

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



14 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Year 8.

First of all, many thanks to you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy over the last three months. This has been an extremely challenging time for everyone in our community and I know that we are all looking forward to a more settled future.

To this end, Ms Ahima, the Year 8 tutors and I are really looking forward to welcoming Year 8 pupils back to SMA on Tuesday, 8th September. Pupils will find some of the procedures and structures at the Academy slightly different to those to which they have become accustomed. This is because we are being careful to follow all government guidelines on how to keep pupils as safe as possible on their return. Most obviously, pupils and staff must maintain social distancing, wash and sanitise their hands. Further to this the different Year Groups will have to be kept apart: arriving at different times; eating lunch at different times and leaving at different times.

From Tuesday, 8th September, Year 8 pupils are expected to arrive at the Academy in time for line-up at 09:30. From line-up, pupils in Year 8 will be taken directly to their classrooms for 25 minutes of independent study of Maths and/or English (please be sure that your child has a reading book at all times).

At 10:00, pupils will begin the first lesson of the day; lunch will be at 12:40 and dismissal at the end of the day will take place at 3:40. The canteen will be sanitised between each sitting of one Year Group at a time. Please make sure that you top up your Parent Pay account before the beginning of term unless your child is entitled to a free school meal.

Throughout the day, staff at SMA will carry out cleaning and sanitising in line with government guidelines. For the time being there will be no extracurricular after school clubs.

Key Dates for Autumn Term:

- **Tuesday, 8th September** – return to school
- **Monday, 19th October – Friday, 23rd October** - Ranking Exams
- **Monday, 26th October – Friday, 30th October** - Half Term

Perhaps the most obvious temporary change in the school day is that pupils will remain in their own classrooms and teachers will go to them rather than pupils making their way to different parts of the buildings for lessons. Again, this is to make conditions as safe as possible for everyone at the Academy by reducing contact with pupils in other Year Groups. Although pupils will have most of their lessons in the same room (with the exception of some practical subjects including PE), these rooms may not be 'specialist' rooms for every subject. Please be assured however, that PE changing rooms, toilets and all shared facilities will be kept as clean as possible in adherence to government guidelines.

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Important Reminders:

- All pupils are required to be on time each day, arriving no later than 09:30 for line up
- Correct uniform is required
- Pupils must not wear jewellery of any kind, except for a wristwatch
- Correct SMA PE kit must be brought in for timetabled PE lessons (timetables to be given out on our return)
- Social distancing must be observed at all times
- Hands should be washed or sanitised regularly

Because of the changes to teaching groups we have also had to make a change in our Modern Foreign Languages offer in Year 8. Unfortunately, a small number of pupils will have to change from French to Spanish. Appropriate measures have been put in place to support pupils who will be learning Spanish from this time. Those affected will receive a separate letter of explanation from Ms Phillips, Head of MFL.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and relaxing summer. This is a difficult time for us all but together, as a community, we will get through this and before we know it, life at St Matthew Academy will return to better days.

Yours faithfully



Mr Gunningham
Assistant Head Teacher, Key Stage 3