

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: Year 8 into Year 9

First of all, I hope this letter meets you well as we remain in these exceptional times. I would personally like to thank you all for helping to support the staff at St Matthew Academy over the last three months, particularly in ensuring pupils complete their work on Google Classrooms. 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, I would like to inform you that I will be Pastoral Lead for Year 9 from September. I will be working closely with Mr Charlery and the Year 9 form tutors to provide a first class pastoral experience for your child.

Mr Charlery and I are looking forward to welcoming Year 9 pupils back to the Academy on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September in earnest. Pupils will find some of the procedures and structures at the Academy slightly different to those to which they have become accustomed. This is due to us taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff whilst on site – as this is paramount. We are following all government guidelines on how to keep pupils as safe as possible on their return. 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 have to be kept apart: arriving at different times; eating lunch at different times and leaving at different times.

**From Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, Year 9 pupils are expected to arrive at the Academy at 8:45am in full school uniform. Lunch will be at 11:45am and dismissal at the end of the day will take place at 3:15pm. The canteen will be sanitised between each sitting of one Year Group at a time. Please ensure 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 the Academy 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:

- **Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September** – Return to school
- **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October** – Half Term
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 9 Parents' Information Evening
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021** – Half Term
- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – Ranking 1 Exams
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February – 2021** – Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021** – Half Term
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021** – Half Term
- **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021** – Ranking 2 Exams
- **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021** – Half Term

Perhaps the most obvious temporary change in the school day is that pupils in the main, will remain in their own classrooms within a designated area of the school and teachers will go to them rather than pupils making their way

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to different parts of the buildings for lessons (with the exception of some practical subjects including PE). As you are aware, you have already received an option process letter. We endeavour for pupils to be taught their option choices in the next academic year.

**Important Reminders:**

- **All pupils are required to be on time each day, arriving no later than 8:45am 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**

Finally, I would like to wish you all a blessed, safe and relaxing summer. This is 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.

Yours faithfully



**Mr R Wanza**  
**Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Lead Years 9 & 10**