

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



17 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, 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 over the course of this term.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a number of changes we are making to start and finish times for pupils at the Academy particularly in Year 10. Since the resumption of schools in September, we have been following a strict and rigorous risk assessment, which we are continually evaluating. We now feel we are in a position to start to align the school day for all pupils - this will support parents and older siblings with drop off and pick up; in the secondary phase allow us to start the day with form time/assembly for all pupils and also enable us to bring back more intervention, enrichment and extra-curricular activities. The table indicates the start and finish times and the line-up and lunch time arrangements for Year 10 we will be adopting from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Start time	Entry to the Academy for pupils	Line Up	Lunch time	Dismissal time
8.45am	Walk down St Joseph's Vale on the near side (on the side the Academy is situated)	Outside reception	12 noon	3.05pm

Sanctions

Our sanction system will be reinstated from January. The incremental scale for detentions is as follows:

- 1 Behaviour Point in the day = Form Tutor Detention (20 minutes)
- 2 Behaviour Points in the day = Centralised Detention (1 hour)
- 3 Behaviour Points in the week = Friday SLT Detention (2 hours)
- 4+ Behaviour Points in the week = Saturday Detention (8.40-11.40)
- Missed Saturday Detention = BSR for 1 day

Uniform

We have been impressed by the way, in which 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 current day structure and adaptations to the wider school life. We encourage you to commend your child.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our uniform expectations at St Matthew Academy. These expectations are in place to ensure that uniform does not become a distraction from learning and that pupils at St Matthew Academy, take pride in themselves and their school:

- Black shoes not boots for all pupils
- Tailored trousers or SMA kilts for girls
- Black or blue coats without insignia for all pupils
- Lanyards and ID badges (these can be purchased for £3.00 in the event they are lost) for all pupils
- SMA face coverings (these can be purchased for £1.00 in the event they are lost) for all pupils

Successes

Year 10 have transitioned extremely well from such a long break from school. They display a strong willingness to learn and have applied themselves in a way that can only be admired, after all the changes and new systems put in

: 0208 853 6250 : info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk : www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk : @stmattacad

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

place to protect our children and staff. Pupils have been able to adapt quickly, ensuring teaching and learning is at an all-time high, right at a time where our pupils need support and development the most.

Despite the term being challenging, there have been many successes in Year 10. This includes a number of pupils participating in the KPMG mentoring programme, which focuses on supporting pupils' applications for higher education and the development of life skills that will aid this. Pupils engage in Employability projects to gain an understanding of the knowledge, tools and skills to gain entry to careers and aid in their own sense of employability.

As discussed within the year group, attendance and punctuality are imperative to getting the most out of school and fulfilling the potential of all pupils. The following pupils have shown real dedication to this aspect of their education and have been in school, 100% of the time, since September.

100% Attendance		
Jackson UWAGBOE	Stephen UMUNNAKWE	Abubakar TRAORE CISSE
Adriana TORRES BONNARD	Ashni SIVANESAN	Mahmoud SALEM
Precieux OMANGELO	Faheez FASHOLA	Grace LAKE
Tiana MCNAUGHT	Jessica GRACE	Mithu KRISHNARAJ
Elsa NGUYEN	Thierry HENRY	Shakira BOLOU,
Daniella OLUSANYA	Algassimu JAH	Beth CHOWDHURY
Elisabeth AKINOLA	Giulio AMOAKO	Lauryn DAIRO
Morayo ALEJO	Olatomiwa BABATUNDE	Janae DALEY
Shekinah ABUWA		

No behaviour points and Achievement points.

As an Academy, our philosophy is to recognise outstanding achievement, academically and in attitude to learning. Recognising the conduct of our pupils is the responsibility of every adult in the building and when reviewing this data, it is clear to see how well the following pupils have responded to our expectations by having received zero behaviour points since September. An amazing achievement!

Zero Behaviour points		
Mariana Baron Becerra	Kristos Lalaj	Elsa Nguyen
Haja Konie	Zaki Bacha	Jasmine Adonri
Mahmoud Salem	Jessica Grace	Andrew Cerda Labanda
Christian Corcuera Zuniga	Ashni Sivanesan	Aniyah Hanson
Einas Hoveizi	Grace Lake	Paris Agyemang

GCSE RE Mock Examination

Today pupils sat a Pre-Public Examination (PPE) in Religious Education. The paper covered four topics relating to Catholic Christianity. The RE department would like to acknowledge the application and dedication pupils have shown in preparation for the examination and look forward to a set of positive mock results which will be shared with you and your child in January. There will be subsequently be two other PPE's with a focus on different units and topics prior to the examination.

We will be writing to you in the New Year providing feedback on the progress of your child and how you can further support your child in their studies in RE.

Ranking Examinations

We will be continuing with your child's first set of ranking exams in year 10. More details will follow closer to the time of the ranking examinations.

Virtual Parents' Evening - Thursday 4th March 2021

Due to the current circumstances, Parents' Evening this year will be held virtually. More details will follow closer to the time on how the evening will be structured.

Travelling to and from the Academy and Behaviour in the Community

As Ms Baldwin commented in her letter last week, there have been a number of reports of anti-social behaviour in the local community involving some of our pupils over the last half term. We understand that the vast majority of our pupils follow expectations and behave in a responsible and sensible manner when traveling to and from the Academy. However, there remains a small group of pupils who regularly bring the reputation of the Academy into disrepute due to their poor conduct in the local area; in takeaway shops and on the buses. We expect all pupils in Year 10 to go straight home after school and we remind you that, as in previous years, pupils should not be using Blessington Road as a short cut to Lee High Road. Please ensure that your child is not in Lewisham town centre after 3.45pm. This is of vital importance given the move to Tier 3 restrictions.

As also stated in the recent letter from Ms Baldwin, to prevent unnecessary bus use in the morning secondary pupils will not be permitted to use the bus stop outside the bowling alley in Lewisham as it is only two stops to our site. In the afternoon, pupils may use the bus stop opposite St Joseph's Vale to take the 54 bus to go beyond Lewisham. We encourage all other pupils to walk into Lewisham and not wait for the 89 and 108 buses. We thank you in advance in support regarding this matter.

Key dates

Key Event	Date
Last day of term	Thursday 17 th December 2020 (Dismissal of pupils: 2.15 – 2.30pm)
INSET Day – School closed to all pupils	Friday 18 th December 2020 and Mon 4 th January 2021
Return to school	Tuesday 5 th January 2021
Ranking Examination	Monday 1 st February – Friday 5 th February 2021
Work Experience Programme TBC	Monday 8 th February – Friday 12 th February 2021
Virtual Parents' Evening	Thursday 4 th March 2021

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 challenging time. In the meantime, please look out for edition 3 of our SMA News published last Friday – it's a cracker! We look forward to working with you closely next year and being able to celebrate more achievements and successes of our pupils over the coming months.

Wishing you a blessed, safe, restful Christmas and good health and prosperity in the New Year.

Yours faithfully



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



Ms S Cefai
Director of Learning for Year 10