



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



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 29 Friday 19 April 2024

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers of St Matthew's students

I hope this week's version of Round Up finds you well and filled with the same warmth and happiness that permeates our school community.

As we step into the rhythm of a new term, I wanted to extend my appreciation to you for your unwavering support in ensuring a smooth and successful start for our precious St. Matthew's students.

It has been inspiring to see our students return with such positive attitudes towards their studies, eagerly embracing the small changes taking place across our school. I am particularly pleased to share that our efforts to refine our mobile phone protocol have been met with success, with only approximately 3% of our school population having phones confiscated during lesson time. This is a habit we are determined to break for the betterment of all our children, and I am truly grateful for your strong support in this endeavour.

Over the Easter break, we witnessed an incredible dedication from our Year 11 cohort, with around 55% of them choosing to come into school for extra revision sessions. Some even attended diligently every day for the entire second week. This level of commitment is a testament to their resilience and determination, and I have no doubt it will reap rewards in the upcoming summer exams.

In the weeks ahead, we will be focusing on tightening our procedures surrounding punctuality to school. Rest assured, we will provide ample notice and support to ensure a smooth transition as we introduce these new systems.

I cannot conclude this message without expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all the staff and students who participated in the Rome trip over the holidays. It was a truly transformative experience, and the personal greeting from Pope Francis undoubtedly left an indelible mark on all those involved.

As we approach "Good Shepherd Sunday" this weekend, let us reflect on the profound message of trust and guidance conveyed by Jesus, our "Good Shepherd." Just as a shepherd tends to his flock, guiding and protecting them, may we too find security and hope in entrusting our lives to Him.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the growth and development of our students.

God bless

We **Pray** · We **Care** · We **Achieve**



## Attendance Information

**BE ON  
TARGET**



Research shows that missing 10% of school negatively affects a students' academic performance

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



# Attendance Is Everyone's business

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	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 pro-
85% attendance	27 days of absence, 5 weeks and 3 days of	Very poor	140 lessons missed	Serious implications on learning and progress
80% attendance	36 days of absence, 7 weeks and 3 days of	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](mailto:attendance@smrchs.com).

G Matthew – Strategic Attendance Lead

C Grainger – Attendance Lead

S Ross – Attendance Officer/ Safeguarding Officer



## Chaplaincy Corner

It seems a long time ago when before the holidays we were joining together as year group communities for our Holy Week assemblies in which we remembered the great sacrifice Jesus paid to free us from sin and to bring us back to union with God. Now that we have returned to school after Easter we have celebrated this week Jesus's resurrection which is his victory over death. In our form time prayer this week we have looked at several different bible passages which talk about the resurrection, and we have thanked God for the great gift that the risen Lord Jesus is still with us today in our hearts.

Throughout last half term we were taking part in the St Joseph's Penny Collection, and I am please to say that all the change brought in has been delivered the team at Caritas, who will use the money to help those most in need in our local area.

This week Mr Sharrock has visited all Year 7 RE classes to help to prepare the students for their Year 7 Mass which took place on Friday morning. We were pleased to welcome Fr Clement from the Parish of Mount Carmel with St John Bosco to celebrate the Mass. The students took part actively in the Mass, including reading the readings and the bidding prayers, saying the responses, and singing the hymns. Thank you to all involved in organising this Mass.



The most exciting thing since the last edition of "Chaplaincy Corner" was the trip to Rome over the Easter holidays during which we had the privilege of meeting Pope Francis. Highlights from this trip can be found on our Easter Break Highlights pages.



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# Highlights of Easter Break

## ROME TRIP

*An amazing day in  
the Vatican City.*

*A guided tour  
around the Vatican  
Museum and a visit  
to St. Peter's  
Basilica.*





## ROME TRIP

*A momentous experience that we will never forget. We were honoured to meet Pope Francis and receive his blessing at the Papal General Audience at St Peter's Square.*





## **ROME — You did not disappoint**

*Receiving his blessing at the Papal General Audience at St Peter's Square  
A memory to treasure forever*





# Highlights of Easter Break

## ROME

*Receiving his blessing at the Papal General Audience at St Peter's Square*

*A memory to treasure forever*







## Chaplaincy Corner



*What an amazing time had by this dream team of pupils  
and staff!*



## Easter School Club 2024

It was wonderful to see over 180 Year 11 pupils attending Easter School from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Their commitment and motivation were fantastic, and they showed a great focus on their studies.

Thank you to all of the staff who supported during the Easter school – the pupils really appreciated it!





## Year 11

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ • William ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Delite ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Daniella ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Valentino ☆☆
  - ☆☆ • Shaymaa ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

This top attending from is Mr Green's

35 students with 100% attendance

**Well done everyone!**

## Upcoming Year 11 Events

### Friday 19 April

**Wellbeing Event Hosted By Team  
Year 11 - All Students Welcome**

### Friday 30 April

**Year 11 Leavers Mass**

### 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.



# Highlights of the week

## Year 9

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ • Lexia ☆
  - ☆ • Rohan ☆
  - ☆ • Praise ☆
  - ☆ • Rose ☆
  - ☆ • Ebrima ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Highest attending form this week again is 9B

47 students with 100% attendance

Well Done Everyone!



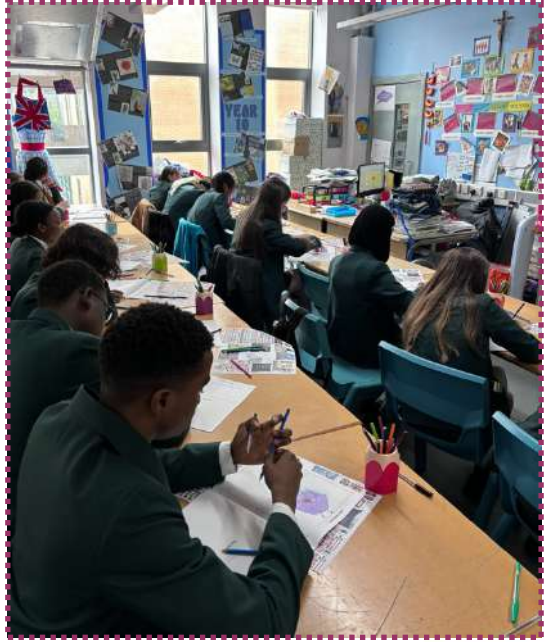
Just to praise my 9X PE class. EVERYONE

had their kit on our first lesson back this week. They were the only class to do this!  
Miss Waters

Some great Art work and wonderful effort shown by 9J and 9H.

With thanks Mrs O'Connell

Year 9 have completed some brilliant work this week in food and Textiles





## Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆
- ☆ ● Tolu ☆
  - ☆ ● Mahroush ☆
  - ☆ ● Khadija ☆
  - ☆ ● Riheem ☆
  - ☆ ● Karez ☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

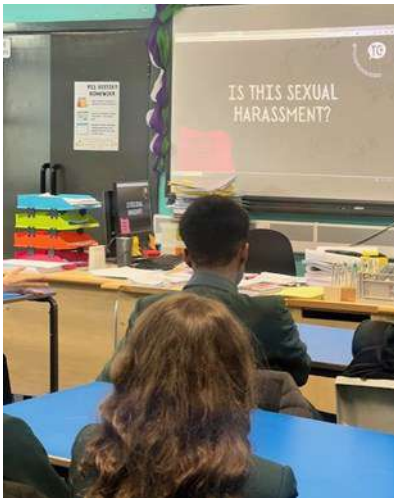
Well done to the  
**39 students with 100% attendance**  
Lets aim for much higher next week!



**From Miss Waters:** My form 8I have entered form this week very calmly and quietly. They have created a really nice form time environment this week. Keep this up and thank you.

**From Mrs O'Connell:** A great effort and attitude shown by both 8B and 8E in their Art classes today.

### Tough Cookies:



X Band have started their Tough Cookies sessions this week, they have been amazing great feed back from the staff about engagement and mature behaviour, well done

Mrs. Rolt: 8X completing relay changeovers. They all worked relay hard on getting the correct technique for the downward sweep





## Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆
- ☆☆ ● Sarah Mc ☆☆
  - ☆☆ ● Lawrence B ☆☆
  - ☆☆ ● Cedric E ☆☆
  - ☆☆ ● Thea R ☆☆
  - ☆☆ ● Janae S ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Highest attending this week are  
7I—7 Abe

Form of the Week 7C STa

Well done everyone!



- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Our Stars of the Week** ☆☆
- ☆☆ Mrs Walsh's – Harley-Joe D ☆☆
  - ☆☆ Mrs Rolt's - Yana A ☆☆
  - ☆☆ Mr Johnston's – Emmanuel E ☆☆
  - ☆☆ Mrs Lennon's – Amy-Jane K ☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

7A in Drama with Ms Ackers.

**Top art award winners this week:**  
*Aditya, Kymarni and Shalom!*  
Well done! Miss Elliott



7X participating in relay during PE.



# 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](mailto: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](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!

**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](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