

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



23 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Half Term Letter – Year 7

As we approach half term I would like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy since the full resumption of school at the start of September.

It has been a challenging yet rewarding term thus far. Pupils have exhibited resilience and a profound understanding of the necessary changes required to the Academy day and facilities. All pupils should be highly praised for their co-operation.

In September we 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. When we return after half term, pupils will be heavily involved in the planning and celebrating of Remembrance Day and our Advent liturgies.

As you are aware, so many families around the world are facing uncertain futures because of coronavirus. I am pleased to announce that our first House event – Harvest Collection, has yielded a significant amount of non-perishable foods, which will be donated to Lewisham Foodbank. All pupils should be proud of their efforts. I would also like to thank The House Leaders Miss Downer, Miss Livingstone and Mr Salih with the support of Mrs Guest for organising such an event. At harvest-time, the sharing of food helps Christians to remember that all good gifts come from God. Giving is a way of saying thank you to God in a practical way whilst remembering that He commanded all people to love and care for others.

During Black History month, we have reflected upon the contributions black people have made to our world history in assemblies, whilst celebrating modern day black excellence during tutor time. The Art department set pupils in Year 7 as part of their homework and as a competition during Black History month, the opportunity to design a logo for a t-shirt that in their opinion best encapsulates the importance of learning about, learning from and celebrating Black history. The winning design will be printed and worn by members of staff.

We continue to be impressed by the way pupils have worn their uniform with pride moreover, pupils have demonstrated great commitment to their learning, highlighted in the lessons we have observed and wonderful class work demonstrated by pupils in their exercise books. We again encourage you to commend your child and remind them of the importance of maintaining high standards at all times.

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 respective year groups to date:

Jemimah Aikoroje 7.3 achieved 82 achievement points and zero behaviour points

Zunaira Bakth 7.8 achieved 70 achievement points and zero behaviour points

Alexander England 7.1 achieved 67 achievement points and zero behaviour points

Blessing Oyedeji 7.5 achieved 66 achievement points and zero behaviour points

Fara Yahiaoui 7.6 achieved 86 achievement points and zero behaviour points

Harry Welch achieved 57 achievement points and zero behaviour points

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

These are just the examples of exemplary behaviour and hard work in our year group. Please have your eyes peeled for all the wonderful certificates our year 7 pupils will be bringing home for 100% attendance, exemplary behaviour and for being kind pupils that make us all so proud.

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. In line with government guidance, pupils have been told they must wear a face covering in communal areas of the Academy.

Please remember that it is really important that you keep the Academy up to date with any issues regarding COVID-19 during the half term. If your child has to isolate or if your child tests positive with COVID, then we must be informed immediately. You can do this via info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk as this account will be monitored throughout the break.

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 something close to normality. Thank you for continued support.

Finally, please note this important date for your diaries - **Friday 27th November**. On this day, the Academy will be closed to all pupils as it is a Staff INSET Day.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Gunningham
Assistant Head Teacher - Key Stage 3



Ms K Migon
Director of Learning