

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



15 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9 Pupils

RE: Important Update following letter dated 10th December 2020.

I am writing to update you on our response to the current Covid-19 situation. As you know yesterday we had a confirmed case of coronavirus with a year 9 pupil and unfortunately we have experienced a number of confirmed staff cases too over the last few days. In addition, there are a number of staff required to self-isolate as a result of close contacts outside of the Academy.

As I have previously informed parents and carers, it is always our intention to keep the school fully open for all students, for as long as possible, and so long as safeguarding and the quality of education provided is not compromised. As you will understand, with a further reduction in staff on site, and for reasons of health and safety and the welfare of staff and students at the school, I have taken the difficult decision, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, to ask year 11 and also year 9 to stay at home for the remainder of this term.

As you are aware we already have around 30 pupils from year 9 at home self-isolating, so to ensure the smooth running of the school for the last few days of term it makes sense that this is the year group to be selected to work from home. Year 9 pupils were informed of this decision this afternoon and they have been given a hard copy of the Year 9 revision booklet for them to work through over the next couple of days and over the Christmas holiday in preparation for their ranking exams in the week beginning Monday 11th January.

This information regarding remote learning will also be uploaded on Google Classrooms so pupils can access links directly to suggested websites and software. I urge all parents and carers to ensure their child is revising regularly over the coming weeks so they are fully prepared for their first set of exams this academic year. If you have any queries regarding access to work then please contact info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk or your child's tutor directly.

Mr Charlery and Mr Wanza are also preparing a letter including further details about arrangements for next year and celebrating the successes and achievements of this term. Please look out for this tomorrow. **Unless your child has received a close contact letter they will not be required to self-isolate during this time.**

I appreciate this situation may be challenging for you and your family. However, it is necessary for your child to learn from home to protect the health and safety of pupils, staff and families and to help reduce the spread of infection. Thank you in advance for your support at this time.

As a reminder, Monday 4th January 2021 is a designated Staff training day, therefore pupils are NOT required to attend school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils for their hard work, commitment and achievements so far. On behalf of all the staff at St Matthew Academy, I would like to thank you for your support this year and to wish you a Merry Christmas. We look forward to seeing the pupils back in the New Year on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher

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