



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

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are all safe and well. During this week, students have continued to adapt to new ways of working and have been completing the work set by staff.

The work for students to complete next week; week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May has been uploaded to our website: <https://www.stmca.org.uk/key-information/closure-guidance>. As per Government instruction, school has continued to remain closed this week for most pupils. Provision continues for a handful of children of key worker and vulnerable children.

In order to further support some students and their families, we have delivered a number of food parcels, we will repeat this every Monday during the school closure. If this is something that would help your family please contact school. Many thanks to the staff and parents who have made contributions to these, we will be sending parcels out this week for the following fortnight.

### Half Term

School will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, but then open again the rest of the week for key worker students only. Students will need to bring their own food and drink during this week as the kitchen will not be open.

### New Guidance from 1<sup>st</sup> June

As you will be aware the DFE have produced guidance for schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June. A summary can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

### *It includes the following:*

*From the week commencing 1 June, we are asking:*

- *nurseries and other early year providers, including childminders, to begin welcoming back all children*
- *primary schools to welcome back children in nursery (where they have them), reception, year 1 and year 6*
- *secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges to begin some face to face support with year 10 and 12 pupils, although we do not expect these pupils to return on a full-time basis at this stage*
- *all schools and childcare providers to continue to offer places to the priority groups – vulnerable children and children of critical workers – they have been supporting since the end of March*





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*This approach aims to limit numbers within schools and further education settings while ensuring that the children and young people who can benefit from attending most are able to do so.*

*The two year groups in mainstream secondary schools and colleges have been prioritised because they are preparing for key examinations next year, and are most at risk of falling behind due to time out of school or college.*

Therefore, in the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June, we will be asking students in year 10 and 12 to attend school at a designated time during the week to support their remote learning. Distance learning can be a challenge; therefore we intend to help our students overcome these barriers. Mrs Todd or Mrs Bradbury will be in contact next week with further details. Beyond the week we will continue to consider all evidence and will update you after half term.

Please be assured that social distancing and public health guidance will be followed during these sessions. Sessions will be held in the school hall alongside no more than 15 other students at any one time. You should not send your child to these sessions if you or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus. If this is the case, please inform school immediately.

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

We expect students to be checking their school email account daily for messages from school staff including their class teachers. We will be continuing with online learning for Year 7-9 but aiming to increase the use of the Microsoft Teams Learning Platform throughout next half term, particularly with year 10 and 12. Students will notice that they are being added into Microsoft Teams by their class teachers. This is free software which enables teachers and students to collaborate more effectively through their existing school Office 365 account. Students will also need to download the free Microsoft Office and Microsoft Teams apps to their computer or digital device including mobile phones. Guidance including videos are available on the school website.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner  
Headteacher

