

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



15 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 Pupils

## **RE: Important Update following letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

I am writing to update you on our response to the current Covid-19 situation further to the text message you received this morning. We have unfortunately experienced a number of confirmed cases of coronavirus over the last few days as well as a number of staff being required to self-isolate as a result of close contacts outside of the Academy.

As I have previously informed parents and carers, it is always our intention to keep the school fully open for all pupils, for as long as possible, and so long as safeguarding and the quality of education provided is not compromised. As you will understand, with a further reduction in staff on site, for reasons of health and safety and the welfare of staff and pupils at the Academy, I have taken the decision, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, to ask year 11 to stay at home for the remainder of this term.

Yesterday we informed you that Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December would be the last day in school for year 11 pupils however I now need year 11 to stay at home on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December too. There are a small number of GCSE PE pupils that have an exam in the morning so they have been asked to come in for the exam and will be dismissed directly afterwards.

Remote learning will be uploaded on Google Classrooms for pupils to complete over the next two days and subjects will also be uploading work for pupils to do over the Christmas break. On Google Classrooms pupils will also find information about Post 16 opportunities including a range of Open Events taking place next term. I urge all parents and carers to ensure their child has completed at least two Post 16 applications before they return in January. If you have any queries regarding access to work then please contact [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) or your child's tutor directly.

**Unless your child has received a close contact letter they will not be required to self-isolate during this time.**

I appreciate this situation may be challenging for you and your family. However, it is necessary for your child to learn from home to protect the health and safety of pupils, staff and families and to help reduce the spread of infection. Thank you in advance for your support at this time.

As a reminder, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 is a designated staff training day, therefore pupils are NOT required to attend school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils for their hard work, commitment and achievements so far. On behalf of all the staff at St Matthew Academy, I would like to thank you for your support this year and to wish you a Merry Christmas. We look forward to seeing the pupils back in the New Year on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Yours faithfully

**Ms M Baldwin**  
**Headteacher**