

# St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Partial Academy Closure for Years 8 and 9: Thursday 19 March to Friday 20 March inclusive.**

I am writing to inform you that the academy will be closed to all pupils in Years 8, and 9 on Thursday 19th March until the end of Friday 20th March in the first instance. This is a result of an unsustainable level of staff shortage due to a significant number of staff self-isolating due to the changed government guidance issued on Monday evening.

In line with government guidance, we have worked hard to keep the academy open for all pupils, but this is now no longer possible. This has been a difficult decision to make. We have prioritised keeping the academy open for pupils who are closest to their GCSE exams and also for our younger pupils in Reception to Year 7. All primary and year 7 pupils are expected to continue to attend the Academy as normal. We will endeavour to keep the academy open for the older year groups for as long as possible.

This is an unprecedented and ever-changing situation. We will keep you updated about next steps. Please regularly check the academy website and Twitter for updates, along with your email and text messages.

Our teachers have organised a variety of home learning tasks for your child to complete in line with the planned curriculum which can be accessed via the link below. Tasks will be updated frequently so please do continue to check the website: <https://www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk/home-learning>

Pupils have been reissued with their email address and passwords checked today at school. Please check that your child is able to log in this evening. If they have any difficulties with accessing the log in, or a password has been forgotten, please email your child's full name and tutor group to [passwordreset@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:passwordreset@stmatthewacademy.co.uk). Please do that this evening or as soon as possible tomorrow.

You should also contact us if your child does not have access to the internet at home so that we can make alternative arrangements for home learning. Please do this either by calling Main Reception or by emailing [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)

Please continue to follow the advice issued by Public Health England in relation to the coronavirus and ensure that your child is fully briefed on their responsibilities related to this. Any pupils who are showing symptoms of either a new persistent cough or a temperature should stay at home. The new guidance currently says that they should self-isolate along with all members of their household. This can be found at this link and you should check this advice on a daily basis for further updates: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

If your child is eligible for a free academy meal, over the next two days they can come into academy for their lunch time if you would like them to. All pupils should arrive in full academy uniform and sign in and out at the academy gate. The timings at which pupils should be on the academy site if they would like to have their free academy meal is between 1.00pm to 1.45pm. If your child is self-isolating for any reason and is eligible for a free academy meal, please contact the Main Academy Reception or email [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)

☎ : 0208 853 6250 ✉ : [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) 🌐 : [www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk) 🐦 : @stmattacad

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Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all

Any pupil with a safeguarding concern can contact Mr Young, our Designated Safeguarding Lead via email at AYO@stmatthewacademy.co.uk. This email will be available for a response during academy hours only. You may also use these contact details if you have a concern about your child or another child.

If your child requires any emotional support at this difficult time, they may access:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

or

<https://www.kooth.com/> (Kooth is an online counselling service)

Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you require any clarification about any matter in this letter. It would support the smooth running of the academy if you could do this by contacting us via email at [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk).

Thank you, in advance, for your support for our continued efforts to manage the academy during this very turbulent period. We send our very best wishes to all families in our local community and look forwards to sharing news of the academy returning to normal opening as soon as we possibly can.

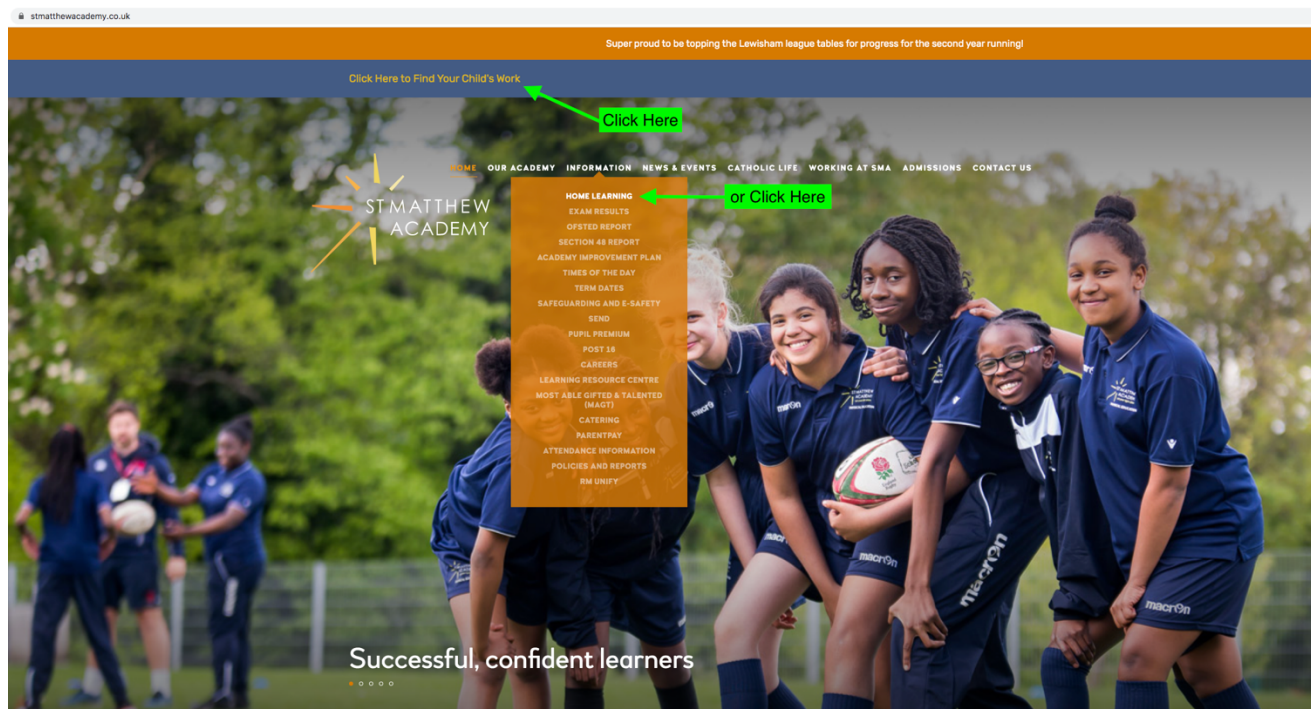
Yours faithfully



**Ms M Baldwin**  
**Headteacher**

## Remote learning for pupils- A guide for Parents and Carers

In the eventuality of a school closure you can access remote learning through our website at the following link <https://www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk/home-learning>



**Year 7 & 8 pupils** have a variety of work, online and paper based, which has been set by their teachers in line with the planned curriculum. All work is outlined in the year 7 area on the website including hyperlinks to the relevant online learning sites for ease of use. In subjects where booklets are needed these have been printed and handed to pupils or posted home to pupils who have been absent this week. The worksheet clearly outlines the recommended time to spend on each subject each day. You will also find a project based challenge sheet which is optional.

**Year 9 & 10 & 11 pupils** have access to online and paper based work which have already been distributed in most cases. All tasks are clearly outlined on the website link and include hyperlinks to the online learning sites.

## Log into pupils emails using outlook

