

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Year 10 into Year 11.**

As we approach the end of a very challenging academic year, I would personally like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy over the course of the year and in particular, since the resumption of learning onsite for all pupils in March. This has been an extremely challenging time for everyone in our community and I know that we are all looking forward to a more settled future.

To this end, I would like to inform you that I will be the Director of Learning and Raising Standards Lead for Year 11 from September. I have already begun working with the year group and I am thrilled at the prospect of overseeing the year group in what is the most crucial year of their school careers yet. I will be working closely with Mr Young and the Year 11 form tutors to provide a first class pastoral experience for your child. I would like to thank Ms Cefai for all of her hard work and efforts across the course of the year.

I would like to update you with some recent news and events taking place in the final weeks of Year 10 as well as what to expect in the first few weeks of Year 11.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July Year 10 participated in Careers Day with guest speakers from Award winning companies L&Q and LG, ending the day with pupils completing their personal statements in preparation for their Post-16 Applications. They made an excellent impression on our guests who were very impressed with their professionalism and maturity. Please check the school twitter account to see photos of the day.

### **Innovation Day**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July pupils in Year 10 will immerse themselves in our final Innovation Day of the year – ‘Protest and Cause’. We look forward to this day full of activities.

### **Monday 19th July**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July pupils will begin the day by completing Post-16 Activities. Pupils will then take part in House Competitions, providing pupils with an opportunity to demonstrate our core values of collaboration and participation. After lunch pupils will then take part in House Sports Activities for the afternoon, please note PE kit will be required for these events.

### **Tuesday 20th July**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July pupils will begin the day by completing Post-16 Activities. The rest of the day pupils have the opportunity to relax on the heath (Blackheath) and have a picnic before ending the day with an End of Year Awards Ceremony where we look forward to celebrating the success and achievements of our pupils over the last academic year and saying goodbye for the Summer Holidays.

### **Wednesday 21st July**

In order for staff to prepare for the upcoming academic year in regards to the re-organising of classrooms and subject areas, the Academy will be closed to pupils on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July. A task will be set for pupils to complete on the day and we would like to take this opportunity to strongly advise you to encourage your child to complete the task set on Google Classrooms. We would also like to remind pupils of the importance of staying safe over the summer.

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Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all

### Year 11 tutor groups

Year 11 pupil's move into subject/attainment focused tutor groups for Year 11, with a subject specialist as the tutor. Therefore, pupils will have new tutors and new tutor groups. Pupils will find out their tutor group on the first day back in September.

### GCSE RE

Due to the government changes to GCSE examinations, pupils were awarded teacher assessed grades for their RE GCSE, which will be reviewed by the exam board and shared with pupils in August by post/email. The Academy will not be hosting a results' day for Year 10.

### Information Evening

We are holding an early Parents' Evening for all Year 11 parents and carers on Thursday 16th September. We will be hosting a number of representatives from prospective Sixth Forms and Colleges, as well as holding workshops for parents in the following areas:

- How to support your child with Post 16 Choices
- How to make the most of Hegarty Maths
- How to help your child revise
- Dealing with stress and coping with pressure

### Start of the academic year plans

As you may be aware the government wants schools to *"be prepared for all scenarios, including testing on return after the summer holidays."* Therefore, all schools will be provided with refreshed guidance, test kits and PPE. Pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays. As such, pupils will receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests 3 – 5 days apart on their return in the autumn term (secondary phase pupils only). As such, pupils will be required to attend the Academy on Tuesday 31st August and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 to complete their lateral flow tests. The times and procedure of the day will be communicated to parents/carers in due course. Pupils will return for their first full day of school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### Key dates:

Please ensure you put the following key dates in your diary:

Date	Activity
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Lateral flow test 1
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Lateral flow test 2
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	First Day of Term 8.37am*
Thursday 16th September	Year 11 Information Evening
<b>Monday 20th September</b>	<b>Intervention begins</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December (2 weeks)	Year 11 December Mock Exams
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March (1 week)	Year 11 March Mocks
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 11 Targeted Parents' Evening
May/June (dates TBC)	GCSE Examinations
June (date TBC)	Year 11 Prom
August (date TBC)	GCSE Results Day

\*We will be returning to the normal start time of 8.37am from September.

Finally, I would just like to say how proud I am of all our pupils in year 10. They have all had to adjust to a new way of learning together remotely and then again, back on site at SMA. For the hard work and effort that they are putting into their learning and readjusting to school routines – your child should be commended for everything they have achieved this term. I would like to extend a huge thank you to you as well for working with and supporting your child and the Academy over this academic school year. Pupils have matured throughout the year in regards to their academic studies, working diligently in lessons. I am confident that whilst working together, we can support your child in making the very best start to Year 11 and achieve the grades they are capable of getting, should they work hard.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Young at the following email address [ayo@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:ayo@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) should you have any queries, or would like to request more work for your child over the summer.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully,



**Ms V Dunne**  
**Associate Assistant Headteacher**  
**Raising Standards Lead (from Sep 21)**  
[VDU@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:VDU@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)