

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



8 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to wish you happy and prosperous New Year.

The first term of the academic school was a hugely successful for the academy and the year 8's especially. As you are aware, the Academy was inspected by Ofsted and was judged 'good' in all aspects. I am incredibly proud of all pupils in Year 8. Across the course of the term, pupils have applied themselves well in lessons. Many pupils have been rightfully awarded 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. In addition, Year 8's have let their light shine and showed fantastic community spirit with giving for the Christmas campaign collection and had the biggest representation in the Christmas showcase.

Notices

Health and Safety/Uniform

All pupils at the academy have been issued with an identification card, which pupils should wear on a lanyard. This is part of the school uniform and I 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.

: 0208 853 6250 : info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk : www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk : @stmattacad

The St Matthew Academy Limited. A company limited by guarantee whose registered office is situated at St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London, SE3 0XX
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Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all

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SIMS app

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.

Lateness to school

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 we are informed 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 also 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

Tuesday 21st January	Early school closure 1:50pm (Secondary only)
Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February – HALF TERM	
Wednesday 12th February	Personal Development Day 3 (PSHCE)
Thursday 28th March	Options Evening
Friday 13th February	Personal Development Day 4 (PSHCE)
Friday 27th March	HPV Vaccination 2
Friday 3rd March	Last day of Term (all pupils leave at 12pm)

I look forward to working with you and your child for the remainder of the school year. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email at jec@stmatthewacademy.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr J Charlery

Director of Learning Year 8

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