

St Matthew Academy

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

Executive Head: Mr Serge Cefai

Head of School: Ms Miranda Baldwin



5 June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Religious Education Examination – Early GCSE Entry

We are writing to inform you of a change in the school curriculum; taking place during the next academic year 2018/2019, affecting the examination of Religious Education (RE) at St Matthew Academy. The decision has been taken that pupils will now sit their RE examination in Year 10, as opposed to Year 11. As you may be aware, GCSE's are now graded from 1-9, whilst also adopting a more rigorous assessment criteria affecting all subjects.

The decision for pupils to complete their RE GCSE examination a year early will provide them with the opportunity to have a full year dedicated to preparing for their RE exam, whilst also enabling them to gain invaluable insight into the GCSE process prior to Year 11. Unfortunately, there will not be an opportunity to re-sit this examination. Both of our partnership schools, Sacred Heart and St Thomas the Apostle College (STAC), both adjudged 'outstanding' by Ofsted, have entered their pupils into early GCSE for RE - yielding excellent results consistently over the years. Last year, Sacred Heart achieved 86% A*- C and 47% A*- A GCSE results.

So as to effectively prepare our pupils, RE will be taught three times a week in Year 10. To accommodate this change in the curriculum, a six period day will be adopted once a week for the Year 10 cohort commencing in the new academic year.

Information and guidance given to pupils and parents/carers is paramount to a smooth and successful transition of the early GCSE entry in RE. Therefore, we would like to offer you the opportunity to attend a '**Meet and Greet Q & A forum**', to provide a detailed overview of the planned changes. There will also be a chance to ask questions regarding the support available to your child over the coming year.

The '**Meet and Greet Q & A forum**' will take place on **Monday 11th June 2018** at **3:30pm – 4:30pm & 5pm – 6pm**.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Mr Wanza or Ms McInnis.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Wanza
Assistant Head Teacher

Ms McInnis
Teacher of RE

Let your light shine

