



Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ

Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA

Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

24th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a restful and safe Easter break.

Over the last few weeks we've all had to adapt to new ways of working, I wanted to take the chance to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's well-being and learning during this time. It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment.

We're here for you every step of the way as we go through this together.

As per Government instruction, school has continued to remain closed this week for most pupils. Childcare has been provided for a handful of children of key worker and vulnerable children. This provision will continue for these children, please contact the office if your child is eligible and needs this provision.

The work for students to complete next week; week commencing Monday 27th April has been uploaded to our website: <https://www.stmca.org.uk/key-information/closure-guidance>

It is important that students keep a routine and continue to try to engage with their learning. If they or you have any concerns please contact their teacher or form tutor by email (contacts are on the website) or leave a message at the office.

We expect students to be regularly checking their school email account (Microsoft Office 365) for messages from school staff including their class teachers. Students should login by entering their email address (school username followed by @stmca.org.uk) and their usual password here: <https://www.office.com> Please email support@stmca.org.uk from an alternative email address if you have any issues logging in. Alternatively, please telephone school and leave a voice message including the student's name and year group, we will then get back to you.

In addition to the work uploaded, weekly newsletters with key information and advice have been sent to each year group. In addition Fifteen Minutes of Faith and weekly Spirituality bulletins are also included on the school website each week, these are all resources that can support our students at this time. In the coming weeks Year 9 will be receiving careers information preparing them for the options process this term.

Year 11 GCSE results will be available on 20th August 2020. For any further information please refer to the following document.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

All Year 11 students are encouraged to continue to make progress with the CORE skills of Maths and English. Two booklets have been provided. The core skills in English and Maths will best prepare students for whatever post 16 study students move to in September.





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However, we are looking forward to welcoming the majority of year 11 back to St Thomas More in September as Year 12 students and we will be focusing on helping students to transition smoothly into Sixth Form over the next few weeks. A transition guide has been sent to Year 11 students and this will be followed next week by course booklets to provide subject specific work to ensure that you are fully prepared for each subject. If you still need to apply, please contact Mrs Bradbury to complete this process via email.

The national Edenred FSM voucher scheme has also now been implemented. Vouchers issued from Monday 27th April will be for the 4 weeks. A covering email will be sent to those families who receive the vouchers. This is the link for FAQ is:

https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeals_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf

In order to further support some of students and their families, we will be delivering a small number of food parcels on a Monday. These will be made up of some basic provisions. If that is something that would help your family please contact school.

As you may have seen in social media, we have donated our PPE to local doctors surgeries and hospitals to support the NHS, Mrs Jones along with other staff have been making scrubs bags and scrubs hats for the 'Scrubs for Stoke' NHS campaign. We will continue to work together in order to support our community during this pandemic.

We are continuing to recruit staff for different roles, at present we have one vacancy, (Assistant Site Supervisor) details about the role and how to apply are on our website.

Finally we have welcomed two new members of staff to our school on Monday. Mr Shufflebotham (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Banks (Maths teacher). We welcome them both and look forward to working together. Mr Shufflebotham will lead on behaviour, standards and culture for learning across the school, he is looking forward to meeting both students and families in the future.

Lastly, I have received the attached poster from Staffordshire Police asking us to promote it to parents.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher

