



Thursday 21th July, 2022

End of Year Update

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some key information before the end of term.

Firstly, I wanted to say thank you for all your best wishes on my retirement. It has been an absolute pleasure to work at and lead St Thomas More. You will be aware that Mrs Turner is taking over as Head Teacher in September, and recently Mr Shield and Mrs Lennox have been appointed as our new Deputy Head Teachers. I know the support I have received from our school community has been invaluable and that you will continue to offer this to Mrs Turner.

This year started with a lot of uncertainty, we were unsure if examinations would go ahead, if schools would stay open and what the guidelines regarding Covid isolation would be. It's been a challenging year for schools, but I'm sure we will all agree it has been great to return to a sense of normality with the very large majority of our pupils being in school for most of the time. This week has been particularly enjoyable for staff and pupils as we have finally had the opportunity to do many of the activities that make our school special. It's been great to see so many Year 10 pupils arranging work experience opportunities and to watch our pupils enjoy the annual STM trip to the cinema and sports day at long last! It really has been a pleasure to watch and participate in.

Please do take some time to read the key information below, it should hopefully provide you with an overview of the key things you need to know in preparation for September.

Return to School Dates

Monday 5th September	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 6th September	Year 7 Induction Day
Wednesday 7th September	All pupils return to school - Pastoral Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Year 13 AM only● Year 12 PM only
Thursday 8th September	Lessons begin for all pupils

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TYNE & WEAR, NE21 4BQ

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Arrangements for Pupils' First Day

- On pupils' first day back to school they should arrive as usual, congregating on the yard or heading straight to their pastoral room.
- If pupils are unsure of their pastoral room they should wait on the yard where staff will direct them.
- Pupils will spend the day with their tutor, where timetables and other key information will be distributed.

Term Dates

- A copy of our dates for next academic year are on our school website and can be accessed using the link below.
- <https://www.stthomasmore.org.uk/our-school/school-life/term-dates-school-day/>

School Day

- A reminder that in September we will move to a 5 period day, with a change to our lesson timings and end of school on a Friday.
- Timings will be as follows:

Monday - Thursday		Friday			
All Year Groups		Year 7, 11, 12 & 13		Year 8, 9 & 10	
08:45	Pastoral	08:45	Pastoral	08:45	Pastoral
09:05	Lesson 1	09:00	Lesson 1	09:00	Lesson 1
10:05	Movement	10:00	Movement	10:00	Movement
10:10	Lesson 2	10:05	Lesson 2	10:05	Lesson 2
11:10	Break	11:05	Break	11:05	Break
11:25	Lesson 3	11:15	Lesson 3	11:15	Lesson 3
12:25	Lunch	12:15	Lunch	12:15	Movement
13:25	Pastoral	12:25		12:20	PSHE
13:30	Lesson 4	12:55	PSHE	13:10	Lunch
14:30	Movement	13:45	Movement	13:45	
14:35	Lesson 5	13:50	Lesson 4	13:50	Lesson 4
15:35	End	14:50	End	14:50	End

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- With a slightly later lunch for pupils, it is worth ensuring that pupils bring a small snack with them for break time.
- Also, we ask that pupils bring a full water bottle to school with them, they can access the hydration station after lunch for a refill if necessary.

Key Staff - Safeguarding & Pastoral

- Our current Deputy Head Teacher, Mr Wood, will be leaving us this year. Mr Shield will replace him as the whole school Designated Safeguarding Lead. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Shield or Mr Lennox, who continues to be our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, if you have any queries.
- Our pastoral team remains as follows:

Pastoral Team	
Head of St Bernadette House	Miss Kathryn McNeill
Head of St Catherine Laboure House	Mrs Joanne Cervantes
Head of St John Fisher House	Mr Alastair Young
Head of St Therese House	Mrs Deborah Ashdown
Head of Sixth Form	Mr John Davis

Uniform Expectations

- The very large majority of our pupils wear their uniform with pride & rarely need reminding of our expectations. Your support with this is much appreciated.
- When pupils get it right they always:
 - Have top buttons fastened and waist length ties
 - Do not roll their skirts
 - Wear the correct shoes - no trainers or boots
 - Have no earrings or nose rings/studs and no jewellery other than a watch
 - Have no makeup
 - Have no coloured nails and no eyelash extensions
- Please make sure your child returns to school in September in the correct uniform to avoid any unnecessary disruption to their learning.

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Communication with School

- A reminder of our House email system, please use this or our reception phone number [0191 4990111] for all communication with school.
- Responses to house emails will generally be within school working hours.
- We ask that you do not email individual staff directly.

St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	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

Key Stage 4 Lunchtime Arrangements

- Thank you for your support with KS4 pupils remaining on site over the past few weeks.
- As per usual school routine, all pupils will remain on school site for the first few weeks of school in September.
- We will update you on our plans regarding lunchtimes in the new school year.

Once again I'd like to thank you for all your support, I couldn't be more proud of the St Thomas More community and look forward to watching it continue to thrive. I hope you all have an enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Parkinson
Head Teacher

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