

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Year 9 into Year 10

First of all, I hope this letter meets you well as we remain in these exceptional times. I would personally like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy over the last three months, particularly in ensuring pupils complete their work on Google Classrooms. 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 Pastoral Lead for Year 10 from September. I will be working closely with Mrs Agorioge and the Year 10 form tutors to provide a first class pastoral experience for your child.

Mrs Agorioge and I are looking forward to welcoming Year 10 pupils back to the Academy on Tuesday, 8th September in earnest. Pupils will find some of the procedures and structures at the Academy slightly different to those to which they have become accustomed. This is due to us taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff whilst on site – as this is paramount. We are following all government guidelines on how to keep pupils as safe as possible on their return. Understandably, pupils and staff must maintain social distancing as well as washing and sanitising their hands frequently. Further to this, the different Year Groups will have to be kept apart: arriving at different times; eating lunch at different times and leaving at different times.

From Tuesday, 8th September, Year 10 pupils are expected to arrive at the Academy at 9:50am in full school uniform. Lunch will be at 12:40pm and dismissal at the end of the day will take place at 4:10pm. The canteen will be sanitised between each sitting of one Year Group at a time. Please ensure that you top up your Parent Pay account before the beginning of term unless your child is entitled to a free school meal. Throughout the day, staff at the Academy will carry out cleaning and sanitising in line with government guidelines. For the time being there will be no extracurricular after school clubs.

Key Dates for Autumn Term:

- **Tuesday, 8th September** – Return to school
- **Monday, 26th October – Friday, 30th October** – Half Term
- **Week commencing Monday, 7th December** – One Catholic Christianity PPE
- **Monday 21st December 2020 – Friday 1st January 2021** – Half Term
- **Monday 1st February – Friday 5th February 2021** – Ranking 1 Exams
- **Monday 8th February – Friday 12th February 2021** – Year 10 Work Experience
- **Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2021** – Half Term
- **Thursday 4th March 2021** – Year 10 Parents' Evening
- **Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April** – Half Term
- **Monday 10th May – Friday 14th May 2021** – Ranking 2 Exams
- **Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021** – Half Term
- **Monday 21st June – Friday 25th June 2021** – Half Term

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

Perhaps the most obvious temporary change in the school day is that pupils in the main, will remain in their own classrooms within a designated area of the school and teachers will go to them rather than pupils making their way to different parts of the buildings for lessons (with the exception of some practical subjects including PE).

Important Reminders:

- **All pupils are required to be on time each day, arriving no later than 9:50am 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**

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. Throughout the year I will keep you abreast of any information pertaining to pupils undertaking of their RE GCSE, including ways in which you can support your child in preparing for the examination.

During the upcoming academic year pupils will be afforded the opportunity to gain valuable work experience. Whether pupils organise their own work experience or utilise the 'Web view' programme to undertake a placement organised by Lewisham, the Academy will fully prepare pupils for all placements, enabling them to thrive throughout the work experience. The Academy will work with all work experience providers ensuring safety precautions are in place. The Academy will communicate all information pertaining to work experience in due course.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a blessed, safe and relaxing summer. This is 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.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Wanza
Assistant Headteacher – Pastor