

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



17 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to the letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 from Mr Gunningham, I am writing to all secondary parents in regard to St Matthew Academy uniform expectations.

Having taken on board feedback from some of our pupils and their parents/carers, we are making a change to our policy regarding hair that is dyed. Moving forward, we expect all pupils to have a natural hair colour. We encourage pupils not to dye their hair as hair dye manufacturers state their products are not intended for anyone under the age of 16 because the chemicals can cause severe, even life threatening allergic reactions ([BBC news article](#)). However, if parents and carers allow their children to dye their hair it must be natural colours. This means it can be shades of black, brown, ginger and blonde but should not be colours such as red, purple, blue etc. If a pupil has braided hair the braids must also be natural colours.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support with ensuring SMA pupils always present themselves smartly for school. We believe that the wearing of the correct school uniform creates an opportunity for pupils to identify with what St Matthew Academy represents; fosters pride and significantly reduces opportunities for pupils to become distracted by issues relating to current fashion trends. Being properly dressed in the St Matthew Academy uniform is also a visible symbol of our community. As you know we start the day with a line-up and this allows us to check all pupils are ready to learn. Where uniform infringements are noted we will take appropriate action including removal from lessons for persistent and/or extreme cases. In these circumstances parents and carers will be notified before the end of the day and our decision will not be negotiable. Our expectations are summarised below:

- Hair should be natural colours, clean and tidy and worn without ornamentation, other than a black hairband. Pupils' hair should therefore not include unnatural hair colour dyes or coloured hair accessories of any kind (including beads).
- Long hair should be tied back for safety.
- Pupils are expected to wear black leather closed toe shoes. Boots, trainers or other canvas type of footwear is not permitted.
- When tights are worn pupils must not wear socks of any colour over the tights.
- Pupils can wear black / navy coats while outside. Sportswear, hoodies and other coloured coats are not permitted.
- Pupils are not allowed to wear scarves at any point during the school day, inside or outside the school building
- Make Up should not be worn while at the Academy. Any pupil with obvious make up will be asked to remove it.
- Jewellery should not be worn; no piercings are permitted and covering piercings with a plaster is not acceptable.
- Currently all pupils are also expected to wear a face covering in lessons and around the building - these are not supplied by the academy so pupils must bring at least one to school each day

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Pupils who are not in appropriate uniform may be given an alternative provided by the school or they may be removed from lessons until the uniform infringement is corrected.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these expectations, please could you contact the appropriate senior member of staff.

Year 7 & 8 Mr Gunningham, Assistant Headteacher - KS3 Pastoral - [IGU@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:IGU@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)  
Year 9 & 10 Mr Wanza, Assistant Headteacher - KS4 Pastoral - [RWA@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:RWA@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)  
Year 11 Ms Dunne, Associate Assistant Headteacher - [VDU@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:VDU@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that secondary pupils will be dismissed at **1.50pm on Tuesday 18 January 2022**. Once pupils leave the Academy they must go straight home and not congregate in Lewisham. For pupils who need to collect siblings from the Primary phase or if early dismissal causes any issues, pupils may work in the library until the end of the day.

Yours sincerely



**Ms M Baldwin**  
**Headteacher**