

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

Firstly, we hope this letter meets you well as we remain in these exceptional times. Mr Charlery and I would personally like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy since full resumption to school at the start of September.

It has been lovely welcoming pupils back to school and it has been a very positive start to the year for pupils in Year 9, who have settled well after such a long period away from their friends, teachers and daily school life. 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. Nevertheless, all of our community joined in the celebration of our patron saint, socially distanced of course.

We have been impressed with the way pupils have worn their uniform 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 new school day structure and adaptations to the wider school life. We encourage you to commend your child and remind them of the importance of maintaining high standards 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 are constantly reviewing and improving our procedures and protocols to ensure that all pupils remain safe, healthy and able to make excellent progress academically. We have observed that despite our best efforts to have a different start and finish times for every year group, this has proven very difficult as pupils arrive and leave with their siblings or have to wait for them after school. This has resulted in a number of Year 9 pupils usually arriving at the same time in the morning as Year 7. In light of this, we have revised the start and finish times for Year 9 pupils.

All Year 9 pupils are now expected to be on site and lined up no later than **8.25am**. Pupils arriving after **8.30am** will be marked as late and issued with the usual academy sanction. Pupils will also be leaving school at the earlier time of **2.45pm**.

These slightly earlier arrival and finish times have a number of benefits:

- All pupils across the academy will be able to start their day with a 25min independent study session. These sessions are aimed at developing vital study skills and good habits for the future.
- Pupils have a slightly shorter day in proportion to their start time and do not have to stay late unless they have been issued a detention
- Pupils have less time to wait for siblings in other year groups
- In the event of bad or wet weather, pupils can be taken straight into their study classes to start their day

Homework rota

A timetable has been put in place to ensure that pupils have two homework 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 homework routine, which is consistent each week and ensures homework 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.

 : 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

Parents and carers will be able to monitor the completion of homework, ensuring your child meets all deadlines. You will be able to use the rota to support your child at home by better organising their time alongside other commitments they have.

Year 9 Homework Timetable	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Subject 1	Maths	Science	English	Religious Studies	History
Subject 2	Option X	Geography	Option Y	MFL	Review & Recap of key learning

The rota identifies the day that the pupil should complete the 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.

9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6
Kavin Premkumar	Zuriel Ogudoro	Georgia Brown	Naomi Sifa	Samuel Santos	Kevin Akubueze

Key Dates for Autumn Term

- **Monday, 26th October 2020 – Friday, 30th October 2020** - Half Term
- **Friday 27th November 2020** – Staff INSET Day (Academy closed to all pupils)

Important Reminders

- **All pupils are required to be on time each day, arriving no later than 8.25am 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**

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



Mr J Charlery
Director of Learning for Year 9



Mr Wanza
Assistant Head Teacher – Pastoral Lead Years 9 & 10