

22 November 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

### ICT Enterprise and Challenge Week and developments in Mathematics

As the new Head of Mathematics, Business and ICT, I would like to take the opportunity to inform you about plans within the faculty for making sure that your child achieves the best possible result in Maths and ICT and how you may be able to support them through the next few months. I am determined that all students will have the opportunity to complete a Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) qualification in ICT. A number of our Year 11 students have already managed to achieve this benchmark and I would like to send out my congratulations to them for this wonderful achievement.

For those students who have not yet had the chance to complete a qualification, we will be running an ICT Enterprise and Challenge week during the last week of the Autumn term. Students will be completing work with the aim of attaining **BTEC First Level 2 Certificate in IT** by the end of the week. All students will be working within the Academy, helped by a team of teachers and mentors from within St Matthew. Students who have already reached a Pass grade will be challenged to improve their performance to Merit or Distinction – extra support will be available in the Spring term to enable any student who wishes to raise their attainment to do so effectively. This is an amazing opportunity for your child to be able to focus completely on a subject for a significant period of time and will give them the chance to continue to develop the study skills they need in order to be successful in all of their subjects next summer.

For some of our students, November has been an equally important month for Mathematics. All students who have so far reached grade D in their Maths GCSE have been re-sitting the exam in order to improve their grade. All other linear GCSE students will be taking their GCSE exam in March and students following the twin Maths GCSE course, later in the year. Although this seems like a long time in the future, the time will pass very quickly and I would be grateful if you could remind your child of the importance of coming to Maths lessons fully prepared to work. This should include bringing equipment such as calculators, rulers, protractors, compasses and spare pens and pencils to each lesson.

In the half term that I have spent at St Matthew Academy, I have been struck by the potential that our students have to reach fantastic levels of attainment and I am excited to be able to play a part in their development. I would like to thank you for your support and encourage you to contact me at the school if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



**Mr J Thomas**

Head of Faculty of Mathematics, Business and ICT