

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



19 December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw near to the end of the first term, I would firstly like to take this opportunity to thank you and your child for their support. As you will be aware, the Academy was inspected by Ofsted this term and was judged 'good'.

I am incredibly proud of all pupils in Year 11. Across the course of the term, pupils have applied themselves well in lessons. Many pupils have been rightfully rewarded for their effort and diligent approach to their learning in the DoL Rewards assemblies this term, and I look forward to celebrating future successes of the year group in the upcoming months. I would like to congratulate them on all their hard work in the weeks leading up to the PPE exams and the effort in class and in the interventions. Please see the attached intervention document for information regarding all intervention leading up to GCSEs in May.

## Notices

### Health and Safety/Uniform

All pupils at the academy were issued with an identification card, which pupils should wear on a lanyard. This is part of the school uniform and we expect pupils to wear the lanyard at all times throughout the school day. Damaged or lost lanyards/I.D cards can be purchased via Parent Pay. I would be grateful if parents/carers would support the school in ensuring your child is fully equipped for the school day, punctual to school and in full school uniform.

### Sanctions and Rewards

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a number of changes we are making to our Academy Behaviour Policy in the secondary phase:

- Our daily-centralised detention will now run for 90 minutes and end at 4.30pm. As usual text messages will be sent out to parents before 3.15pm. Although lessons are rarely disrupted at SMA when this does happen, pupils have told us they find it frustrating and they want it to stop. Research in other schools has shown that when they introduced longer detentions the number of pupils being sanctioned dropped dramatically.
- There will no longer be Friday 5.00pm detentions
- Saturday detentions will run based on points accumulated during the calendar week from Monday to Friday. This means that letters for Saturday detention will be emailed on the Friday (day before) and followed up with a text. We will not be sending paper letters home so I encourage all parents and carers to ensure they keep us updated with any changes to mobile phone numbers and email addresses.
- Non-attendance without a valid reason will result in pupils spending a week in centralised detention plus a carry-over of the Saturday detention.

I also suggest secondary parents sign up for the SIMS parent app, which gives daily updates on attendance, punctuality, behaviour and achievement points.

These changes are unlikely to affect the vast majority of the school population but we expect them to act as a much stronger deterrent to those pupils that are failing to meet basic academy expectations.

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We are also responding to pupil feedback regarding late detentions and the suggestion made that the punishment is very harsh for pupils arriving only a couple of minutes late. We are all aware that traffic in Lewisham has been particularly problematic this term and when you inform us of an incident that affects our pupils, we do not issue late detentions. However it is crucial that pupils get themselves into good habits so it is important that we continue to sanction lateness.

We are introducing a two-tier system that we hope will be much fairer for all, and encourage pupils to ensure they are on time for school.

- Pupils arriving between **8.37am and 8.50am** will be signed in by a member of staff and will serve a 20-minute detention with their form tutor at the end of the day.
- Pupils arriving **after 8.50am** will have to sign in at reception using the electronic registering system and will serve a 90-minute detention at the end of the day.

Finally, we are introducing a new reward incentive for pupils to recognise exemplary behaviour and conduct in corridors, around the school site during unstructured times and in the local community. Any member of staff will be able to issue a 'caught being good' golden ticket to pupils. These golden tickets will be placed in the boxes located in reception and the library and when a golden ticket draw takes place, pupils have a chance of winning cinema tickets or restaurant vouchers. We look forward to our pupils rising to the challenge of 'caught being good'.

## Upcoming events – Spring Term 1

I am looking forward to seeing all parents/carers in January to discuss and celebrate year 11 PPE results.

<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Year 11 parents evening
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Personal Development Day 3 & DoL Rewards Assembly

## Early closure

The academy will close 12.00 noon on Friday 20th December 2019 and reopen for pupils on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Finally, I wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. I look forward to working with you and your child in 2020.

Kind regards

**Miss K Migon**  
**Director of Learning Year 11**

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