

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX
Headteacher: Mr James Potter



6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new academic year.

September is a brilliant time of year, full of hope and optimism about the future as we all get a fresh start. I am really pleased to see that all of our pupils have arrived with such a positive attitude to the year ahead.

It is my commitment to all of our families is that staff at SMA will continue to work hard to deliver an exceptional learning experience for our young people. Our promise to you all and our families is that we will continue to build on the exceptional results achieved this summer, by evolving our curriculum which will allow our academy to flourish, and support our goal of becoming the best school in South London, which our community deserves.

We will work hard to ensure we embed pupil and staff wellbeing and happiness across the whole academy, not just because this is desirable in its own right but it is as a prerequisite for high academic standards that we all expect. Working in collaboration with parents and carers to reinforce our high expectations is essential for our success to continue.

One of our key priorities for this academic year is attendance and punctuality. We must all work together to ensure attendance to school remains at 96% or better. Every day of lost learning does serious harm and research states children who attend school regularly are twice as likely to achieve strong GCSEs and SATs results in English and Maths compared with those who are persistently absent. The consequences last a lifetime. Our drive on attendance and punctuality is aligned with the new Labour Government's recommendations. I would like to reassure all our families by working collaboratively we can achieve our attendance goals and please do not hesitate communicate with us if you require any support with your child's attendance.

Over the summer months St Matthew Academy has undergone an extensive programme of improvements both to the buildings as well as electronic systems. We have migrated to new MIS platform, Bromcom and have introduced the *My Child at School App* (MCAS). Both interfaces will provide exceptional service for families and staff. These platforms will be fully functional from Monday 9th September 2024 and you will receive detailed information about these two systems in the coming days.

In the coming weeks we will be hosting a number of morning events which will give you an opportunity to meet me and provide you a platform for asking any questions you may have. I cannot wait to lead St Matthew Academy as we begin the next phase of the journey towards becoming a truly exceptional school. There will be challenges over the coming weeks, months and terms but I have no doubt by working in partnership we will overcome these, which will allow us to celebrate our successes as a community.

God Bless.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Potter
Headteacher

☎ : 0208 853 6250 ✉ : info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk 🌐 : www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk 🐦 : @stmattacad

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