

20 July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you at the end of a very busy academic year that started with some fantastic news regarding the achievement of all of our pupils in the Key Stage 1 and 2 National tests and our Year 11 pupils in their GCSE examinations and finishes with some excellent news from our recent Ofsted inspection. I am sure by now you will have read the report on the Academy website following the text that was sent to all parents and carers on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. You will be delighted to have read that the Academy is no longer deemed inadequate and that in just a year we have made significant progress against all of the areas that Ofsted stated needed to improve further. Our Early years provision, Personal development, behaviour and welfare were all deemed '**good**' which is very encouraging. The effectiveness of leadership and management were also rated '**good**' which means that parents and carers can be reassured that we will continue to tackle those specific areas identified as 'requiring improvement', robustly. It is also important to reiterate that the judgement showed Key Stage 4 overall progress was high and that pupils' progress in Year 6 in reading and mathematics was above the national average.

The report correctly identified that there are some aspects of the school that still require improvement. I can assure you that I, and all teachers at the Academy, will use this report to further consolidate the improvements made this year. With this in place I am confident that we will deliver the highest educational standards so we can truly live up to our motto of 'let your light shine'. We are aware of what needs doing and are now in the process of embedding consistently outstanding teaching, even higher expectations and accelerating attainment and progress of all pupils. Our target regarding attendance needs direct support from you as the parents and carers of the Academy pupils. Attendance at the Academy needs to be better for everyone and especially for particular groups of pupils. Research shows that pupils with attendance below 97% (6 days or more in an academic year) are at risk of underachievement – I therefore urge you to ensure your child attends school every day and that all holidays are taken outside of term time to enable your children to have the best possible chance of making outstanding progress at school. At our end of year assembly on Friday I will be awarding 20 pupils with 100% attendance certificates and prizes - next year I would like to see this figure doubled at the very least!

As a follow up to the Ofsted visit and report I would like to invite you to a meeting for all parents and carers on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at either 3.45pm or at 6.00pm when we will outline our improvement plans in more detail and consult with you on areas of Academy life that you would like to see improved. Can I also take this chance to thank you for your continued support as we make these positive changes to Academy life.

Other important dates for your diary are:

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	First day of Autumn term – Year 6 and Year 7	8.37am
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	First day of Autumn term – All other pupils	8.37am
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Secondary Open Evening	5.00pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Secondary Open Morning	9.00am
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Secondary Open Morning	9.00am
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 9 Information Evening	6.00pm
Week beginning 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 7 ranking exam week	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 11 Expectations evening	6.00pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 Parents' Evening	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Week beginning 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 8 ranking exam week	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Staff training day – Academy closed to pupils	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 8 Parents' Evening	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Mock exams start	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term – early finish from 12 to 12.15pm	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	First day of Spring term	8.37am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Parents' Evening	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Parents' Evening	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10 Parents' Evening	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 8 Options Evening	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Parents' Evening	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 7 Parents' Evening	4.30pm – 6.30pm

I hope you have all been able to take a look at our new school website and found the calendar which also outlines all of these key dates. It has taken many months of hard work to ensure it is up to date and provides parents and the community with information they need. We will be uploading news on a weekly basis so please do ensure you visit it regularly to keep up to date with life at the Academy. If there is content you would like to see or other feedback that you have then please do let us know.

As is the case for all schools at this time of the year we will be saying goodbye and good luck to a number of teaching staff at the end of term. Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Ms Hynes, Deputy Headteacher who has worked tirelessly this year overseeing our new assessment systems at the Academy and keeping our Year 11 on track by planning targeted intervention and revision to meet identified needs. Sadly we will also be saying goodbye to Mr Simpson, Media Studies teacher who has made the decision to pursue his career overseas in Thailand next year after 6 years working at the Academy. He will be missed by staff and students alike, many of whom have had amazing opportunities to excel under his guidance and motivation. Mrs Harris, one of our maths teachers will also be moving on to a new school next year and we thank her for all her hard work in the maths team over her 8 years at the Academy. In the technology team Mr Bamgbose has decided to pursue a new opportunity in another local school - I know his GCSE pupils are really going to miss his enthusiasm and passion for technology. In the secondary phase I would also like to express our gratitude to a number of temporary teachers who stepped in to take over vacant posts mid-way through the year - Ms Keyes (Textiles teacher), Ms Johnson (Catering and Hospitality teacher), Mr McGuire (PE teacher), Ms Rudden (Drama) and Ms Cavanagh (RE), we wish them well as they move on to new opportunities. In the primary phase we are also saying goodbye to a number of dedicated staff who are moving on to new ventures locally and further afield after a short time with us at St Matthew Academy. We thank Ms Ritucci for her hard work over the last year; the children will really miss her lunchtime drama clubs. We are saying goodbye to Mr Yin Cheng, who is continuing in his travels and moving to Scotland. Mr Corette is going to spend some more time with his family in Germany, and Miss Gawor is moving to a school closer to home.

During this term we have also said goodbye to a number of support staff including several long standing teaching assistants and indeed support staff that have been at the Academy ever since it opened. The input from these colleagues is highly valued and without their hard work behind the scenes the day to day running of the Academy would not function efficiently and smoothly so it is important that we recognise the special contribution that all of these staff make to the outcomes for all of our pupils.

I am pleased to announce that although we have had a number of valued teaching staff leaving during this year we will start the new academic year in September 2017 fully staffed with a number of key new staff appointments. Mrs Thurston will be joining the Academy leadership team as our new Deputy Headteacher, with key responsibility for progress and standards. In primary we have two new experienced teachers for our Year 6 classes – Mr Kohlberg and Mrs Greenlees. Mr Kohlberg will also be taking on responsibility for leading learning across Year 5 and 6 and Mrs Greenless for behaviour systems in the primary phase. In secondary, Ms Stewart has been appointed Head of Performing Arts and Ms Wright Head of Art and Technology and we are looking forward to these experienced teachers bringing a wealth of expertise in leadership of these key areas.

As we approach the end of the school year – a challenging but exciting one for everyone - I am sure parents, carers and pupils will share with me in thanking all the staff for their continuing hard work and commitment, enabling St Matthew Academy students to excel. **Year 6 pupils' return to the Academy for learning at 8.37am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and they will be joined by our new Year 7 cohort. The remainder of our pupils return on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8.37am.** We expect to see all students on time, wearing their full uniform smartly and correctly equipped for learning.

Very best wishes for a restful summer break. I look forward to seeing many of you at one of the parent meetings on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September and/or at the Late Summer Fayre on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours sincerely



Ms M Baldwin  
Head of School