



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

21st October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to you as we approach the end of a half term like no other, I am delighted to report that despite uncertainty students have shown great resilience. The students have settled impressively into new routines, arrangements and expectations. Students are working hard which is vital, despite the external uncertainty around examinations, assessments etc.

I wrote to you last week about the tragic death of Matthew O'Reilly; his funeral will take place on Friday 23rd October. Some staff will be attendance to pay our respects. We will mark this in school with a one minute silence at 11am. Please keep Matthew and his family in your prayers.

Father David Newell, our new Priest Chaplin, has visited school several times this terms. He has celebrated mass with both year 7 and 8 students who were incredibly reverent and respectful throughout. A mass for every year group is planned for this academic year group. Unfortunately, due to bubbles, we are not able to hold House masses but we are delighted to be able to celebrate holy mass in school.

Parent evenings will be conducted virtually for the time being with your child's form tutor. Thank you for your support with this. Year 10 and 11 parent evenings were a success and I am sure this will continue with Key Stage 3.

All year groups continue to be kept in their year group zones/bubbles. This has worked very well so far but please ensure that your child is aware that they must not cross zones/bubbles whilst at school. I am impressed by the independence and organisation of most of our students but, as another reminder, all students need to bring the following with them to school:

- Hand sanitiser
- Tissues
- All pens and pencils / school bag
- Sharpener and rubber
- Ruler and maths equipment (including a calculator)
- Standard headphones if using online programmes such as Hegarty and Bedrock

Standards

As a reminder these are our academy expectations for uniform and punctuality. Students should adhere to the following uniform:

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Blazer • White shirt • Academy tie • Black / Grey long sleeved v neck jumper (School jumper available) • Black / dark grey trousers • Black socks • Plain black sensible shoes. • No trainers or plimsolls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Blazer • White shirt • Academy tie • Black / Grey long sleeved v neck jumper (School Jumper available) • Black trousers • Plain grey skirt • Black ankle socks or black tights • Plain black sensible shoes. No heel or low heel. • No open toe or open back. • No trainers or plimsolls





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

- No jewellery is permitted apart from a watch and one pair of small, Gold/Silver ear studs worn in the centre of the ear lobe.
- No extremes of hair colour or style.
- No extreme nails. (All nails to be cut to a safe length and be of natural colour e.g. Nudes, light pink or clear)
- No Hoodies

I am particularly concerned by the number of hoodies being worn in school. An outdoor coat should be worn above the blazer and jumper. Hoodies will be confiscated if they are continually worn. Students failing to attend school in the correct uniform may be sent home to change into the correct uniform.

Punctuality

All students are to be in the academy by 9am – same day detentions will be in place for late arrivals.

Rewards

Please make sure that you download the SIMS parent app helping you receive live notifications when your child gains a reward in school. Your child may be reward by their teacher for outstanding behaviour, attitude or approach to school life:

- R1 – Classroom based reward
- R2 – Home learning / Homework / Teams based rewards
- R3 – Enrichment / Other achievements representing the academy

COVID19

As a reminder, students should not be attending school if anyone in the household is displaying covid19 symptoms. The entire household should self-isolate, get tested and then follow the advice. If someone in the household does test positive then the household needs to self-isolate for 14 days. If you are unsure, please contact us and we can assist you.

If we have a confirmed case of covid19, initially we will contact those families whose son/daughter has been tracked and traced to have been in close contact with the affected student and thus need to self-isolate. Once these contacts are established, I will communicate with the whole school.

We continue to follow government guidance on face coverings. Student may wear a mask in communal areas or on corridors. Masks must be:

- Reusable (washable)
- Plain black, blue or red (school colours)
- Stored in a plastic bag when not in use and never passed to another student

Masks **must be worn** on public transport, including the school bus and Trinity Bus.

If our area moves to the local COVID alert level 'high' or 'very high', the DFE have directed that face coverings should be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and pupils when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

It will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning.

If our area moves to the local COVID alert level 'high' or 'very high', we will communicate quickly the new arrangements regarding the use of face coverings.





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

Online learning

Should it be necessary in the future for a whole class or year group to be taught online students will follow their normal timetable virtually on TEAMS. All students should be accessing their class TEAMS regularly to view and submit home learning and as such are familiar with the software.

The times of the day will be as follows and registers will be taken in every session. Please note that lessons times have been adjusted to 45 minutes to allow for swift change overs between sessions. **All students are expected to be present throughout every session, ready to respond to teachers as required.** Some written work will be required between sessions and home learning will be set as normal to be completed during the evening. In this way all students will meet the required minimum 5 hours of study per day.

Time	
9.05 – 9.20	Registration
9.30 – 10.15	Period 1
10.30 – 11.15	Period 2
	Break
11.50 – 12.35	Period 3
12.50 – 1.35	Period 4
	Lunch
2.20 – 3.05	Period 5





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

PSHE

Students have already studied a wealth of topics since the beginning of term within their PSHE Morning Mission lesson, PSHE lessons, and via assemblies. These include mental health and wellbeing, personal identity, aspirations, resilience, effort, radicalisation and extremism, the impact of social media, and positive internet identity.

Over the course of the academic year, students will continue to explore a range of topics including gender identity, team work, healthy lifestyles, friendship, healthy relationships, gang violence, knife crime, teenage stress and effective study. In addition, a range of external agencies will deliver insightful and crucial lessons to our students – including via remote delivery on Teams/Zoom – covering other important topics such as consent, STIs, road and passenger safety, community cohesion, and self-esteem. Students have participated respectfully and enthusiastically in their PSHE lessons and shown their commitment to their holistic education in becoming citizens in the modern world.

After the half term, we will also be acknowledging to important national issues: Anti Bullying Week (16th – 20th November) and Operation Sceptre knife Crime Awareness Week (9th – 15th November). Acts of Worship, 15 Minutes of Faith, assemblies, drop in centres, and PSHE Morning Mission lessons will all prioritise and explore these topics, plus we will again be participating in the national Wear Odd Socks to School Day on Monday 16th November. Please can you remind your child to wear odd socks to school that day – the louder, more colourful the socks, the better! We look forward to seeing how vibrant and eye-catching everybody's sock choices will be that day!

Should you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact school via email or the main school office. I thank you for your support during these times.

School reopens for students on Tuesday 3rd November.

Have a restful and enjoyable half term.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher

