

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



27 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now come to the end of our third week and what also feels like a return to a normal school again. Pupils have settled extremely well on their return - both Year 7 and 8 have now learnt to navigate our building and we are all enjoying lessons in different classrooms again. We are extremely impressed with the start our year 7 pupils have made to life in the secondary phase at SMA as they have all settled successfully into our community. Likewise, our Year 11 have returned with a real focus on their studies and an understanding of what is required to be successful this year.

COVID Update

We continue to ensure our building and classrooms are well ventilated and encourage all pupils to maintain good hand hygiene. We also encourage all our pupils and staff to self-test twice a week and report all results both on the NHS system and on our Google Form

There is also a lot of information in the media regarding vaccines for young people and the choices parents will have to make regarding the process. We will be writing to individual year groups when we are made aware when vaccines will be administered onsite. With all vaccines and administration of medicines parental consent will be required. I have attached a link to the Government website to help you make an informed decision.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

Online Safety and Behaviour

We continue to ask for parental support with our young people's online activities. We ask that parents monitor what chat groups their children are in and their behaviour within them. Likewise, social media accounts can cause serious issues to arise both at home and within the Academy. If you require any support or advice on these issues, please contact your child's Director of Learning. I have also attached some links to useful website for parental advice

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Traveling to and from the Academy.

We continue to work hard to have staff present in our local community before and after school. We have staff on duty in Lewisham centre every day after school and we remind parents that pupils should not be in Lewisham beyond 4pm unless accompanied by a parent/carer. We ask that you know your child's route home and ensure that they make their way straight home each day.

We have had a successful return to a more normal school day and we are acutely aware that that success is built on a positive parental relationship and I would like to thank you for this continuing support and look forward to working closely with you in the future.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Young

Deputy Headteacher

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