



# SMRCHS ROUNDUP

06.03.2026



## Repent, believe and begin again

Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of Our School Community,

As we come to the end of another busy and purposeful fortnight at St Matthew's, I want to begin by offering my sincere thanks for your continued support, particularly around attendance. Thanks to your partnership and commitment, our school has recently received a Top 10% National FFT Attendance Award, a remarkable achievement that reflects the dedication of our families, staff, and pupils alike. It is something we should all be proud of.

Our Year 11 students are working incredibly hard as their GCSE examinations draw nearer. Several practical assessments are already underway, and we continue to be impressed by their maturity, focus, and determination to achieve their very best. Please continue to encourage them to remain consistent with revision and to take full advantage of the support and intervention sessions available. A special mention must go to Year 7, who have shown exceptional commitment to their learning with very high attendance over the last two weeks, well above national averages. Their enthusiasm and positivity are a credit to yourselves shining through in every aspect of school life—well done, Year 7!

Meanwhile, Year 9 are entering an exciting and important stage as they prepare to select their GCSE options. These choices will help shape the next steps of their learning journey, and we encourage pupils and families to have thoughtful and open conversations about strengths, interests, and aspirations.

Our Year 10 students are already well into the first half of their GCSE courses. Their growing confidence, resilience, and developing subject expertise are evident in lessons, and we are delighted to see them rise to the demands of this crucial year.

Year 8 are flourishing in their lessons across school and continue to break records with their strong attendance and positive attitude in school.

**A Reflection from This Sunday's Gospel**  
This Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening for God's voice and recognising his presence in the small, everyday moments of life. Just as Jesus invites his followers to trust in Him, we too are called to walk with faith, patience, and an openness to growth—qualities we see reflected in the young people of St Matthew's each day. May this message inspire us as we continue to work together for the good of our community.

God bless, Mr Nightingale, Headteacher

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# SMRCHS Chaplaincy



As winter fades and spring approaches, two sacred seasons are underway for many members of our school community: Lent and Ramadan. Though rooted in different faith traditions, both seasons share powerful themes of reflection, self-discipline, prayer, and service to others. For Christians around the world, Lent is a 40-day season of preparation leading up to Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and is marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (charitable giving). During Lent, many Christians choose to give something up—such as sweets or social media—or take on a positive habit like volunteering or spending extra time in prayer. Lent also calls Christians to live out their faith through service and justice. One of the ways our school community does this is through Saint Joseph's Penny. During Lent especially, students are encouraged to think about how they can make a difference—whether through fundraising efforts, service projects, or simple acts of kindness. Ramadan is the holiest month in Islam. During this month, Muslims fast each day from dawn until sunset.

Fasting means abstaining from food and drink during daylight hours, but it also includes striving to avoid negative behaviours and focus on kindness, patience, and gratitude.

Ramadan is a time of deep spiritual reflection, increased prayer, reading of the Qur'an, and acts of charity. At sunset each day, Muslims break their fast with a meal called iftar, traditionally beginning with dates and water.

At our school, we are proud to support our Muslim students during Ramadan. Each afternoon, students who are fasting gather in the dance studio—a quiet and welcoming space—to pray and break their fast together at the end of the school day.

Food is provided so that students can enjoy iftar in the community. This gathering is more than just a meal; it is a moment of belonging, shared faith, and friendship. It reflects our school's commitment to inclusion and respect for diverse religious traditions.

Both Lent and Ramadan teach us that faith is not just personal; it is communal. It challenges us to care for one another and to build a more just and compassionate world.

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# Voluntary Mass



Celebrant: Fr Nicholas

## Staff Mass

 Chapel

 Thursdays

 8:00 – 8:15am

## Student Mass

 T1

 Thursdays

 1.30 – 1.45pm

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# Attendance



## Why 'Odd Days Off' Make a Big Difference

We understand that children can occasionally feel under the weather or have off days. However, taking single "odd days" off here and there can have a much bigger impact than many parents realise.

A day missed every few weeks quickly adds up. Over the course of a school year, just one day off every half term is the equivalent of losing a full week of learning. When absences are sporadic, it can be even more difficult for students to catch up because they miss different lessons each time – which can affect their confidence, understanding, and friendships.

Regular attendance helps children to:

- Build consistent routines
- Develop resilience
- Keep up with lesson sequences
- Maintain friendships and social connections
- Feel secure and confident in school

When attendance becomes irregular due to occasional single days off, we may begin to request medical evidence for further absences. This is not about being unsupportive; it is about ensuring that absence is genuinely unavoidable and helping students maintain strong attendance habits.

If your child is feeling slightly unwell but is still able to attend, we would always encourage them to come into school. In many cases, students feel better once they are in routine and among their friends. If they become too unwell during the day, we will always contact you.

If you have any concerns about your child's health or attendance, please contact the Attendance Team so we can work together to provide support.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day possible.

**If you require any support or advice to help your child to improve their attendance, the please get in touch with us at school or email: [Attendance@smrchs.com](mailto:Attendance@smrchs.com)**

- **G Matthew: Strategic Attendance Lead**
- **J Anderson: Attendance Lead**
- **S Ross: Attendance Officer /Safeguarding Officer**

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# Housing Information



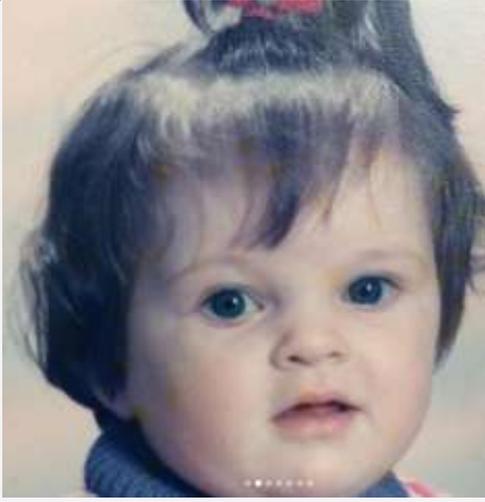
**TUESDAY  
10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
4.00 - 5.30PM**

Are you at risk of being evicted  
or living with disrepair?  
Come along to our information  
event at St Matthew's.

**To book a place email:  
[contact@smrchs.com](mailto:contact@smrchs.com)**

**A presentation will take place @ 4.15,  
followed by discussions with professionals  
from 4.45-5.30. Refreshments provided.**

# GUESS WHO ?



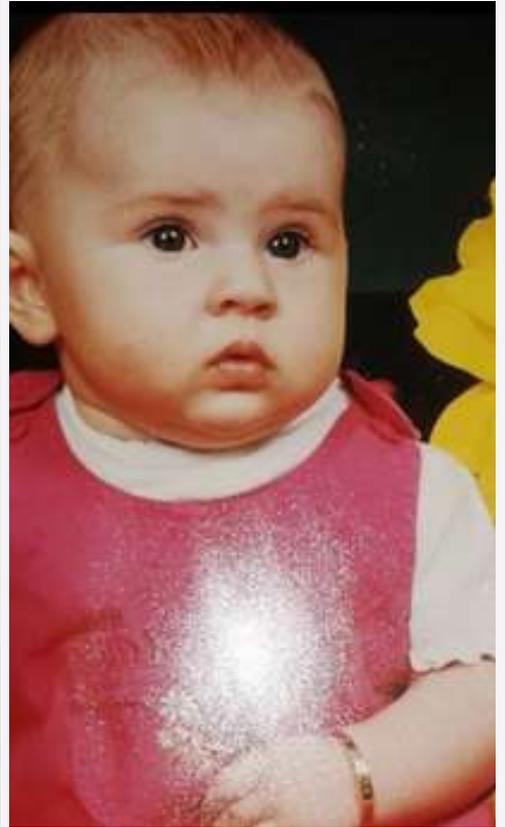
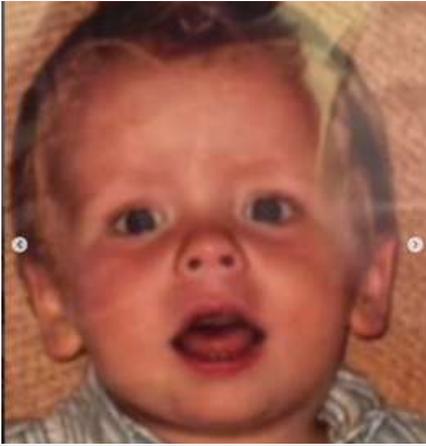
**It's National Careers Week and we're feeling inspired...**

Every journey starts somewhere and this week, staff are sharing photographs of themselves as children, so our pupils can see just how far they have come! From big dreams to big achievements, their stories prove that anything is possible with passion, perseverance, and a little imagination.

**Can you guess who's who??!**

**(Here's a clue... SMRCHS English Department...)**

# GUESS WHO ?



**Baby to Staff Careers Week continued...**

**Here's a clue...**

This department spends most of their time in sports kit, building resilience, promoting teamwork and encouraging lifelong healthy habits. They play a vital role in helping our pupils stay active and confident.

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# SMRCHS TRAMPOLINING CLUB



Open to all KS3 Girls

Every **MONDAY** @ Lunchtime

First come... First served! Don't forget to bring your socks!



**A Shout Out to all of those students who have attended Trampolining club!**

We've had a fantastic turnout and students are working hard on their front landings and swivel hips.

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# SMRCHS TECHNOLOGY SUPERSTARS



**Well done to all our  
Technology Super Stars!**

<b>Media</b> Miss Elliott	<b>Mariatu</b> Y10	<b>Mohammad A</b> Y11			
<b>Food Technology</b> Mrs Walsh	<b>Emma</b> Y11	<b>Famous</b> Y9	<b>Eliza</b> Y7		
<b>Textiles</b> Miss Raynes	<b>Neave</b> Y10	<b>Sophie</b> Y10	<b>Michelle</b> Y8		
<b>Textiles</b> Mrs Lee	<b>Katie</b> Y8	<b>Bonnie Bleu</b> Y9			
<b>Food Technology</b> Mrs O'Leary	<b>Acksah</b> Y8	<b>Kimmy</b> Y8			
<b>Resistant Materials</b> Mr Higgs	<b>Rina</b> Y7	<b>Jacob</b> Y8	<b>Saffie</b> Y9	<b>Cody</b> Y10	<b>Filip</b> Y11
<b>Food Technology</b> Mr Atkin	<b>Ghufran</b> Y7	<b>Ayanda</b> Y7			
<b>Food Technology</b> Miss Richardson	<b>Theo</b> Y8				
<b>Food Technology</b> Mr Lowe	<b>Logan</b> Y8				

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# SMRCHS RE SUPERSTARS



Well done to all  
our RE Super Stars!

Teacher	HT4 2026
Mrs Ackers	Josh (Y7)
Mrs Callison	Savannah (Y7)
Miss Cooper	Lola (Y9)
Mr Hall	George (Y8)
Mrs Hill	Suraya (Y8) & Dylan (Y7)
Mrs Lennon	Brian & Theo (Y10)
Mrs O'Leary	Temi (Y9)



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# SMRCHS TOP ART AWARD



**Huge congratulations to all the students who achieved the SMRCHS Top Art Award!**

Your creativity, hard work, and talent have truly shone through. We are incredibly proud of what you've accomplished... Keep inspiring us with your amazing art!

Year	Miss Elliott	Miss Khalid	Mrs Lee
7	Leah	Eldana	Precious
8	Marema	David	Zachary
9	Jainaba	McKenzie	JJ
10	Mohammed	Kayden	Elizabeth
11		Evie & Maisey	Bella



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# SMRCHS MATHS SUPERSTARS

We're delighted to celebrate the outstanding effort and achievement shown in Maths. These students have demonstrated exceptional problem-solving skills, determination, and a fantastic attitude towards learning. Keep up the amazing work, your hard work is truly paying off!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Emmanuel	Ario	Arafat	Taio	Divine
Abidemi	David	Patricia	Megan	Yvie
Senthilkumaran	Nancy	Melissa	Chinaza	Shazib Mansoor
Aman	Salam	Janae	Harry	Phil
Md Saifan	Michelle	Adelana	Shalom Ifeoluwakitau	
Ola	Ario	Henry	David	
Goodlock		Esosa		
Oxford				



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# Year 7



## Top 5 Achievers:

Ahmed



Oscar

Aseel

Alexandra

Harley

## Top Attending Form:

7G



100% Attendance



216 Students

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# Year 7 Attendance



A huge congratulations to our amazing Year 7 students for their fantastic attendance this half term!

Special recognition goes to:

- **Students who achieved 100% attendance, an incredible commitment and effort!**
- **The form class with 100% attendance, team work at its best!**
- **Our most improved students, your dedication and determination has truly paid off!**



We are so proud of the resilience, responsibility, and positivity shown by all of our Year 7s.

Keep up the brilliant work, every day counts!

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# Year 7 Sports



## Year 7 Netball Team

### Mrs Hill

Congratulations to our Year 7 netball team who represented SMRCHS at the Manchester Netball Knockouts on Tuesday night. They faced some very tough competition throughout the tournament and showed fantastic determination and teamwork to progress through to the group stages. This led to a challenging match against Manchester High. Despite a strong performance, we were slightly defeated 8-2. The team secured impressive 4-3 victories against Wright Robinson B and Trinity, demonstrating resilience and excellent team spirit. Although we lost in the semi-final to Manchester High (8-2), we are incredibly proud to announce that the team has now qualified for the Manchester Netball Plate Finals! Well done, girls, a fantastic achievement and fingers crossed for the Plate finals in April.

## Year 7 Trampoliners!



### Mrs O'Leary

Mrs O'Leary would like to say a big well done to Miss Richardson's Year 7 PE group who are currently on trampolining. They are working hard in lessons and mastering new skills lesson by lesson. A special Shout Out to Lila-Lou and T'Leah who smashed their swivel hips this week with straight legs!



so proud  
of  
You

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# Year 8



## Top 5 Achievers:

Ahmed



David

Mohammed

Surahya

Samuel

## Top Attending Form:

8D



100% Attendance



215 Students

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# Year 8 Football Team's victory against MGS!



A massive well done to our Year 8 football team on an incredible 8–1 victory against Manchester Grammar School!  
A fantastic team performance that sees them through to the Manchester Cup Final!

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# Year 8 Photography

## The Stations of the Cross



This week, Year 8 students have been experimenting with photography in Art. Using digital cameras and props, they recreated scenes inspired by the Stations of the Cross. Next, they will begin experimenting with digital editing techniques using PowerPoint. Students have been very respectful and creative in their compositions. A special Shout Out to Jensen's group for their ambitious photography skills and excellent teamwork.

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# Year 9



## Top 5 Achievers:

Francis



Abdul

Michael

Vincenzo

Mason

## Top Attending Form:

9A



100% Attendance



207 Students

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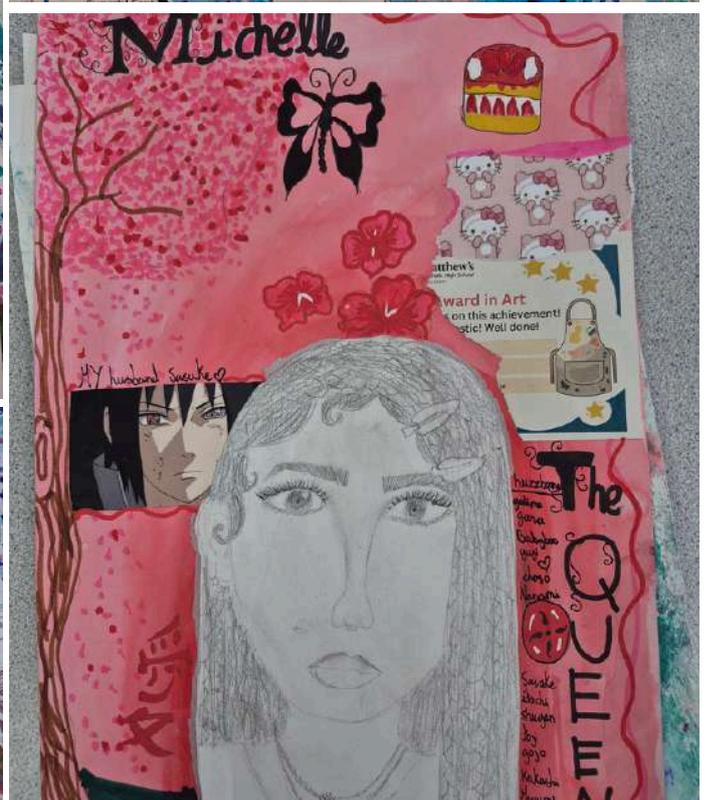
# Year 9 Art Exploring Identity



Year 9 students have been exploring their own identities through creative work inspired by the artists Teesha Moore, Shantell Martin, Lisa Kokin and Ingrid Dijkers.

Their projects encouraged them to reflect on personal experiences, interests and what makes them unique.

A special Shout Out to Famous, Lillie, Aarush, Michelle and Lola for producing work that showed a particularly strong personal connection and thoughtful reflection.



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# Year 10



## Top 5 Achievers:

Eliam



Precious

Blessing

Victoria

Riheem

## Top Attending Form:

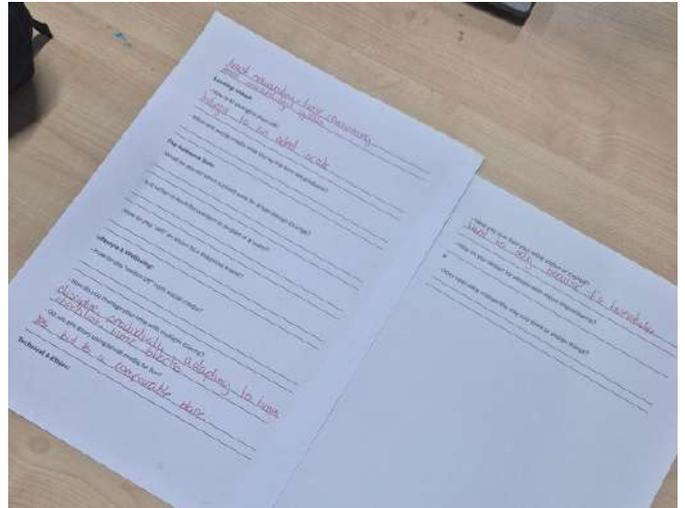
10G

100% Attendance



216 Students

## Year 10 Meet Local Entrepreneur, James Garside



This week, Year 10 Media students had a careers talk from James Garside, a local professional who owns the graphic design and social media management company On Trend with James. James spoke to students about his career path, the creative industry, and the processes involved in recruiting, designing and working with clients. Students asked thoughtful questions about the challenges of his job, the impact of AI in the industry, and the software he uses in his work.



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# Year 10 Parents Evening

## Year 10

Don't forget to book your appointments for Year 10 Parents Evening on:

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**3.30-6.30pm**

Time Slot	Subject	Teacher
4:40pm		
4:45pm		
4:50pm		
4:55pm		
5:00pm		
5:05pm		
5:10pm		
5:15pm		
5:20pm		
5:25pm		
5:30pm		
5:35pm		
5:40pm		
5:45pm		



**St. Matthew's**  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



## Year 10

Parent's Evening  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

## Appointment Card

Student:	<input type="text"/>
Form Group:	<input type="text"/>

Ask each of your teachers for an appointment time. They will record the time on this card.

Leave 5 minutes between each appointment.

Your parents should bring this with them on parents evening, to know which teacher to speak to, at what time.

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# Year 10 Art

## Explore Linzi Ramsden



**Year 10 students have been moulding clay tile inspired by the work of Linzi Ramsden and natural forms.**

They explored pressing textures into clay and building their designs using the score and slip technique.

A special Shout Out to Lani, Derek and Megan for their thoughtful design work. Well done to everyone involved.



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# Year 11



## Top 5 Achievers:

**Oluwasemilore**

**Conner**

**Mohammed**

**Natnael**

**Faith**

## Top Attending Form:

**11XM3**

**100% Attendance**

**228 Students**

## Year 11 Food Technology



More excellent dishes cooked up by our very talented Year 11 Food Technology students...

Well done!!

And of course, Mr Passarello was the first to volunteer as chief taste tester, as always!



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