

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



25 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It is a pleasure to be writing to you after what has been a very successful start to the term for pupils in Year 8. This could not have been made possible without your continuous support. There have been many changes this year, but the desire that the Year 8 cohort have to let their lights shine remains as strong as ever!

Year 8 have settled well, with punctuality and impeccable morning line-ups. The first week back afforded pupils the opportunity to settle back into school life, prepare for the revised school day and engage in a series of activities, which stimulated creativity, discovery and exploration of key issues and themes within school and the wider community. We have recently celebrated the Feast of St Matthew. It was the first time the Academy has 'live' streamed a liturgy, creating a wonderful opportunity for all of our community to join together in celebration of our patron saint - socially distanced of course!

We have also been impressed by the way, in which pupils have worn their uniforms 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 structure of the new school day and adaptations to wider Academy life. We encourage you to congratulate your child and remind them of the importance of maintaining high standards and following health and safety protocols at all times. This includes the wearing of full school uniform including lanyard, a suitable school bag containing the school planner, a reading book and equipment for lessons. We strongly advise that pupils do not undertake any piercings as wearing jewellery, including nose studs and earrings is not permitted at the Academy.

As outlined in our previous correspondence we are taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff whilst on site – doing everything we can to make the Academy safe for everyone is paramount. We are continuing to follow all government guidelines on how to keep pupils as safe as possible whilst on site. 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 continue to have their lessons in separate parts of the building: arriving at different times; eating lunch at different times and leaving at different times.

Home learning timetable

A timetable has been put in place to ensure that pupils have two home learning tasks per day to focus on and to get into the habit of always doing them on the same day. This will support pupils, form tutors and parents/carers in the following ways:

Pupils will be able to quickly establish a home learning routine, which is consistent each week and ensures home learning is spread evenly across the week. This will promote independent learning skills and ensure all pupils are able to complete homework to the expected deadline.

Parents and carers will be able to monitor the completion of home learning, ensuring your child meets all deadlines. You will be able to use the timetable to support your child at home by better organising their time alongside other commitments they have. I have inserted it below for your information.

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

The St Matthew Academy Limited. A company limited by guarantee whose registered office is situated at St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London, SE3 0XX

Registered in England no 5144640 Vat registration no 117 5465 13

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

Year 8 Home Learning Timetable

Year 8	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Subject 1	Maths	Religious Education	Science	English	Technology Carousel
Subject 2	MFL	Geography	Performing arts & Computer Science Carousel	History	Reading

The timetable identifies the day that pupils should complete their homework. A copy of this can also be found on the school website.

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 form class to date.

8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8
Deborah Ansah	Andrew Martin	Cassell Chambers	Cassandra Onica	Abigail Bepat	Davy Olito	Layla Akinfolarin	Huray Tesfay

To Kick off the new term, the 'now' Year 8 Media & Communications Scholars were chuffed to receive their certificates and prizes for their film "[The Shift](#)"; which was entered into a film competition last academic year. The Scholars spent two days during a half term writing, filming and producing the award-winning film. They won some nifty gadgets along with **£500**, which will be invested into a reward related to their media education.

Important Reminders

- All pupils are required to be on time each day, arriving no later **than 9.20am** 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

Key dates for autumn term

- Monday 19th October – Friday 23rd October: Ranking Exams
- Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October: Half Term
- Friday 27th November: Staff INSET Day (Academy closed to all pupils)

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 better days. We look forward to working with you closely this year and being able to celebrate more achievements and successes of our pupils over the coming months.

Yours faithfully



Ms Ahima
Director of Learning Year 8



Mr I Gunningham
Assistant Headteacher

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