



Monday 12th July, 2021

## End of Year Update & September Arrangements

Dear Parents / Guardians,

As we draw close to the end of the academic year I wanted to thank you for all your support over what has been a challenging time in education. I am immensely proud of the students here at St Thomas More and how they have faced all the challenges that have been thrown at them. Likewise, I am proud of my team of staff and how they have responded to the ever changing situation. One thing that makes St Thomas More special is the sense of community we have, this has been evident throughout the year whether we have been on site or working from home.

Last week the DfE published guidance to schools which provides an outline on how schools should operate in September. The guidance '*marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from the stringent restrictions on everyone's day to day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others.*'

Key operational points from the guidance are as follows:

- Bubbles [zones] are no longer required
- Assemblies can resume
- Students can mix at lunchtimes
- Face Coverings are not required

The guidance also provides an update on the role of schools in contact tracing. Key points are as follows:

- Schools and settings will only need to do contact tracing up to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021. From 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 [Step 4], close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.
- From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

The guidance outlines the control measures schools should adhere to and makes a request for schools to update their risk assessment and create an outbreak management plan. We will work on this over the next month and share further information with you in September.

As you are aware schools are asked to offer asymptomatic testing to pupils prior to their return in September. Please use the link below to read my letter specifically about this.

<https://www.stthomasmore.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2.-Testing-Schedule-min.pdf>

Finally, the guidance also confirms that where a pupil has been in contact with a confirmed case, they should carry out lateral flow testing at home. Schools should offer asymptomatic testing to any of these pupils who need support to do this.

OLD DURHAM ROAD, GATESHEAD  
TYNE & WEAR, NE21 4BQ

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0191 499 0111  
info@stthomasmore.org.uk  
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Based on this guidance we would therefore like to share with you some key information as we prepare for the final week and our return in September.

### End of Term Arrangements

- On Thursday 15th students will participate in a slightly different version of our annual sports days; they should wear PE kit on that day to attend school.
- On Friday 16th students will work with their tutor focusing on RESE and faith / ethos. As part of this they will watch our end of term mass.
- For students that are isolating all work will be put in their pastoral google classroom.
- Students will be dismissed from school at 1.00pm on Friday 16th.

### Confirmed Cases of CV-19 / Track & Trace

- The school will continue to take responsibility for track and trace until the end of Sunday 18th July.
- If your child tests positive on Saturday 17th or Sunday 18th please use the house emails to report this to the school and a member of the leadership team will contact you.

### Key Dates

- Students should return to school on the dates listed below.
- Please read the letter on asymptomatic testing for arrangements for test 1.

	Date for TEST 1	Return to School Date
Year 7	Monday 6th September	Tuesday 7th September
Year 8	Monday 6th September	Wednesday 8th September
Year 9	Monday 6th September	Wednesday 8th September
Year 10	Tuesday 7th September	Wednesday 8th September
Year 11	Tuesday 7th September	Wednesday 8th September
Year 12	Wednesday 8th September	Thursday 9th September
Year 13	Tuesday 7th September	Wednesday 8th September

- Tuesday 7th September will be a Year 7 induction day.
- Wednesday 8th September will be a pastoral day for all students.
- Lessons will begin on Thursday 9th September.
- For Year 12 lessons will start on Monday 13th to allow them to complete their induction to Sixth Form. Students must attend this induction period.

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### School Set Up

- In September there will be no zone system; students will return to using the whole of the school site and moving across the school for their various subjects.

### School Timings

- In September we will return to our normal school day.
- A reminder of timings is below for you.

	Mon/Wed/Thurs	Tues/Fri
AM Pastoral / Assembly	0845 - 0905	0845 - 0925
Lesson 1	0905 - 1020	0925 - 1035
Break	1020 - 1035	1035 - 1050
Lesson 2	1035 - 1150	1050 - 1200
Lunch	1150 - 1250	1200 - 1300
PM Registration	1250 - 1255	1300 - 1305
Lesson 3	1255 - 1410	1305 - 1415
Break	1410 - 1420	1415 - 1425
Lesson 4	1420 - 1535	1425 - 1535

### Travelling to School

- Wherever possible we advise pupils to walk or cycle to school.
- Details of the Scholars Services are available on the school website - <https://www.stthomasmore.org.uk/parents/parent-information/travel/>

### Uniform & Equipment Expectations

- Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform. This includes a lanyard and ID badge which they will be issued at the start of term.
- Pupils should ensure they have a navy blue, grey or black plain outdoor coat, fleece or waterproof. This must be a coat, not a hoody or tracksuit; all breaktimes and movement between lessons are outdoors.
- Pupils should ensure they have plain, sensible black shoes which can be polished. Boots, training shoes (adidas, converse, vans or similar), suede or canvas footwear is not permitted.
- Earrings or jewellery is not allowed.

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- Make-up is not permitted.
- Fashion accessories such as coloured nails, nail or eyelash extensions are not permitted.
- Pupils should bring a school bag with them, including all typical equipment, such as their pencil case, water bottle and reading book. Pupils should bring their own pens, including a pencil, a blue / black pen, a green pen and a ruler.
- Pupils do not need to bring their PE kit on the first day. Once they have been issued their timetable, they should bring their PE kit with them on the appropriate day.

### Term Dates & Training Days

- 6th September 2021 - INSET Day
- 7th September 2021 - Year 7 Induction Day
- 13th October 2021 - INSET Day
- 25th to 29th October - Half Term
- 3rd December 2021 - INSET Day
- 20th to 31st December 2021 - Christmas Holidays
- 3rd January 2022 - Bank Holiday
- 21st to 25th February 2022 - Half Term
- 11th to 22nd April 2022 - Easter Holidays
- 2nd May 2022 - Bank Holiday
- 30th May to 2nd June 2022 - Half Term
- 1st July 2022 - INSET Day
- 22nd July 2022 - End of Term

### CV-19 Contingency Planning

- As mentioned above we will work on our updated risk assessment and outbreak management plan over the next month and share with you in September.
- A key feature of our contingency planning is the use of Google classroom.
- In September students will therefore be set up with a Google classroom for each of their subjects and we will use this as our platform for recording homework.

### Communication

- Many of you have made use of our house email addresses this year as a swift way of sharing information.
- We will continue to use these next academic year.
- They are listed below for your information.

St Bernadette	St Catherine Labouré	St John Fisher	St Therese	Sixth Form
s_stbqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stclqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stjfqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_sttqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk

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### Further Updates

- We hope that we will not need to make any changes to our plans over the summer, however, if there are any amendments we will communicate these to you on Thursday 2nd September.

I hope your son / daughter has a fabulous summer holiday; our thoughts and prayers are with you all over the next seven weeks and we look forward to welcoming students back to school in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Parkinson  
Head Teacher

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☎ 0191 499 0111  
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🌐 [www.stthomasmore.org.uk](http://www.stthomasmore.org.uk)

