

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



14 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Y11 UPDATES

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, we would like to update you on some important information regarding Year 11 pupils and the term ahead.

Revised times of the day:

You will have received a letter from Ms Baldwin, Headteacher, last week detailing the changes we are making to start and finish times for pupils at the Academy, as a result of how well pupils, staff and parents/carers have coped with the changes this term. We now feel we are in a position to start to align the school day for all pupils next term. Please see the revised times for Y11 below which will take effect from Tuesday 5th January:

Start: 8.50am

Dismissal: 3.10pm (for pupils not in targeted intervention, study club or detention)

4.30pm (for pupils in targeted intervention, study club or detention)

As you are well aware, being on time to school is of paramount importance, especially in Y11. We understand that public transport is affected in the current climate so we would urge you to ensure your child leaves plenty of time to get to school in the morning. Pupils who arrive after 8.50am will be given a behaviour point for lateness. To ensure Y11 pupils do not mix with other year group bubbles, we would ask them to use the pavement closest to the school gate when arriving and leaving site.

Intervention:

This term, we have been able to offer all Y11 pupils after school intervention in all of their subjects. This will resume for all pupils for 2 weeks from 18/1/21-29/1/21. However, from 1st February, intervention groups will be targeted to ensure that pupils are getting small group, focused revision. Your child will receive an intervention timetable that details which subjects they are being targeted for. Your child may also be selected to take part in a compulsory study club which again would be detailed on their timetable. Please see the overall intervention timetable below:

Day	Week A 3.15-4.30	Week B 3.15-4.30
Monday	Option A	Maths
Tuesday	No intervention (Pupils may have detention or Study Club)	No intervention (Pupils may have detention or Study Club)
Wednesday	Option B	Science
Thursday	Option C	English
Friday	No intervention (Pupils may have detention or Study Club)	No intervention (Pupils may have detention or Study Club)

Pre Public Examinations:

As you know, Y11 pupils have been busy sitting their mock exams in all subjects over the last week and a half. Results of these exams will be available to pupils and parents/carers in the form of a report w/b 18th January. **You will have a chance to discuss these reports with your child's subject teacher at the virtual Y11 Parent's Evening on Thursday 21st January.** More information about how to sign up for the virtual meetings will follow in the new year.

Y11 Sanctions:

Y11 must ensure they comply with the Academy uniform and behaviour policy at all times in school, and when representing the Academy outside of school. Non-compliance with uniform includes no lanyard; no face covering; incorrect footwear (no trainers or boots); incorrect outerwear (coats must be blue or black) no jewellery or colours/stripes in hair. In the unfortunate case of when a pupil does not comply, we will issue sanctions as a consequence of this behaviour. Pupils who receive 1 x behaviour point for any reason will receive a 20 minute detention with their Form Tutor either on a Tuesday or Friday. Pupils who receive 2 x behaviour points will receive a 1 hour DOL detention on a Tuesday or Friday. Pupils who receive 3 or more x behaviour points will receive a 3 hour SLT Saturday detention. Pupils may also be placed on report to Form Tutors, DOL or SLT as part of the escalation process. We would like to take this opportunity to remind Y11 and their parents/carers that pupils' behaviour, attendance and punctuality is a vital part of their sixth form college reference, and as such we would appreciate your support in us applying the Academy's behaviour policy.

Y11 GCSEs Next Year:

You may have heard in the news that the government have made further changes to how the GCSEs will be ran for Y11 this year, to account for the national school closures. They are proposing that grade boundaries will be more generous than previously, and exam topics will be released before the exams, allowing students to focus on specific areas of revision. This is in addition to the exam period being delayed by three weeks, to allow for more teaching time to take place. We will update you should any further announcements be made.

Y11 Celebrations:

Huge congratulations to all pupils for successfully sitting their first round of formal pre-public examinations. We are extremely proud of all of the pupils for how well they have coped in what is an extremely stressful and high- pressured environment. We look forward to awarding more pupils with gold lanyards to celebrate exam success in January. We would also like to say an extra special well done to the Business V Cert and Vocational Sport pupils who have already sat their first official examinations this half term. Both Ms Green and Ms Cefai praised pupils for their resilience and efforts. Furthermore, we would like to congratulate Lucy Grund, Sebastian Whitehead, Mollie Forrest, Abigail Olabode, Kwayke Osei and Elizabeth Obukohwo on their successful appointment as Heads and Deputy Heads of Houses for the Academy. Ms Livingstone, Ms Downer and Mr Salih put them through their paces with a rigorous interview process and election campaign. They are proudly wearing their green blazers in ode to the original school colours of the old St Joseph's school.

End of Term:

Finally, **please be aware that term finishes for Y11 pupils on Wednesday 16th December. Pupils will be dismissed at the end of tutor time at 2.45pm.** We look forward to seeing all pupils back at 8.45am for an 8.50am start in form rooms on Tuesday 5th January. Also, please remember that it is really important that you keep the Academy up to date with any COVID issues during the holidays. If your child has to isolate or if your child is given a positive result after a test, then we need to be informed straight away. You can do this via info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk as this account will be monitored throughout the break.

Thank you in advance for your support, and have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Yours faithfully,



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