

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to St Matthew Academy for the academic year 2023-2024! Year 8 have made a fantastic start to the year, settling in well to new routines and really understanding the importance of our expectations of them for the weeks and months ahead. We are incredibly proud of how well pupils have thrown themselves into what promises to be a year full of new learning opportunities and fabulous new extracurricular experiences here at SMA!

I would ask that you encourage your children to maintain the effort they have demonstrated so far this term, towards their schoolwork and homework. Please see the Year 8 homework timetable below. This timetable will assist all our pupils with their time management and help them to avoid the feeling of being overwhelmed. It is encouraged that our pupils complete 2 pieces of homework each evening, on the days indicated below.

Year 8	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Subject 1	SPARX Literacy	Maths	Art and DT Carousel	Science	Computer Science & Performing Arts Carousel
Subject 2	Religious Education	History	MfL	Geography	English

If your child has any issues with logging on to any of the online platforms, please ask them to speak to that subject teacher in the first instance so that they can get assistance with resetting a password if necessary.

It is also important that we continue to ensure that we are all on time at the Academy each day. Pupils should arrive each morning between 08:00 and 08:30 at the latest. Morning line up is at 8:35am. As an Academy, we are committed to ensuring a well-rounded education for our pupils - any time missed has an impact on their academic progress. Please join us in encouraging our pupils to strive to be on time, every day.

Uniform has been impeccable for the most part and I congratulate our pupils on the pride they take in ensuring they look smart by adhering to the SMA uniform policy. Just to remind you, trainers are not to be worn during the school day (outside of PE lessons and lunchtime on the astro). Please support your children by labelling their blazers and jumpers with their initials so that they can be identified should they ever get misplaced or lost.

All our pupils have now been issued with new school lanyards and ID badges. These need to be worn at all times because they remain an important part of our uniform. If one of our pupils finds themselves with a lost or damaged lanyard, it must be replaced. You will find the link available to do so on your ParentPay account.

If you have any problems with your Parentpay account or you have a general query about Parentpay, then please email our Parentpay admin lead Ms. Flemming directly: efl@stmatthewacademy.co.uk

We are delighted to announce that we have new caterers this year, 'Olive Dining.' The pupils have been telling me that the food is a tasty, healthy and that there is lots of choice. This offer includes self-serve salads available with all hot meals. The best value for money is the 'meal deal', which consists of a main meal and a desert. We advise pupils to drink water with their meals; however, there is always the option to purchase a juice carton or other drinks. A full list of our lunchtime offer, prices and menus are available on our school website on the link [here](#).

It has been great to see so many of our pupils start the year with their water bottles - refilling them at different water fountains around the Academy. It is important that pupils drink plenty of water, particularly at lunchtime to ensure they all remain hydrated. Water bottles are available through various online and high street retailers such as Amazon, Argos & the Pound Shop located in the Lewisham Centre.

Finally, a reminder to ensure everyone remains safe travelling to and from the Academy at all times. Please remind your children to be aware of their surroundings; to use a consistent safe route which is well lit and if possible to walk with others. The Metropolitan Police have a letter, which they would like us to share with you all regarding this. You can find it attached to this letter.

Thank you once again for all you do and your continued support as we all look forward to a successful academic year here at St Matthew Academy.

Yours faithfully



Mr F Magar
Senior Assistant Headteacher
fma@stmatthewacademy.co.uk