



Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ  
Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: [office@stmca.org.uk](mailto:office@stmca.org.uk) | [www.stmca.org.uk](http://www.stmca.org.uk) | @StThomasMoreCA  
Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

First and foremost, I hope and pray that you are all keeping safe and well. As a community of faith, we continue to pray and support each other at this time as we are aware that these are incredibly challenging circumstances that may be proving difficult for you.

As per Government instruction, school has been closed this week for most pupils. Childcare has been provided for a handful of children of key worker and vulnerable children, and staff have been in contact with these families.

Our office is only being manned for part of the day but if you urgently need to contact us please use [office@stmca.org.uk](mailto:office@stmca.org.uk). This includes if you are not receiving regular emails; please email [office@stmca.org.uk](mailto:office@stmca.org.uk) and one of our members of staff will contact you. For GDPR purposes, we will only amend your contact details once we have been able to verify you by phone.

Each week we will be providing additional work for the students. The website now has a section for each year group where the weekly work will be uploaded to: <https://www.stmca.org.uk/key-information/closure-guidance/>

Next week's work has been uploaded. There is also generic work and websites to signpost your children to. This work is there to help you and your child, however they will also benefit from any form of learning - including beyond the school curriculum. Please consider engaging with the various initiatives that have been set up to help children at this time, many of which we will send via our weekly newsletters to each year group. The web site also has contact details so that students and parents may contact departments if further support is needed.

We understand that the change to arrangements for GCSE and BTEC grading are difficult and upsetting for Year 11 and 13 students and families. As yet there has been no clarification about exactly how grades will be calculated and what schools will be expected to provide. It is, however, very unlikely to be as simplistic as every student automatically being awarded the grade their teacher thinks they would have achieved in the summer. One tangible way to award grades will be to use coursework and therefore all Year 11 and 13 students have been asked to prioritise completion of all coursework tasks wherever possible. This includes the EPQ qualification in sixth form. All teachers, heads of department and pastoral staff are available via email to help with this. Revision can also continue as the government have suggested that there will be the opportunity for students to take





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examinations next academic year if they are unhappy with their final grade. Please can I ask that students and parents do not directly contact teachers to ask them the grade that is being predicted; this information will be communicated once the DfE have confirmed arrangements, including how they will inform parents.

If you have applied to our Sixth Form, or if you wish to apply, please do not worry about your place as we will ensure that students are not unfairly treated. All the offer letters are still valid. If you have any questions regarding Sixth Form, please contact Mrs Bradbury [abradbury@stmca.org.uk](mailto:abradbury@stmca.org.uk)

The FSM voucher scheme has now been released by the government, and we have therefore now been able to activate a FSM voucher scheme. A message by email or text will be sent to one parent on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March with a link to claim the voucher. This will be sent to one parent only, per child. The parent will have the option to select the supermarket of their choice and then redeem in-store via the provided code. The school has initially purchased vouchers for a total of 10 days, in order to cover the period up to the Easter break.

Stoke City Council have redeployed a number of their staff to create a support network to support across the city listing:

- Help to pick up a prescription
- Pick up a gas/ electric top up
- Completing emergency repairs within the home
- Picking up some shopping
- Someone to talk to if feeling anxious or lonely
- or even walk the dog!

If you or your family need some help, please guide them to call the number or complete the form online. 08005615610. It is run by the city council and therefore is a safe scheme that can be trusted, and consists of people such as Neighbourhood Impact Officers who are carrying out repairs etc and therefore they are all qualified and checked to carry out such roles. Families have already been accessing the service and have commented that it has been a lifeline for them, therefore please do call them if you feel that you are in need of particular help at this challenging time.





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**#StokeonTrentTogether**  
Stoke-on-Trent Covid-19 Support Network

If you are in isolation or lockdown at home, unable to go out or receive help, **we are able to help if you:**

- need to collect a prescription
- need a gas or electricity meter top-up
- require emergency repairs in the home
- would like someone to bring you some shopping
- are feeling anxious or lonely and need to talk to somebody
- need someone to walk your dog

Use the form on [www.corona19.vast.org.uk](http://www.corona19.vast.org.uk) The freephone number: **0800 561 5610**  
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

[www.corona19.vast.org.uk](http://www.corona19.vast.org.uk)



Thank you for your understanding, and for the numerous messages of support. I look forward to having our community reunited as soon as possible and stronger than ever.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner  
Headteacher

