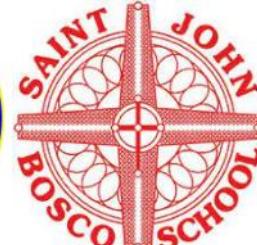
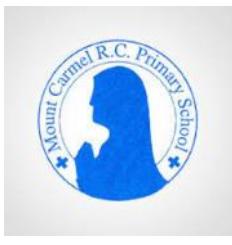




ST. MATTHEW'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Voluntary Academy

Partnership Newsletter



Message from our Headteacher

Welcome to St Matthew's RC High School and the first edition of our 'Partnership Newsletter'.

The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an insight into life at St Matthew's. As our partner primary schools, we are keen to keep you informed of our work as we continue on our journey of Catholic excellence.



Our core business is Teaching, Learning and Achievement. We believe our students should strive to be the 'Best version of themselves.' All our subject leaders have recently been involved in re-designing their curriculum, so that it allows students to strive for excellence. In this edition, you will read about our core subjects Maths, English and RE.

Over the past 2 years, more and more students have achieved GCSE results that have opened up future pathways for them. This is something we are particularly proud of. In this newsletter, you will read about our 'Student Leadership Team' who have been asked to summarise their experience of life at St Matthew's, and offer any advice to new students. You will also read about some of our past students, including those who have come back to teach at St Matthew's.

Finally, there are extracts from our recent Ofsted inspections, and some information about the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Trust which we have been proud to join.

I hope you enjoy reading this, and that it gives you an insight into the work we are doing. Over the coming academic year, (Covid restrictions permitting), we would be happy to welcome you and your children into school so you can see our work in action.

Thank you
Mrs Murden

Welcome to St Matthew's RC High School

"There is not a day goes by where I do not hear positive comments and feedback directed at staff and us as a school from parents. We even get students emailing us with the appreciation!" *Head of Year, March 2021.*



"The way Mrs Murden and the SLT have led everyone to develop and form relationships with our students and their families during this pandemic absolutely deserves to be commended." *Member of staff, February 2021*

"Remote learning has seen huge strides forward and I regularly visit remote lessons and see the work that the teachers are putting into their planning to enable our students to continue to make progress and be the best version of themselves whilst at home. It is wonderful to see the students engaging in their lessons." *Member of staff, March 2021*

Pupils explained to inspectors that they feel teaching is getting 'so much better'.
Ofsted Monitoring Inspection, January 2019

"I can honestly say at the forefront of everything that we are asked to do has always been health, safety and well-being and this makes me as a member of staff feel secure and safe and proud to be part of our school community." *Member of staff, November 2020*

"It is a pleasure to come to work every day and the opportunities that have been created for staff and students to make progress is brilliant. Mrs Murden gets the best out of all staff just by being herself and her ability to hold staff accountable I believe has played a huge part towards the improvements we have made. *Member of staff, March 2021*

The Diocese of Salford, the local authority and a local teaching school have continued their close partnership in support of the school. Those involved know the school well. You plan for the teaching school's support in developing leadership to continue. Leaders from St Matthew's are now making their own contribution to the work of other schools in partnership with the teaching school. This includes work on teaching and learning, SEND provision and the curriculum. *Ofsted Remote Monitoring Inspection, February 2021.*



Leaders continue to have clear, high expectations of all who work in the school. As a result, improvements in the school are clear to see. *Ofsted Monitoring Inspection, February 2021*



You have asked teachers to check how much pupils know and remember in all subjects. You have made time each morning for teachers to read with pupils and to practise their numeracy skills. You are using personal, social, health and economic education lessons to support pupils' well-being. *Ofsted Monitoring Visit, November 2020.*

"My daughter is currently in Year 11. She has really enjoyed her time at St Matthew's and will be quite sad to leave. The care, help and support she has received from the teachers in the last couple of years has been amazing. The way they have engaged her (and the class) has allowed her to fulfil her true potential and has given her a solid foundation to build her future career."

I feel that people can be quick to criticise, however, I feel it's really important and only right to give credit where it's due.

These teachers are an absolute credit to you and the school. With this quality of teaching and care, St Matthew's will become the outstanding school it aspires to be.

Please can you extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of these teachers." *Parent, June 2021*

One of the school's long-term priorities is to support pupils' reading. This work started before the current restrictions and is developing well. *Ofsted Monitoring Inspection, February 2021*



"I want to thank you for everything that you have done to help me with my remote learning and that I really appreciate you and all your efforts to help me to make sure that I am safe and can succeed".

Student, June 2021



Leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures. The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose. The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose. *Ofsted Monitoring Inspection, January 2019*



EMMAUS
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



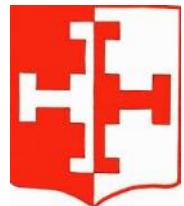
The Emmaus Roman Catholic Academy Trust (CAT) is one of three CATs within the Diocese of Salford. The Emmaus CAT serves the Roman Catholic schools within Manchester, Oldham,

Stockport, Trafford and Tameside. The key strength of all of the schools is that they are all distinctive and rooted within their parish communities. We intend to maintain the distinctive nature of each of the schools whilst sharing recognised good practice across the board to build an established Trust of excellence.

The Emmaus CAT will enable a school to continue its journey in a truly collaborative environment with like minded schools where children are nurtured in such a way that they are able to develop fully, contribute positively to society and acquire a true sense of responsibility and freedom. We are proud to work both with our fellow Catholic MATs across the Diocese of Salford and a wide range of other schools and Mats across the region. In our CAT we share our unconditional support of the vulnerable and the challenged. Our commitment to parents is to care for, support and educate their child to the highest possible standards.

By joining our CAT we are able to share collaborative strategies on school improvement, curriculum, staff development, initial teacher training, resource planning and strengthen the capacity of individual schools.

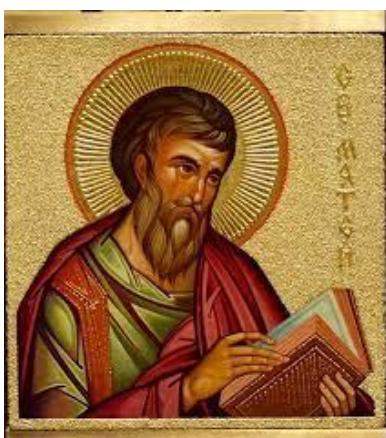
The Emmaus CAT reflects the journey that Jesus made after his resurrection. The Walk to Emmaus offers today's disciples, our whole CAT community, a parallel opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in our lives, to gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual development.



We aim to journey together with Christ, to recognise the Lord in our midst and to bear witness to the good news of God in Jesus Christ.

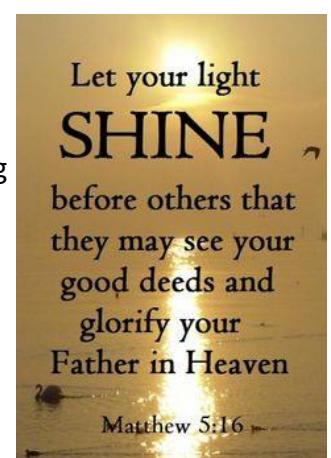
Who is St Matthew?

Matthew the Apostle, also known as **Saint Matthew** and as **Levi**, was, according to the New Testament, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. According to Christian traditions, he was also one of the four Evangelists and thus is also



known as **Matthew the Evangelist**, a claim rejected by the majority of modern biblical scholars, though the "traditional authorship still has its defenders". Prior to preaching the word of God, Matthew worked as a tax collector in Capernaum. **Matthew is the patron saint of tax collectors and accountants.**

The Feast of St. Matthew is on the **21 September** and we enjoy celebrating this as a community.



"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."
- Matthew 6:33

Standards of excellence: Mathematics

We have completely overhauled the curriculum in Mathematics, and our students are really enjoying it. Progress is measured from the initial checkpoint so we can gauge secure learning. We build on this with many examples, independent practice. Students gain feedback whilst working through examples and after independent practice. Finally, we finish with a problem-solving activity to apply the knowledge learnt. The learnt skill is then added to the bank of questions for our retrieval practice. At the end of each half term we complete a formative test and use this information to correct misconceptions, set individualised Hegarty homework and revisit the weakest areas in our retrieval practice



Mrs McKay
Director of Learning Maths

This half term we have been revisiting the Algebra work that our year 7 students began in year 6! It's brilliant to see what they can remember. We have been checking the basic algebra rules, and building on these to expand and factorise expressions. Finally, we link this to area and perimeter and compound shape challenges.

Students have told us they love the problem solving activities and sharing with each other how they have worked out their answers. They have included negative numbers and fractions too which has made the algebra quite complex. Well done everyone - this has really challenged our thinking!

Homework is completed via the platform 'Hegarty Maths.' Students are encouraged to use the videos provided to make notes, and to use these to answer the questions. With Hegarty we can improve our own skills, and compete with students from across the country. It's been great to see our students involved. Homework is always set to recap previous learning, not to cover current learning. We know that this allows them to retain more knowledge and achieve better outcomes in the future.

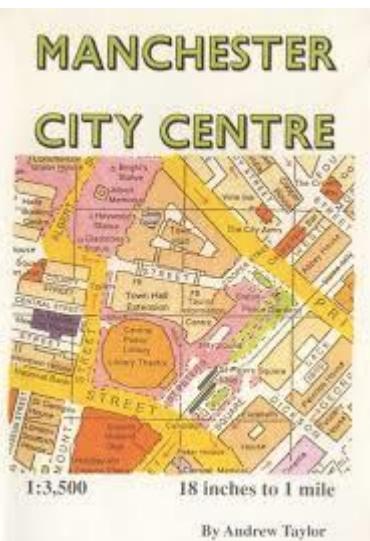


$$\frac{a^6}{a^3} = a^{6-3} = a^3$$

Standards of excellence: English

Since Easter, Year 7 have been exploring The Mancunian Way and what it is to be a Mancunian. This half term we have been exploring famous speeches that have changed the world!

For our Mancunian Way project we have looked at songs by Oasis, poetry by Argh Kid and Lemn Sissay. We then used all of the language features to write



our own version of Tony Wilson's 'This is the Place.' This unit of work also gave us the opportunity to see how Manchester has been used in different stories and to understand how much Manchester has changed the world! It was a really good unit of work and helped us to realise what a special place Manchester is and how lucky we are to live here! Now, we are exploring speeches by key public figures such as: King George, Martin Luther King, Megan Rapinoe, and Greta Thunberg and we are looking at how they have used persuasive language to show people their ideas. We are then going to write our own amazing speeches about something we feel passionate about!



Mrs Cross
Director of Learning English

Can you write your own speech about a topic you are passionate about? What about writing a speech about Manchester and how great it is!?



Mrs Cross
Director of Learning English



Mrs Sullivan
Director of Learning, RE

Standards of excellence: Religious Education

In year 7 students build up their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and Judaism by learning about the beliefs, teachings and sources of authority and examining religious practices and ways of life.

We pose big questions and think about our place in the universe.

As an academic subject we also develop the skills of empathy, explanation and evaluation. We hope to give students the opportunity to think more deeply about who they are, what they believe and how they can contribute to society.

The topics we study in year 7 include, what it means to become a member of the St. Matthew's community, beliefs in society, the origins of religion,

a study of the Bible, the life of Jesus and a depth study of a world religion.

Students are encouraged to develop and express their own views and opinions. Students will begin to develop their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of the world. They also begin to develop the skills of description and explanation and will be supported to write independently explaining their own opinions.

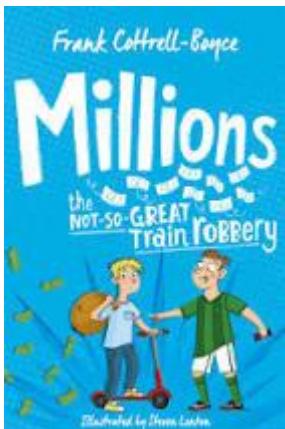
As members of the St. Matthew's family, you will have many opportunities to join in activities that help us to live out our mission statement of "We Pray and We Care". As a new member of our community you will be part of the worldwide Catholic community. As a Catholic community we work hard to keep the school close to the teachings of Jesus and the Word of God. We are a family, working together in love to support each other to be the best we can be. Our school motto "Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God" reminds us of this every day in everything we say and do. We practise compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, honesty and respect in all situations to show how much we care for each member of our school family.

Our daily prayers, both in form time and during assembly, help us to build a friendship with God that will stay with us throughout our life. We offer other celebrations of Mass throughout the year for special occasions in the Church's calendar and for our own intentions. We also encounter God through the Sacraments.

Reconciliation is celebrated for everybody in the school and anybody who would like to receive the Sacra-



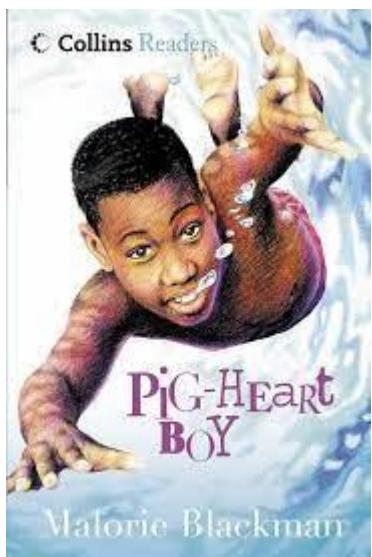
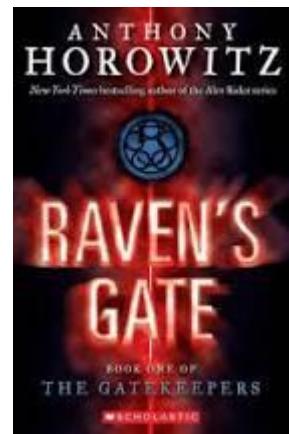
Literacy Corner - What books are Year 7 currently reading?



Two brothers, Damian and Anthony, are unwittingly caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to joining the Euro. Suddenly finding themselves with a vast amount of cash, the boys have just one glorious, appalling dilemma – how to spend it in the few days before it becomes worthless. Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty, the boys soon discover that being rich is a mug's game. For not only is the clock ticking – the bungling bank robbers are closing in too.

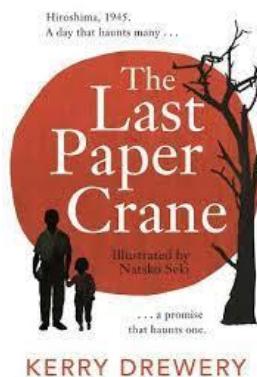
Pizzas or World Peace – what would you choose?

The first episode in The Power of Five series by the author of the bestselling Alex Rider series, Anthony Horowitz. Matt has always known he has unusual powers. Raised in foster care, he is sent to Yorkshire on a rehabilitation programme, only to find himself in the midst of sinister goings-on. Matt investigates and uncovers a terrible secret – eight guardians are protecting the world from the Old Ones, beings banished long ago by five children. But devil worshippers want to let the Old Ones back in..



So there's this doctor. He says there's a chance for you. But he also says it's experimental, controversial and risky. And it's never been done before.

Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, this is a powerful, thought-provoking story from the award-winning Malorie Blackman.





Extra-curricular sport

School teams are produced for several of the activities listed on this page and local, regional and national competitions are entered, giving many pupils the opportunity to represent St Matthew's at sport against other schools. We are very proud of our sporting reputation and are a very successful school.

Team practices and sports clubs are also organised for our pupils that enable them to develop their ability and fitness, socialise with their peers and enjoy being physically active.

PE and Sports Facilities

Sports facilities at St Matthew's include: Sports hall, 3G football pitch, outdoor netball courts, dance studio, sports classroom, cross-country course, sand pit, grassed area and orienteering course.

Practical activities covered within the Year 7 PE lessons include:

Gym/Dance – Cross Country Running – Football – Basketball – Athletics – Badminton – Table Tennis – Ultimate Frisbee – Health Related Fitness – Netball – Rounder's – Softball – Handball.

Physical Education

Students are expected and encouraged to take part fully in all the lessons. If pupils are ill or injured the PE staff will give them an appropriate alternative role within the lesson so that they can still be involved in the learning.



Meet our Student Leadership Team

Lee Poyning – Head Boy

When I started St Matthews in 2016, the teachers were an amazing help at ensuring my transition from Primary School to Secondary School was as smooth as possible, thus making my first few months a very enjoyable experience. Although I was nervous about coming to a Secondary School as large as St Matthews, the staff were prepared for situations like mine and were, therefore, able to help us get used to our surroundings. I thoroughly enjoyed the more practical lessons such as Art, Design & Technology, and Drama in Year 7 as I thought they offered a lot more freedom and allowed me to creatively express my ideas. Since then, I believe the standard of teaching and level of safeguarding is much better at St Matthew's, and as such new students are more prepared than ever for life here. Because of this, it's much easier than ever to fully engage with lessons which helps you to take more from them. It's hard to believe how much of an improvement can be made in 5 years!

If I had to give any advice for new students, it would be to make sure you are making the most out of your learning through revision and extra-curricular activities. This is because you have much more opportunities to better yourself and gives you more motivation to aim for higher grades. It also gives you a chance to prove yourself to your teachers so you can constantly be faced with challenging work that ensures you can reach your full potential.

You will remember the relationships you build at SMRCHS for the rest of your life, so make sure you make as many friends as possible along the way. You will never realise how fast school passes until you are completing your final exams in Year 11. Good Luck!



Success Eduan – Head Girl

Without a doubt, there has been changes at St. Matthew's over the last three years. Firstly, uniform has become one of the top priorities in this school which is significant. Uniform unites the St. Matthew's community together and we become one. Another change at St. Matthew's would be the help we receive as pupils from the staff. We all need help once in a while and sometimes more often than others. Whatever concerns or problems a student may be having the staff are always there to help. My advice to students would be to not worry. High school is a totally different environment to primary school and some may find difficult to adjust to the surroundings. Yes, it is a big school. Yes, it may be different due to COVID but as I said the teachers are always there to aid and guide you to have the most fabulous journey. Another advice would be to get out there. Join clubs! What I love about St. Matthew's is that there are various things you can do here after school. Sports, reading, puzzle club etc. You will definitely find something that's for you, it can keep you busy and make new friends. I think what I will remember the most about St. Matthew's is the confidence boost I received. I am a Great Britain sprinter now at the age of 16 and it couldn't have happened without this school. I began my sprinting career with them, by joining the athletics team and I have excelled in athletics. I will always carry St. Matthew's in my heart as the support I have been given is extraordinary and I couldn't thank them all enough. Always dream big!





Layi Ladoja – Deputy Head Boy

Dear year 7s and new parents,
Good day. I am the former deputy head boy of St Matthew's high school, Layi Ladoja. My time at the school can be summarised by saying that: the memories I have made here will undoubtedly stay with me for the rest of my life. The experiences with my peers and the relationships I have formed with the staff at the school has helped me to mature in ways I would never have expected. Over the past three years I and everyone else in year 11 have seen a massive push to improve the school as a whole. Behaviour, more than anything, has been really clamped down on, with more and more ways being thought up to reward outstanding behaviour and deter poor behaviour among students. There is definitely a clear upward trajectory visible by those in and out of the school and the future is bright for the place that has shaped me as a person.

My advice to our newcomers is to create as many memories as possible while you are here. Volunteer yourself for things you think you will like and don't be afraid to ask for help from the staff or to make mistakes and as always: try your hardest in all that you do and deserve everything that you get. As you get to the end of your time at St Matthew's, the things you will remember the most are the little experiences and memories that made you so happy throughout your time at the school so create as many as possible and make you regret nothing on your final day!



Mia Jackson – Deputy Head Girl

To the new parents / students of St Matthew's,
Hello, my name is Mia Jackson and I am the Deputy Head Girl of our school. Over the past few years I have seen so many changes in how our school is as a whole. The main difference for me being how much the behaviour standards have improved. Now, this may be down to us maturing, however Mrs Murden especially has played a huge part in helping all things behaviour improve. From the way the pupils behave in corridors, to the way lunch and break times are. The standard throughout, not just my year group but the entirety of the school (from what I've seen). The thing I'm going to miss about this school the most is the relationships formed. Not just with your peers and friends but with the staff also. I am very lucky to have the relationships I have with the teachers I've had over the years, and that is something I advise all new students to try and achieve. Once you get that teacher who you trust and can confide in, school is made that bit better. That is something I am grateful for, especially now that I am leaving.

The main piece of advice that I would give sounds a tad cliché, but in all honesty it's to just ENJOY YOURSELF!!!! High school has honestly been such an amazing experience for me, (mainly because I have put in so much work and effort - so do that too!) Try not to worry too much about small things, majority of the time they won't have a huge impact on your life, unless it's obvious it will, in that case I advise you speak to someone to help the situation. I wish all of you, students and parents, the best time settling in and adjusting to SMRCHS, it truly is a wonderful ride.



St Matthew's Alumni

Past-student focus: Anthony Crolla is a British former professional boxer who competed from 2006 to 2019. He held the WBA lightweight title from 2015 to 2016, and challenged once for the unified WBA and WBO lightweight titles in 2019. At regional level, he held the British lightweight title from 2011 to 2012, and challenged once for the vacant Commonwealth lightweight title in 2013. More importantly he attended St. Matthew's Roman Catholic High School after leaving Christ the King RC Primary.



Anthony writes: "Not all children love their time at school but I genuinely loved every part of it. I made memories and friends that have lasted my lifetime. I remember the first assembly when the headteacher said how fast five years would go. I didn't believe it but he was absolutely right! I learned so many valuable skills for life by lots of memorable teaching staff. Mr. Rodgers was a notable member of staff who encouraged me to pursue my boxing career by being such a role model in the PE department. He helped me to get the best out of myself mentally and physically and I feel he tried to do this with many young people. I know this still happens at St. Matthew's because I work with students in school and at my gym on a regular basis. The St. Matthew spirit is stronger than ever."



'Aitch' Harrison Armstrong;
Musician, Class of 2016



Brandon Barker; Professional Footballer
including Man City, Rangers & Rotherham
United, Class of 2012



Lewis Richardson; Professional
Footballer with Burnley Football Club,
Class of 2019

Including a number of our current members of staff.....



Mrs Walsh, Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Callison, Assistant
Headteacher



Mrs Holt, Asst SENCo



Mr Millington, Head of Music



Miss Ormrod, Teacher of
Maths/PE



Ms O'Brien, Head of Drama



Miss Bingham, Attendance
Team



Mrs Bunn, Head of Year 8

Clubs/Extra Curricular Activities



CHAPLAINCY GROUP



Band Practice



Various sports team, including football, basketball, netball, rounders, athletics

Choir



Puzzle Corner

The Counterfeit Coin

You have eleven identical coins. A twelfth coin is counterfeit (fake): it looks the same as the other coins but it doesn't weigh the same. You don't know if the counterfeit coin is heavier or lighter than the others...

In three weighings of a balancing scale can you identify the counterfeit coin and determine

C I M V D S T M A T T H E W S
X H O I N M T A Q K R E E G O
A A R F N O G F O B A A Y A C
V B T I E U D J G S B B U O S
A V K Y S N X G V A H J O T O
R O J N Z T P A U F M O D M B
I O I H R C T L J H H U L O N
A F N B G A D H Z L N E Z P H
N O Y V J R N E E S O Z N M O
G S H I U M Y U T K V R I Y J
D G K F T E D A P E I H E J T
B P X Y P L N R D E S N B T S
V A F E E S W G O G Q D G M O
S T M A R G A R E T M A R Y S
S D N U M D E T S F V F T N G

Can you find the following schools and colleges which are all part of the St Matthew's Partnership;

ST MATTHEWS

CHRIST THE KING

MOUNT CARMEL

ST EDMUND'S

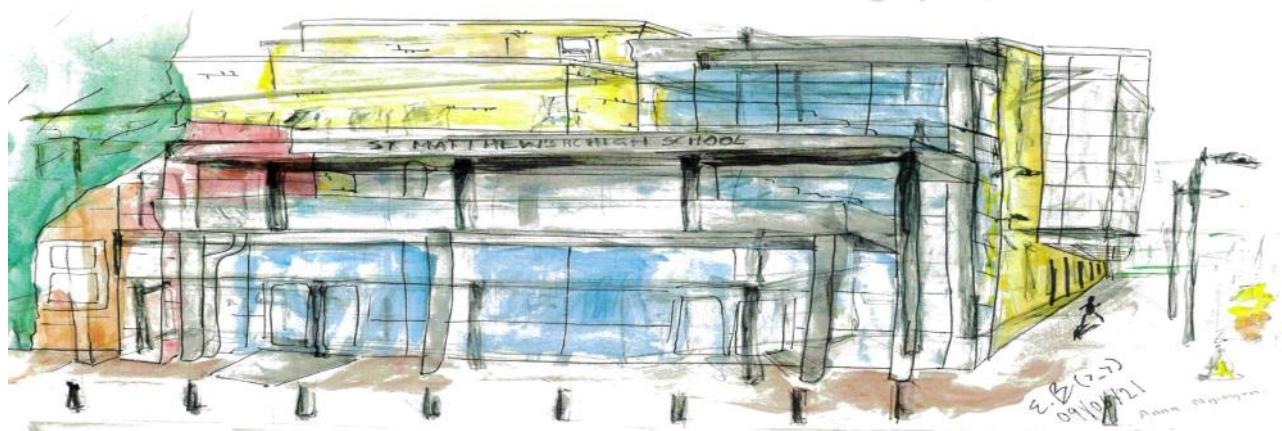
ST DUNSTANS

ST JOHN BOSCO

ST MARGARET MARYS

XAVARIAN

Artwork produced by Eliza Biggs and Anna Nguyen, Class of 2021



Meet Mellors, our on site School Catering Service

WELCOME TO...

Mellors Catering Services



Our Catering team at St Matthew's will provide you with a range of tasty and nutritious meals to make sure you're fuelled for a busy school day. We prepare all of the food on-site, making sure you have an exciting selection of meals, snacks and drinks to choose from each day.

Mellors Catering Services is a family run, award-winning catering company. We cater for more than 300 schools across the North of England. All of our food is locally sourced and freshly prepared on site daily by our fantastic catering teams.

What To EXPECT!

Now Street Food menu. Tasty handheld snacks such as burritos, noodles and rice dishes throughout the week.

Now breakfast & break snacks to help you fuel up before and during school.

THE CLASS OF 99
Meal deals from as little as 99p! Including sandwich, homemade & drink.

CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT? we use as little packaging as possible and all of the packaging we use comes from already recycled materials and is fully compostable.

MELLORS USE 100% COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING.
...WHERE IT ENDS UP IS UP TO YOU.

KEEPING OUR CUSTOMERS AND STAFF SAFE DURING COVID-19 IS OUR PRIORITY. HERE'S SOME OF THE WAYS WE'RE ENSURING THEIR SAFETY:

- All our Staff are trained in Mellors COVID-19 safety procedures before they even step foot in the kitchen.
- New simplified menus and contact-free customer service to allow effective social distancing.
- Increased cleaning schedules, sanitising of uniforms and safe travel to work for staff.

BUSY AT LUNCHTIME? Pre-order at breakfast or break.

WATCH OUR NEW VIDEO ON YOUTUBE FOR MORE INFO. JUST SEARCH 'TWO METRES AND VEG'.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Your voice is important and we will be looking for School Food Ambassadors to help us monitor the offer and taste test our food. It's important for us that we get it right so if you have what it takes to be a Mellors Food Ambassador, put your name down in the dining room when school re-opens!

Go to WWW.MELLORSCATERING.CO.UK
or follow @MELLORSCATERING on Twitter to learn more about us

PUZZLE CLUB

Come and join Puzzle Club. We will be going through a range of puzzles. Puzzles to test and work your brain. Come and join in if you are a puzzle fanatic or if you're simply up for a new hobby to try.

- Socialise with other puzzlers and new friends.
- Test your resilience and improve your problem solving skills, all great skills for Maths and life.
- Exchange your old puzzles (and get new ones!).
- Enjoy the mindfulness of solving problems and many other health benefits.
- Challenge others to complete the puzzle as well as challenging yourself.

NEED TO KNOW:
LOCATION: GOOGLE MEET
TIME: Every Wednesday 3.15pm
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
G.WALKER@SMRCHS.COM
P.MCCALLION@SMRCHS.COM

16 06 68 88 98
IN WHAT PARKING SPOT NUMBER IS THE CAR PARKED?

You will be solving fun puzzles like this stood on your heads

Miss Bayode's Boggle Bonanza!



Are you keen to improve your vocabulary in an exhilarating way?

Come to my Year 7 word games club!

COUNTDOWN

FREE SNACKS!

Who: Year 7s
Where: En4
When: Continues Monday 15th March at lunch 12:30-1pm




Spelling Bee