

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



15 May 2020

Dear Secondary Phase Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware the government has announced plans for some primary children to start to return to school from Monday 1st June (at the earliest). This date is not yet confirmed and the government will continue to make further announcements. As parents and carers of secondary aged children we know you will have questions about when your children will be able to return to school but as it stands the government have indicated that **'Secondary schools and further education colleges should also prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils who have key exams next year'**. Whilst it is clear that the phased return for students is starting with some primary school students, we have been given no date yet for a phased return of our Year 10 students.

Since schools were closed on 20th March, schools have only been providing childcare for Key worker children and those who are vulnerable and this will continue at St Matthew Academy.

You as parents and carers will have many questions about what form the return to school will take and, most importantly, how schools intend to safeguard the health and safety of both children and staff. We all want to get children back into school, however, the first priority has to be the safety of everyone within the school community.

Once further national guidance is issued and we have had time to consider this, we will send out additional details on our plan for a phased reopening. I am working with the Leadership Team to develop a plan that will ensure the safety of the children, yourselves and the staff working in school and once there are further details I will send these home to all families.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the families who participated in our Remote Learning Survey this past week. We have had 243 responses so far and your feedback is helping us to develop our home-learning further to enable all pupils to access high quality learning. It is great to hear that the majority of you are happy with the quality and amount of work being set and that you think communication from the school, about your child's learning, has been informative and helpful.

The key actions we are busily putting into place quickly in response to your feedback is as follows:

- This week our teachers have been busily preparing work packs to post home to a large number of our pupils where there are difficulties accessing online learning. These are being posted as I write this!
- Our form tutors and some class teachers will now be uploading short videos of themselves to help motivate and encourage
- We will make sure that the PHSCE sessions each week have a focus on how to cope and stay mentally and physically healthy during lockdown
- 'Live' filmed assemblies will be delivered each week by DOL and our chaplaincy team
- All tutors will be making wellbeing check phone calls over the next two weeks
- Weekly virtual newsletters will now be posted on Google classrooms each week for pupils to access in their own time

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

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I thank you again for your fantastic support and commitment to not only your child's learning, but to the whole St Matthew Academy community.

Yours sincerely

Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher

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