

St Matthew Academy

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

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a very different half term, we are writing to you with some key information to support your child with learning for next term.

It has been a delight to see so many of your children engaged in high quality learning these past 9 weeks. Thank you to those who have taken the time to share some of their success with us, some of which has been shared in our weekly newsletter which we hope you have been reading.

It is looking increasingly likely that most year groups in secondary will not return to a 'normal' day at school this summer term. As I am sure you agree this extended length of face-to-face learning time without a specialist teacher is not ideal. Therefore, it is vital that all of our pupils are in good working and learning routines at home that will not only support their educational needs but also improve wellbeing and mental health.

Increasing pupil engagement in remote learning continues to be our main priority next term. It has been good to see a steady increase in engagement in Years 7 & 8 however many older pupils are still not taking advantage of the excellent and well developed activities their teachers have provided via Google Classroom.

During half term and beyond we will continue to offer our provision for Critical Workers to all year groups. Please do let the school office know by sending an email to info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk with a copy of your work identification attached, for those who have not already provided this if you would now like to make use this provision.

In response to guidance from the Government we are planning on inviting year 10 pupils back into school for short, small group face-to-face sessions with their teachers from June 8th; this is of course, is subject to change dependent on the advice outlined in the Government announcement on May 28th. It is imperative that all pupils attend these sessions in order for them to make a good start on Year 11 content and knowledge. We will write to Year 10 families in due course with a detailed planned and timetables.

In the meantime, please encourage, cajole, bribe and instruct your child to be up each school day at a reasonable time, to eat healthy meals, stay fit and keep to the suggested daily schedule for learning as much as possible. We all know that having a regular routine (see suggested model below) benefits young people greatly, routines give young people a sense of security and stability and help them feel safe and secure in their environment.

Suggested daily routine

8:45am	Wake up call
9:00am	Joe Wickes or Mr Saunders workout to liven up learning muscles
9:30am	Healthy and nutritious breakfast
9:50am	Prepare and plan learning for the day
10:00-12:00pm	Begin learning
12:00-1:00pm	Healthy and nutritious lunch and outdoor time if possible
1:00-3:00pm	Final learning time of the day
Build in time each day for outdoor time- either a walk or outdoor exercise.	

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

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If there are any families who are struggling to get the right balance of learning routine and rest time at home with their child support is available. Please let your child's form tutor or Director of Learning know so that we can provide guidance and help.

The staff here at SMA are missing their smiling faces so we have put together a short film to show them how much we do! Please take the time to watch this with your child and read this week's newsletter full of exciting lively news and top tips.

Finally, I would like to take this time to wish you all a safe and healthy half term break. We all look forward to the time, very soon, when we will welcome all pupils back through the school gates each day.

Yours sincerely



Ms E Thurston
Deputy Headteacher



Mr A Young
Deputy Headteacher