

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, 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 over the course of this term.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a number of changes we are making to start and finish times for pupils at the Academy particularly in Year 9. Since the resumption of schools in September, we have been following a strict and rigorous risk assessment, which we are continually evaluating. We now feel we are in a position to start to align the school day for all pupils - this will support parents and older siblings with drop off and pick up; in the secondary phase allow us to start the day with form time/assembly for all pupils and also enable us to bring back more intervention, enrichment and extra-curricular activities. The table indicates the start and finish times and the line-up and lunch time arrangements for Year 9 we will be adopting from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Start time	Entry to the Academy for pupils	Line Up	Lunch time	Dismissal time
8:35am	Walk down St Joseph's Vale on the near side (on the side the Academy is situated)	Middle Courtyard	12:00pm	2:55pm

Sanctions

Our sanction system will be reinstated from January. The incremental scale for detentions is as follows:

- 1 Behaviour Point in the day = Form Tutor Detention (20 minutes)
- 2 Behaviour Points in the day = Centralised Detention (1 hour)
- 3 Behaviour Points in the week = Friday SLT Detention (2 hours)
- 4+ Behaviour Points in the week = Saturday Detention (8.40-11.40)
- Missed Saturday Detention = BSR for 1 day

Uniform

We have been impressed by the way, in which 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 current day structure and adaptations to the wider school life. We encourage you to commend your child. However, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our uniform expectations at St Matthew Academy. These expectations are in place to ensure that uniform does not become a distraction from learning and that pupils at St Matthew Academy, take pride in themselves and their school:

- Black shoes not boots for all pupils
- Tailored trousers or SMA skirts for girls
- Black or blue coats without insignia for all pupils
- Lanyards and ID badges (these can be purchased for £3.00 in the event they are lost) for all pupils
- SMA face coverings (these can be purchased for £1.00 in the event they are lost) for all pupils

Successes

Despite the term being challenging, there have been many successes in Year 9. Firstly, a number of pupils have participated in the KPMG mentoring programme, which focuses on supporting pupils' applications for higher education and the development of life skills that will aid this. Edibeth Mendez was a finalist in the BioMedia Meltdown competition - there were 1500 entries, so to be a finalist is a fantastic achievement. Drama pupils and the youth chaplaincy team the 'Light Bearers' played an active part in the Remembrance Day celebrations, reading poems and

prayers and Desree and Tabi will play a lead role as presenters of the Christmas showcase. There have been many more fantastic contributions and all pupils should be commended.

Attendance

It is imperative that all pupils are attending school regularly and are punctual. Congratulations to the pupils below with 100 % attendance for this term.

100% Attendance		
Victoria Adebari	Alba Matos Santana	George Kionga
Abayomi Ademola	Shalome Mckellar	Konsetta Krolikowska
Kevin Akubueze	Charlie Morrin	Jochebed Kumi
Naomi Alabi	Ayomide Musibau	Nathan Lottin
Fred Anderson	Joyce Mvioki	Rahul Magar
Vieric Angwe	Dominion Ndem Christopher	Christel Masasu
Makida Arsene-Mcneish	Betsaleel N'guessan	Stiven Mateo Novas
Benita Asabere	Divine Obasogie	Moyin Solaja
Angel Baanah-Jones	Zuriel Ogudoro	Keene Sydial
Angelima Baanah-Jones	Christian Omangelo	Kaede Takeda
Tia-Marie Blackwood	Praise Onye-Koller	Michael Umunnakwe
Wildy Cabral De Brito	Kristiana Ozolina	Noah Vigille
Savannah Cavell	D'angelo Pinnock	Shannon Williams
Jose Maria Galvez Trucios	Franklin Sesay	Naomi Sifa
Marquane Gowdie	Fanta Sheriff	Dragos Groza

Achievement points and No Behaviour points

Our rewards philosophy recognises rewarding pupils for effort, academic achievement and behaviour conduct is important as part of the development of the individual through encouragement and praise. Please see below our bronze, silver and gold star reward structure.

90 points – SMA Bronze Star

150 points – SMA Silver Star

200 points – SMA Gold Star

Congratulations to the pupils below for their achievement for being rewarded for the most achievement points this term. Fantastic effort!

Top 20 pupils with the most Achievement points					
Wildy Cabral De Brito	9.6	217	Makida Arsene-Mcneish	9.5	147
Stiven Mateo Novas	9.6	205	Kaine Lamont-Mcleod	9.5	146
Zeta Brown	9.6	184	Keene Sydial	9.6	143
Savannah Hylton	9.5	181	Fred Anderson	9.6	138
George Kionga	9.5	172	Samuel Santos	9.5	136
Lara Lopes Tavares	9.6	166	Nayely Burga Males	9.6	134
Lilia Yahiaoui	9.3	159	Efosa Ise	9.5	132
Andrea Crepin	9.5	155	Amari Sharpe	9.6	128
Naomi Sifa	9.4	155	Nathan Iroanya	9.5	127
Ayomide Musibau	9.5	155	Shekinat Ali-Obalokun	9.6	126

The following pupils below did not receive any behaviour points this term. Another example of the commitment shown by pupils in Year 9 to their learning, excellent modelling of behaviour and living out the SMA Values. Well done to you all!

Mohammed Abdullah, Naomi Alabi, Iciar Aranda Lopez, Andrea Crepin, Savannah Hylton, Ibrakhim Iusupov, Finlay Jamieson, Joel Jeevaruban, Cassandra Kamegni Kadji, Edibeth Mendez, Delina Menghistab, Delina Menghistab, Kristiana Ozolina, D'angelo Pinnock, Kavin Premkumar, Aaliyah Rochester, Franklin Sesay, Naomi Sifa, Moyin Solaja.

Ranking Examinations

We will be continuing with your child's first set of ranking exams in year 9. Now is the perfect opportunity for pupils to demonstrate how much they have learnt and understood during the first wave, lockdown and since the resumption of school in September.

Pupils should have already begun revising for their exams, if not I urge you to encourage your child to begin now and during the festive period. Pupils were provided with a revision booklet devised by their subject teachers on Tuesday afternoon. An electric copy of a 'Top tips for revision' booklet to aid your child in preparing for their examinations can be found in your child's form Google classroom page.

Virtual Parents' Evening - Thursday 11th February 2021

Due to the current circumstances, Parents' Evening this year will be held virtually. More details will follow closer to the time on how the evening will be structured.

Enrichment / extra-curricular activities

In January we will be launching some extra-curricular activities that were greatly missed in Autumn Term 1. Whilst some opportunities may be limited the following activities will be offered in January:

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award
Year 9 mixed sports after school club
Homework Club

Travelling to and from the Academy and Behaviour in the Community

As Ms Baldwin commented in her letter last week, there have been a number of reports of anti-social behaviour in the local community involving some of our pupils over the last half term. We understand that the vast majority of our pupils follow expectations and behave in a responsible and sensible manner when traveling to and from the Academy. However, there remains a small group of pupils who regularly bring the reputation of the Academy into disrepute due to their poor conduct in the local area; in takeaway shops and on the buses. We expect all pupils in Year 9 to go straight home after school and we remind you that, as in previous years, pupils should not be using Blessington Road as a short cut to Lee High Road. Please ensure that your child is not in Lewisham town centre after 3.45pm. This is of vital importance given the move to Tier 3 restrictions.

As also stated in the recent letter from Ms Baldwin, to prevent unnecessary bus use in the morning secondary pupils will not be permitted to use the bus stop outside the bowling alley in Lewisham as it is only two stops to our site. In the afternoon, pupils may use the bus stop opposite St Joseph's Vale to take the 54 bus to go beyond Lewisham. We encourage all other pupils to walk into Lewisham and not wait for the 89 and 108 buses. We thank you in advance in support regarding this matter.

Key dates

Key Event	Date
INSET Day – School closed to all pupils	Friday 18 th December 2020 and Monday 4 th Jan 2021
Return to school	Tuesday 5 th January 2021
Ranking Examination Week	Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th January 2021
Virtual Parents' Evening	Thursday 11 th February 2021

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 challenging time. In the meantime, please look out for edition 3 of our SMA News published last Friday – it is a cracker! We look forward to working with you closely next year and being able to celebrate more achievements and successes of our pupils over the coming months.

Wishing you a blessed, safe, restful Christmas and good health and prosperity in the New Year.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Charlery
Director of Learning for Year 9



Mr R Wanza
Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral Lead Years 9 & 10