



**St. Matthew's**  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 9 Friday 11 November 2023

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. I am thrilled to share the fantastic news of another strong week at St. Matthew's, where our students have once again showcased their incredible talents and dedication in their lessons. The quality of work produced and the progress made have been truly impressive.

I want to express my sincere congratulations to both Year 7 and Year 11 for maintaining strong attendance records. A special acknowledgment goes to our Year 11 students, who are well above the national average for attendance. This commitment undoubtedly positions them for success in their upcoming exams, and I am confident they will achieve outstanding outcomes.

This week, we were honoured to host esteemed professionals at our school, including an ex HMI Ofsted Inspector specialising in curriculum development, a Manchester Quality Assurance officer, and a serving Ofsted Inspector and former headteacher. All three visitors praised the polite and well-mannered nature of our students, noting the calm and purposeful atmosphere that permeates St. Matthew's. This recognition is a testament to the hard work of both our dedicated staff and our exceptional students.

As we reflect on the weekend and the teachings from the gospel according to St. Matthew, the message about wisdom being a gift from God and making the right choices in life resonates strongly with us. It is evident that these principles are being lived out daily at St. Matthew's, and I extend my deepest gratitude to you, parents, for your unwavering support in making this possible.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend filled with joy and relaxation.

May God bless you and your families.

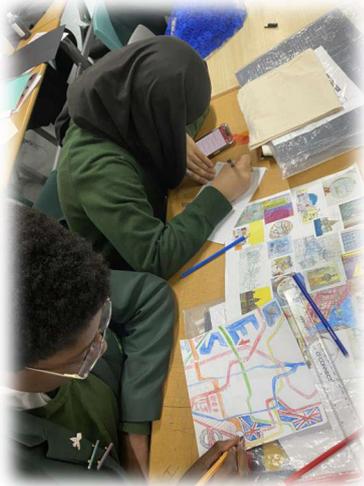
"We can ask the Lord to grant us the gift of wisdom." Pope Francis

Mr Nightingale



## Year 11

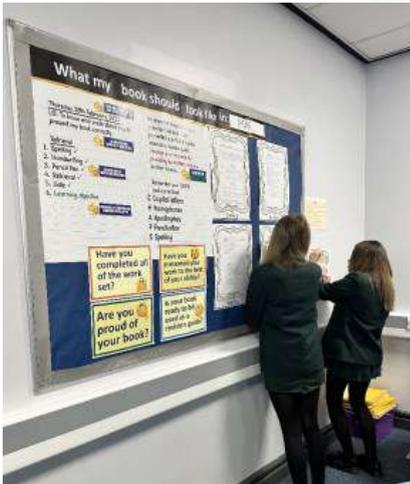
Miss Raynes is very pleased with her textiles class, producing some fantastic course work! Well done



Shout out from Mrs Begum for the amazing work produced by her year 11 class she said Girls were looking at changing gender roles since the 1600's and completing a timeline activity around the classroom. Well done to the girls for working so beautifully consistently and



always trying their hardest. Keep it



### Shout Out from Mrs Garman

11x2 are continuing to improve each day in English. A special mention to Brandon this week who has been a superstar - he's really trying hard, and his incredible effort is paying off! I'm really proud of him. Also, Madison - seriously, the effort this young lady puts into her work is outstanding!

Keep up the brilliant work folks!

### Also

A Huge Well Done and thank you to Kayden who is doing an amazing job along with Kayleigh in helping and mentoring our beehive students !!





# Highlights of the week

## Year 10

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ Molly L ☆☆
- ☆☆ Safina O ☆☆
- ☆☆ Miriam J ☆☆
- ☆☆ Honey C ☆☆
- ☆☆ Henock G ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week  
**10A—97.69% and 10D—97.69%**  
attendance

**Well done!**

**100 pupils across year 10 have 100%**  
attendance, which is fantastic.



10B did a lovely job creating backgrounds in the styles of Yayoi Kusama this week!  
**Miss Richards**



Year 10 textiles have been researching the work of fashion designers and artists that use insects as a theme. All the pupils have produced some fantastic samples using transfer print, silk painting and batik to create fabric prints.

Well done to everyone from Miss Raynes



### This Weeks Teacher Shout Outs...

#### **Mrs Garman- Shout out**

10x1 are continuing to be super stars every single lesson. Their recent AIC assessment shows how dedicated they've been to their learning - they all did fantastically well! Special mentions go to Roger, Thomas, Miah, Jessica, Alfie and Tajerah. Keep it up!

#### **Mr Holding - Shouts out to**

**D Agyemang O Adeniyi L Young**  
Excellent standards During IT Controlled assessment

#### **S Burton L Edwards H Morrow D Czepczynski**

100% in form, always on time, fully engaged with the activities, excellent progress standards.





# Highlights of the week

## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers**
- Lucy C
  - A Mreisheh
  - R McArthur
  - M Burton
  - L Foy
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



**Highest attending form is 9H again**  
**Very Well Done !**  
**Mrs King is extremely proud of you all.**

**This Weeks Teacher Shout Outs...**

**Mrs Gyves Walker - Shout out**  
Mfl department have been so impressed with the maturity and excellent attitude to learning that the majority of year 9 pupils continue to display this term. You have been a credit to yourselves and your families. Keep it up - hard work pays off!!

**Mrs Kannamkuzhiyl-Janardanan - Shout out**  
Positive shout outs to the following students of 9B - Kian, Zac, Precious, Zahra, Maria, Gracie for consistent effort and progress



Miss Bayode leading Wednesday assembly

**From 9I** Chelsea, Cass, Oliver, Jacob B., Maisey, Lucy, Chinelo, Chisom, Ava, Fatima, Colem Rebecca, Selina, Amelia, Ayan, Daniel, Aimu, Daisy, Victory and Pascal.  
Have respected the teaching and learning in the classroom and for that I am grateful.

**From 9J** Crystal, Elizabeth, Miley, Emma-Leigh, Lee, Noah, Ariam, Lucas F, Ruby, Lee H, Hillary, Favour, Eshall, Miracle, Soressa, Ewa have really tried their hardest on the unit Algebra and I am very pleased they are always "SLANT" ready to learn and ask questions







## Beehive

The Beehive KS3 forms thoroughly enjoyed their reward trip to Clip and Climb! They reached great heights, and it was great to see them challenge themselves. The staff were really impressed with their communication and teamwork skills. The students presented SMRCHS in the correct way, displaying a high level of respect for every person.

**A very proud  
Head of Beehive,  
Miss Tilbury.**

**Well done year  
7!!**



# Chaplaincy Corner



Much of our prayer and work this week in the chaplaincy department has been based around our Remembrance Day celebrations which you can read about elsewhere in this week's roundup.

Another theme this week was that of integrity because in last Sunday's Gospel Jesus warned us about people who "do not practice what they preach". In our form time prayers we have considered how we can seek to be people of integrity in our school and in our world.



Staff prayer this week was led by the music and drama departments who beautifully linked their subject matter to the theme of Remembrance by talking about some of the great performers who lived and worked through the war and were inspired by their experiences.

We also prayed this week for a former pupil of St Matthew's, Luke, who will be ordained as a deacon this Saturday. Luke has felt a call to be a priest since a young age and as a St Matthew's community we are very proud that he is now making this final step on that journey as he becomes a minister of God and his people. Luke, may the Lord Jesus bless you in your ministry and may our Mother Mary always accompany you through your life.

We wish you all a peaceful Remembrance Day tomorrow and a happy and holy weekend. God Bless.

# Remembrance Day



On Friday this week we celebrated our Remembrance Day Service to remember and to give thanks to God for the service of the men and women who have fought for and alongside the UK over the past century. Our service was led by students from across the school. We began by praying for the parts of the world that are currently torn apart by war, most notably Ukraine and Israel-Palestine-Gaza, but also those wars that do not appear on our news every day but which nonetheless take the lives of innocent people every day. We then heard the story of Connie Mark OBE who was from Jamaica and worked as a medical secretary throughout the war, helping to

care for injured soldiers. After the war Connie campaigned for the contribution of black service men and women to be properly recognised. After a prayer for peace and a prayer for all those who have died the whole school fell silent for two minutes to pause, remember, and give thanks.

Over the week we have also been decorating the school with artwork and prayers produced by many of our Key Stage 3 pupils. In front of the school hundreds of ceramic remembrance poppies made by Year 8 have been placed. Prayer poppies for peace have been stuck all around the dining hall, and the large number of them demonstrates visually just how many people have lost their lives due to warfare and violence.



# Highlights

## Charity Walk

A very proud Mrs Hill...  
You raised over £250

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, pupils were invited to take part in a charity walk at Hollingworth Lake.

They gave up their Saturday morning in order to raise money for **Royal Manchester Children's Hospital**.

This is a great cause and pupils showed great commitment. This was a fantastic effort for all pupils and staff who attended the walk.

**THANK YOU**





## KS3 Library lessons began this week...



8D



7H



9F

Miss Bayode shout out to KS3  
It's a pleasure to see this  
concentration and enjoyment in  
our library. May it continue.





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 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'

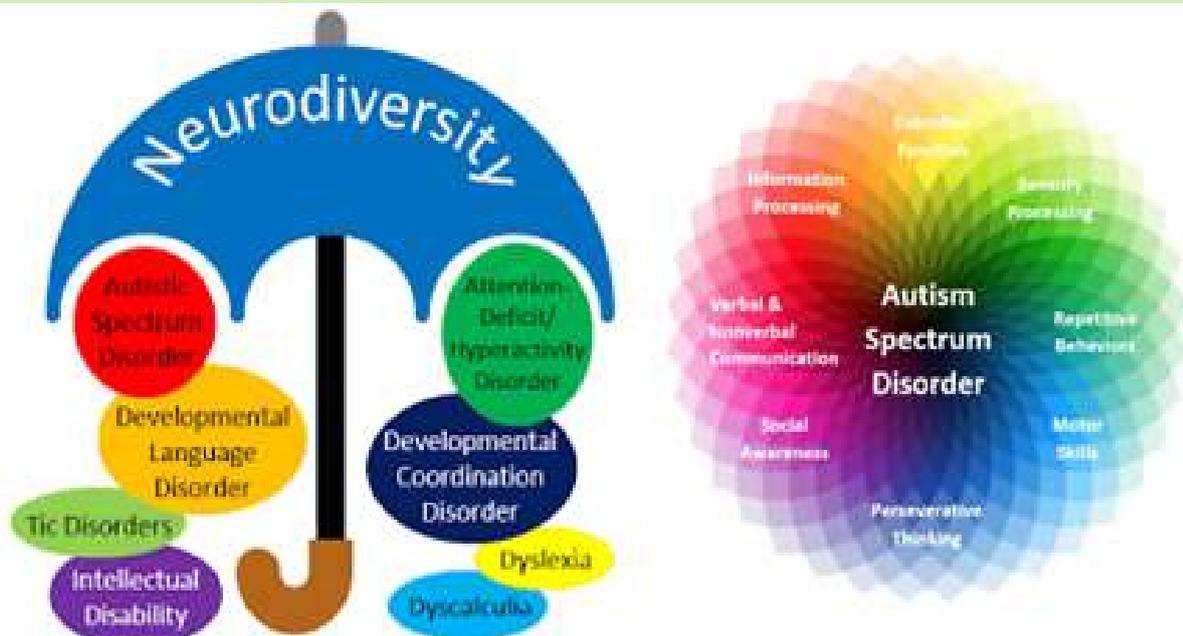
**Many children miss 10% of a school year – that is almost a month per school year!**

**Last week there were:**

- \* **500 students with 100% attendance**
- \* **297 students with 96% to 99.9% attendance**

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](mailto:attendance@smrchs.com)

**G Matthew – Strategic Attendance Lead**  
**C Grainger – Attendance Lead**  
**S Ross – Attendance Officer/ Safeguarding Officer**



We continue to take part in the Autism in Schools project with Manchester LEA, to work with families whose child/children has a diagnosis of Autism, ADHD or are on waiting lists for assessment.

There are 4 guiding principles to the project:

1. Effective co-production with parents/pupils
2. Early intervention/support
3. Building resilience for young people e.g. coping strategies
4. Supporting an 'Autism positive' environment

*THRIVE/CAMHS and Educational Psychology are key partners in the project.*

Along with Manchester Parent Carer Forum and Manchester Parent Champions, we host a monthly coffee morning for parents, so that you can grow your peer support network and hear from a variety of professionals who are supporting this work.

Dates will be shared on Edulink and posted on our Social Media pages.

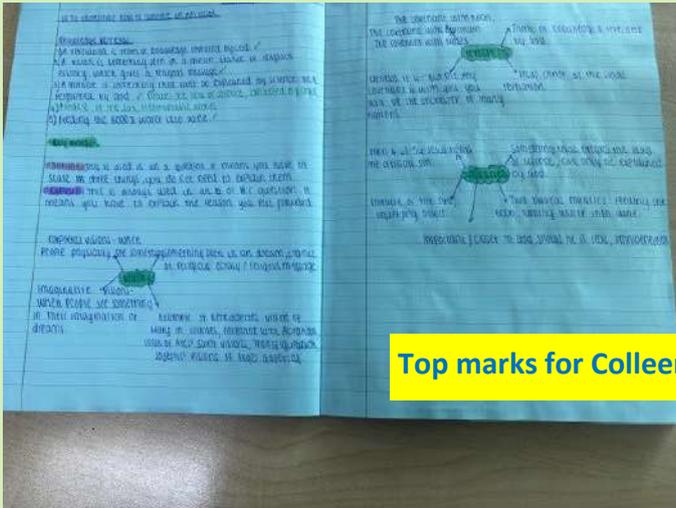
Keep an eye out for updates.



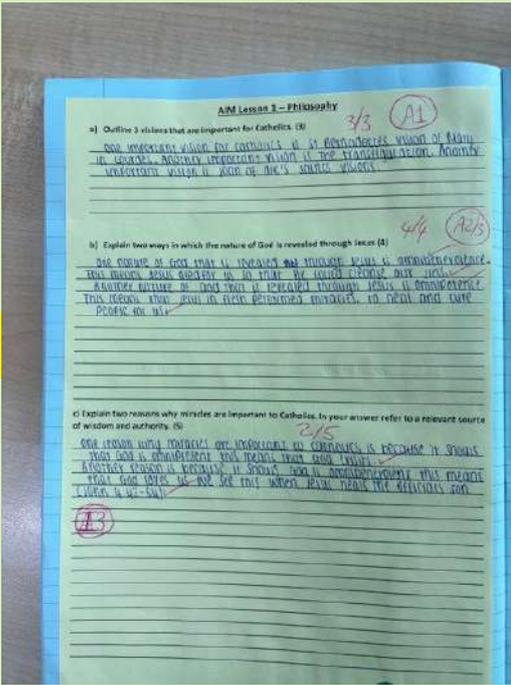
# Spotlight on SEND

## Spotlight on SEND

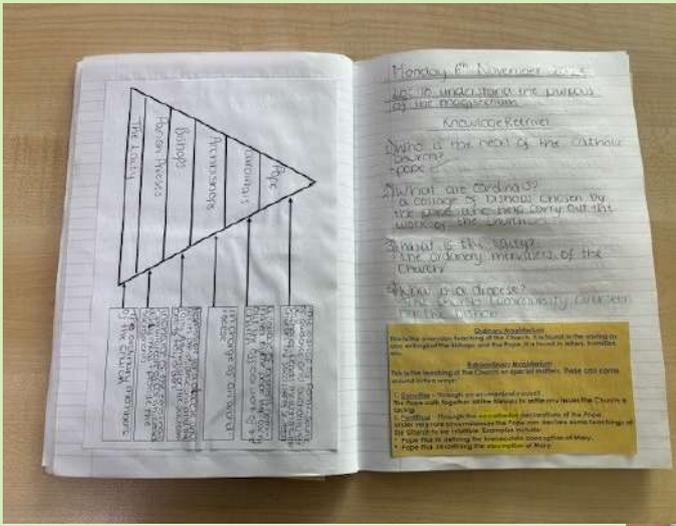
Incredible work from some of our Year 11 students this week. Here are some examples from their RE books!! Well done—this is what success looks like.



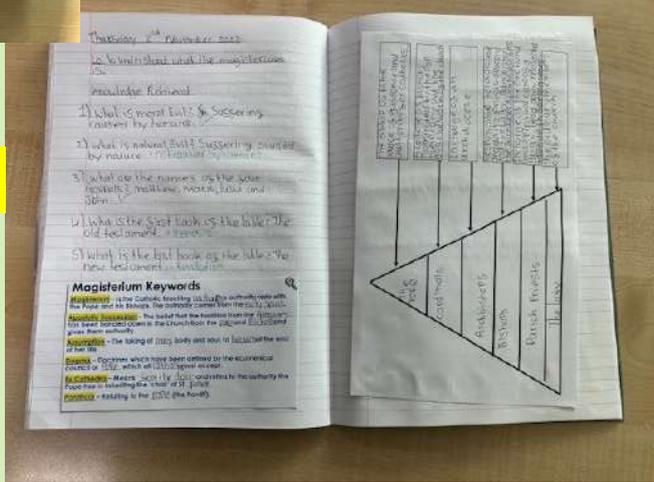
Top marks for Colleen!



Superb from Libby!  
We are so proud of you all.



Well done Ann!!





## Bedrock Parents Information Evening



### Tuesday 21st November, 7pm

We know that a child's education is not just about school, and that support from people at home can make a huge difference to their progress.

Bedrock whose mission is to support schools in achieving excellent implementation of Bedrock are putting on their very first Bedrock Parents' Information Evening.

What will be discussed:

- What Bedrock is
- Why it's important for your child to use Bedrock
- How you can support them in their learning

Right click on the link below to open and register

**[Bedrock Parents' Information Evening - Secondary \(getcontrast.io\)](https://getcontrast.io)**

**A recording of this evening session will be available after the live event and will be emailed to all those who registered.**



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# Christmas Raffle & Hamper Appeal

**RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE FROM MONDAY 13/11/2023**

**AVAILABLE FROM  
RECEPTION & THE  
DINING HALL DURING  
BREAK AND LUNCH**

**The lucky winner  
will take home this  
cuddly family of  
bears for Christmas.**



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## 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.

**SPREAD THE WORD!**

[www.smrchs.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:parentpay@smrchs.com)

You need a valid email address as a username and for account verification.

1. Navigate to [parentpay.com](https://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](https://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](mailto: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