

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



25 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, we hope this letter meets you well as we remain in these exceptional times. Ms Cefai and I would personally like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy since full resumption to school at the start of September. Ms Cefai will be the Director of Learning of Year 10 this academic year while Ms Agorioge is on maternity leave.

It has been lovely welcoming pupils back to school and it has been a very positive start to the year for pupils in Year 10, who have settled well after such a long period away from their friends, teachers and daily school life. The first week back afforded pupils the opportunity to settle back into school life, prepare for the revised school day and engage in a series of activities, which stimulated creativity, discovery and exploration of key issues and themes within school and the wider community. We have recently celebrated the Feast of St Matthew. It was the first time the Academy has live streamed a liturgy. Nevertheless, all of our community joined in the celebration of our patron saint, socially distanced of course.

We have been impressed by the way, pupils have worn their uniform with pride including the wearing of lanyards. Moreover, pupils have demonstrated great commitment to their learning, highlighted in the lessons we have observed and their resilience shown in light of the new school day structure and adaptations to the wider school life. We encourage you to commend your child and remind them of the importance of maintaining high standards at all times. This includes the wearing of full school uniform including lanyard, a suitable school bag containing the school planner, a reading book and equipment for lessons.

We are constantly reviewing and improving our procedures and protocols to ensure that all pupils remain safe, healthy and able to make excellent progress academically. We have observed that despite our best efforts to have a different start and finish times for every year group, this has proven very difficult as pupils arrive and leave with their siblings or have to wait for them after school. In light of this, we have revised the start and finish times for Year 10 pupils.

All Year 10 pupils are now expected to be on site and lined up no later than **9.20am**. Pupils arriving after **9.25am** will be marked as late and issued with the usual academy sanction. Pupils will also be leaving school at the earlier time of **3.40pm**.

These slightly earlier arrival and finish times have a number of benefits:

- All pupils across the academy will be able to start their day with a 25min independent study session. These sessions are aimed at developing vital study skills and good habits for the future.
- Pupils have a slightly shorter day in proportion to their start time and do not have to stay late unless they have been issued a detention
- Pupils have less time to wait for siblings in other year groups
- In the event of bad or wet weather, pupils can be taken straight into their study classes to start their day

Homework rota

A timetable has been put in place to ensure that pupils have two homework tasks per day to focus on and to get into the habit of always doing them on the same day. This will support pupils, form tutors and parents/carers in the following ways:

Pupils will be able to quickly establish a homework routine, which is consistent each week and ensures homework is spread evenly across the week. This will promote independent learning skills and ensure all pupils are able to complete homework to the expected deadline.

Parents and carers will be able to monitor the completion of homework, ensuring your child meets all deadlines. You will be able to use the rota to support your child at home by better organising their time alongside other commitments they have.

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Year 10 Homework Timetable	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Subject 1	Maths	Science	English	Religious Studies	History
Subject 2	Option A	Option C	Religious Education	English	Review & Recap of key learning

The rota identifies the day that the pupil should complete the homework. A copy of this can also be found on the school website.

Successes

We would like to highlight the following pupils who have made an exceptional start to the school year and have the most achievement points in their form class to date.

10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5
Algassimu Jah	Lydia Adigun	Yoan Tsvyatkov	Remy Zaharia	Sayyid Cissokho

GCSE Religious Education

As you are aware, this academic year is also significant, as all pupils in Year 10 will sit their GCSE Religious Education (RE) examination in the summer of 2021. There are no proposed plans to alter the GCSE specification or examination for Religious Education. Therefore, it is crucial that in all RE lessons pupils remain focused, all work including homework is completed to a high standard, all interventions are attended and revision of content taught is consistently reviewed. We are pleased to share with you that Year 10 have made a promising start to their studies in RE and expect pupils to maintain the positive start.

Key Dates for Autumn Term


- **Monday, 26th October 2020 – Friday, 30th October 2020** - Half Term
- **Friday 27th November 2020** – Staff INSET Day (Academy closed to all pupils)
- **W/C 7TH December 2020** – Catholic Christianity PPE

Important Reminders

- **All pupils are required to be on time each day, arriving no later than 9.20 am for line up**
- **Correct full school uniform is required**
- **Pupils must not wear jewellery of any kind, except for a wristwatch**
- **Social distancing must be observed at all times**
- **Hands should be washed or sanitised regularly**

This continues to be a challenging time for us all but together, as an inclusive caring Catholic community and with the grace of God, we will get through this and before too long, life at St Matthew Academy will return to better days. We look forward to working with you closely this year and being able to celebrate more achievements and successes of our pupils over the coming months.

Yours faithfully



Ms S Cefai
Director of Learning for Year 10



Mr Wanza
Assistant Head Teacher – Pastoral Lead Years 9 & 10