to see.

Regards

Mary Wilde





Language is Adventure



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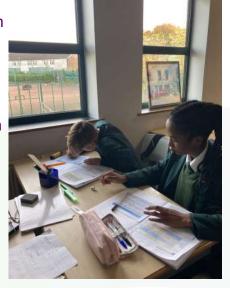
Hello in Ukrainian

There are over 45 different languages spoken at St.Matthew's. Each week we will bring you a word or phrase of the week, lets all join in the language adventure.

Thank you to Mrs Gyves-Walker

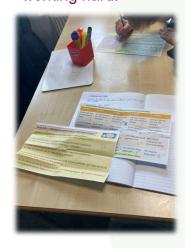
Great effort by 8Y German with their past tense

holiday work! Special mention to John who answered over 20 questions, worked on his prosody and made great progress with his reading skills!!



Year 8Y German completing a progress check in class, after doing a listening slalom, faulty echo and identifying past partiples in German! Frau Gyves-Walker is very proud of you.

Here is Archie, Chidima and the class working hard!











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.**

We are making progress in improving students' attendance and we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents who have supported our attendance drive and continue to send their children to school every day.

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 feel absolutely fine.

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.

This weeks 'Attendance Fact'

'There are 175 non-term days in a year. All this time for shopping, holidays, appointments etc'

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



SPOTLIGHT ON ADHD

October is ADHD Awareness month

Teachers: have you ever...?

- •Thought a child was 'lazy' because they seemed to never start a task?
- •Been frustrated because a child seems incapable of remaining in their seat?
- •Experienced a child who continuously bangs their pencil on the desk?
- •Reminded a child to bring their book at least five times and they still forgot it?

•Been in the middle of a lesson when a child blurts out some random information irrelevant to

the lesson?

Have you considered that this child might be Neuro-diverse?

Common myths:

- •ADHD is just a new label given to naughty children explain their behaviour
- There is no evidence that ADHD exists
- •ADHD is a result of bad parenting!
- ADHD only affects boys
- Children with ADHD will eventually outgrow their condition

FACTS:

Girls are far less likely to be diagnosed with ADHD. The approximate ratio is 4:1

Why??

- -Girls display different behaviours e.g. less impulsive & tend to be day-dreamers as opposed to boys where they make themselves known within the classroom.
- -Girls often slip through the net.

FIGURES

- •ADHD usually starts at about 18 months, but might not be diagnosed until later, even until adulthood.
- •It is thought to affect 3% to 7% of school age children.
- •32-40% more likely to drop out of school
- •50-70% more likely to have few or no friends
- •70-80% more likely to underperform at work
- •40-50% more likely to engage in antisocial activities
- •40% more likely to experience teen pregnancy
- •20-30% more likely to experience depression
- •18-25% more likely to develop personality disorders



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SPOTLIGHT ON ADHD

Common symptoms



Inattention	Hyperactivity	Impulsivity
Appearing not to listen when spoken to	Difficulty keeping still; fidgeting with hands or feet	Interfering with what others are doing in the class and on the playground
Easily distracted and forgetful Difficulty in organising	Climbing or running excessively	Interrupting and shouting out Difficulty with turn taking
Reluctant to engage in a task	Talking excessively	Acting without thinking Breaking rules
Making careless mistakes in work and other activities		Little sense of dangers

How is ADHD assessed and diagnosed?

- •Individuals younger than 17 must display at least 6 of 9 inattentive and/or hyperactive impulsive symptoms.
- •The symptoms must be present for at least 6 months to a degree that is judged to be inconsistent with an individual's development level.
- •The symptoms have to be present in more than one setting e.g. home and in school.

The SEND team can make referrals to CAMHS, requesting assessment for ADHD. The current waiting time is approximately 9-12 months.

Relationships are KEY

Pupils need at least one person with whom they can develop a positive relationship; to act as a mentor and help address any problems the pupil is experiencing. Try to foster positive relationships with the family. School can support the family with the administering of medication.

We often get the best hours of the pupils day (consider this when communicating with home!)

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SPOTLIGHT ON ADHD

What does it feel like to have ADHD?

"It is as if you are driving through thick fog, on a dark road, trying to get to where you know you are supposed to be. The problem is, you lost the directions and have no GPS to guide you and, in the background, the radio is playing loud songs that are changing."

-

"Everything distracts you at school. If someone drops a pen on the floor you know about it. Actually if some drops a pen on the floor in a different school, you'd probably still know about it."

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"Her impulsiveness means that she often makes 'smart' comments which for most of us, thinking for a second, would remain as just thoughts. Some teachers understand that these comments are a misjudgement because of her impulsiveness and brush them aside, but others take them at face value and impose disciplinary measures. She does not understand what she has done wrong and feels angry at the punishment and being misunderstood."

Mother of girl aged 15.

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So....what can we do?

- ⇒ Use prompts to remind the pupil of the behaviours you expect to see.
- ⇒ Wherever possible explain what you do want to see as opposed to the behaviour you don't want to see. Don't start requests as a question 'can you...?'
- ⇒ Praise and reward the behaviour you want to see.
- ⇒ Set small achievable targets and gradually increase the demand.
- ⇒ Distraction toys e.g. doodle paper/fidget/blu-tac.
- ⇒ Ask the young person how you can support them and what **they think** their target should be.

Support for families; top tips

- 1. Educating yourself is important
- 2. Help them to find assessment and/or treatment
- 3. Listen to your loved one
- 4. Communicate with your loved one
- 5. Focus on strengths, to build confidence
- 6. Help them with routines
- 7. Take care of yourself

The ADHD Foundation

The Neurodiversity Charity—click the link to find our more

<u>Services for Families - ADHD</u> Foundation : ADHD Foundation



Call us = 0151 541 9020 Email = info@adhdfoundation.org.uk



Christmas Hamper Appeal



CHRISTMAS 2023 HAMPER APPEAL

The SMRCHS family have always been incredibly generous at Christmas time and this year will be no different!

We would like to raise funds and collect donations to support the families within our school who may need a little extra help over the festive period.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Donate a new, unwrapped gift and drop it off at school.
- Donate a voucher that we could raffle.
- Support our Christmas Jumper day.
- Buy raffle tickets.
- Share this post with your friends, family & local businesses.





www.smrchs.com



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. Minimum Top Up is now £2.50.

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
- 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

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 <u>finance@smrchs.com</u> 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



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We receive some great feedback on our weekly Round Up so if you enjoy the read and what you see, why not follow us on Instagram

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KS3 Book Club

KS3 Book Club

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st.matthews2023 ...



st.matthews2023 Well done to
Abishan, Bella and Mairead who
between them collected over 1400
responses to their Primary Research
surveys ahead of their controlled
assessment. They have been rewarded
for their effort and determination with
some gift vouchers, but the best
reward will be the impact that this will
have on their final assignment grade.
Well done all!



you'll get to see more news and highlights of 'what's going on'. Here's just a few examples of the things posted.



17 likes
st.matthews2023 Mrs Walsh
attended St Margaret Mary's Parents
Evening this afternoon to share
updates on all things SMRCHS with
prospective parents

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©



Eat well, Chose Smart

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.

